



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

September 11, 2025

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Evaluation of Risks to Federal Facility Superfund Site Remedies from Wildfires
Project No. OSRE-FY25-0086

FROM: Paul H. Bergstrand, Assistant Inspector General
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

TO: Steven Cook, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Nena Shaw, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management
Office of Land and Emergency Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation. This evaluation is part of a series focusing on the risks to federal facility Superfund sites from natural disasters. Our first report in this series was EPA OIG Report No. [25-N-0040](#), *Evaluation of Risks to Federal Facility Superfund Site Remedies from Sea-Level Rise or Increased Storm Surge*, issued June 30, 2025.

Our objectives are to identify which federal facility Superfund sites on the National Priorities List are at risk from wildfires and determine whether the sites' Superfund five-year reviews address the potential impacts of these disasters to the selected remedial actions in place at the site. We plan to conduct work at within the Office of Land and Emergency Management. We will conduct the evaluation using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

We will contact your office to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives. At that time, we can discuss any concerns 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 Lee Zeldin, in a February 7, 2025 email to EPA employees, said that "the OIG requires information and assistance

from EPA managers and staff on a regular basis” and outlined his expectation that EPA employees “report waste, fraud, and abuse to the OIG.” He explained that this “responsibility to report appropriate activity to the OIG is one of the most important and successful means the OIG has for identifying and stopping wrongdoing” and that review and oversight enable the Agency to be more effective in achieving its mission. 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 evaluation should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: David Fotouhi, Deputy Administrator
Travis Voyles, Associate Deputy Administrator
Eric Amidon, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Management, Office of the Administrator
Silvina Fonseca, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology
Innovation, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Emerald Laija, Deputy Director, Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office, Office of Land and
Emergency Management
Susan Perkins, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
José Kercado, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Shay Bracey, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Molly Vaseliou, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Terrence Jackson, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services, Office of
the Administrator
Audit Follow-Up Coordinators
Nicole N. Murley, Acting Inspector General
Erica Kavanagh, Associate Deputy Inspector General performing the duties of the
Deputy Inspector General