



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

July 11, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Audit of the EPA's Brownfields Program Management and Allocations
Project No. OA-FY24-0106

FROM: Erica Hauck, Director
Pollution Control and Clean Up Directorate
Office of Audit

TO: Barry Breen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of the EPA's Brownfields Program management and funding allocations. This audit is being conducted to meet a requirement in the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2018 for the OIG to submit a report to Congress that describes the EPA's management of its Brownfields program, including a description of the allocation of funds. This audit also addresses the following fiscal year 2024 top [management challenge](#) for the Agency: managing grants, contracts, and data systems.

Our objective is to determine how the EPA has managed its Brownfields Program and allocated funds under the program since enactment of the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2018. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization and the EPA regions as needed. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards to conduct our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit include fulfilling our reporting requirement to Congress and identifying potential areas for future audit work.

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 audit process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the audit. Throughout the audit, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

To expedite our audit, please be ready to provide the following information as soon as possible after receipt of this notification:

- Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization policies, procedures, and guidance documents which pertain to managing the Brownfields Program and allocating funds under the program.

- Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization organizational structure, budget, and staffing information.
- Access to any grants tracking databases that are not accessible to EPA OIG employees.
- Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization personnel who can serve as contacts for the EPA OIG regarding Brownfields Program management and funding allocations.

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. Also, Administrator Michael S. Regan, in a May 16, 2023 email to EPA employees, stated that the “agency and its employees have a duty to cooperate with OIG” and observed that “full engagement and collaboration between the OIG and EPA provides our agency with the opportunity to improve program performance and efficiency.” 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 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 audit should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator
Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Management, Office of the Administrator
Faisal Amin, Chief Financial Officer
Clifford Villa, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management
David Lloyd, Director, Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, Office of Land and Emergency Management
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