

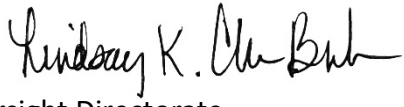


OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 23, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Evaluation of the U.S. Virgin Islands' Capacity to Manage and Use Infrastructure
Investment and Jobs Act Funds for Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure
Improvements
Project No. OSRE-FY24-0118

FROM: Lindsay Clarke Brubaker, Director 
Environmental Infrastructure Oversight Directorate
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

TO: Lisa F. Garcia, Regional Administrator
EPA Region 2

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation of the U.S. Virgin Islands' capacity to manage and use Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA, funds for clean water and drinking water infrastructure improvements. This evaluation is part of the OIG's *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [Oversight Plan](#)*. This evaluation also addresses the following fiscal year 2024 [top management challenges](#) for the Agency: managing grants, contracts, and data systems; maximizing compliance with environmental laws and regulations; and overseeing, protecting, and investing in water and wastewater systems.

Our objective is to determine the U.S. Virgin Islands' capacity to manage and use IIJA funds for clean water and drinking water infrastructure improvements. We plan to conduct work at the U.S. Virgin Islands' Department of Planning and Natural Resources, which is located on St. Thomas, and at EPA Region 2. We will conduct the evaluation using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The anticipated benefits of this evaluation include the identification of possible risks facing the U.S. Virgin Islands' capacity to manage and use IIJA funds, as well as additional technical or administrative support that the EPA could provide to enhance the U.S. Virgin Islands' water infrastructure program's performance.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective. At that time, we can discuss any concerns that you may have and answer any questions about the evaluation process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the evaluation. Throughout the evaluation, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

We respectfully note that the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, authorizes the OIG to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete our objectives. Similarly, EPA Manual 6500, *Functions and Activities of the Office of Inspector General* (1994), requires that each EPA employee cooperate with and fully disclose information to the OIG. Additionally, Administrator Michael S. Regan, in a June 17, 2024 email to EPA employees, stated that “it is the duty of all EPA personnel to cooperate fully with the OIG and to provide information the office needs to fulfill its oversight responsibilities.” He also indicated that the “OIG’s independent oversight of our agency makes it an indispensable partner in our efforts to protect public health and the environment.” If an Agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested materials to the OIG or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG, we will request that you immediately resolve the situation. Consistent with the Inspector General Act, we may report unresolved access matters to the administrator and to Congress.

We have sent a similar notification to Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, commissioner of the U.S. Virgin Islands’ Department of Planning and Natural Resources. We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epaoig.gov. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this evaluation should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator

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Bruno Pigott, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water

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