




OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

March 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Evaluation of the EPA's Oversight of Delegated Agencies' Clean Air Act Evaluations of
Pulp and Paper Mill Facilities
Project No. OSRE-FY26-0053

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

TO: Jeffrey Hall, Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin a self-initiated evaluation. Our objective is to determine whether the EPA ensures that delegated agencies conduct Clean Air Act compliance evaluations of pulp and paper facilities in accordance with the EPA's *Clean Air Act Stationary Source Compliance Monitoring Strategy*. We plan to conduct work within the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. 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 objective. 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.epa.gov/oig. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this evaluation should contact the OIG Hotline via email at OIG.Hotline@epa.gov, telephone at 888-546-8740, or our [online form](#).

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, Office of the Administrator
Craig Pritzlaff, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Cecil Rodrigues, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
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, Deputy Inspector General performing the duties of the Inspector General
Erica Kavanagh, Associate Deputy Inspector General