



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

March 25, 2026

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification:  
Audit of the EPA's Oversight of Wildfire-Related Mitigation Plans Under the Clean Air Act  
Exceptional Events Rule  
Project No. OA-FY26-0051

**FROM:** Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General *Katherine Trimble*  
Office of Audit

**TO:** Aaron Szabo, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Air and Radiation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of the EPA's oversight of wildfire-related mitigation plans under the Clean Air Act Exceptional Events Rule. This audit is the result of internal OIG planning to help ensure that EPA programs intended to protect public health operate efficiently and effectively.

Our objective is to determine whether the EPA is overseeing the Clean Air Act Exceptional Events Rule to ensure that states submit and implement wildfire-related mitigation plans, when required, to protect public health. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Air and Radiation, EPA regional offices, and selected state agencies.

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 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 but no later than the date of the entrance conference:

- Written notifications from the EPA to states that are subject to mitigation plan requirements from calendar year 2016 through 2025.
- Mitigation plans submitted to the EPA from calendar year 2016 through 2025. Mitigation plans should contain date of submission.

- Written notifications from the EPA to states confirming that the EPA completed its review of the state’s mitigation plan from calendar year 2016 through 2025.
- All policies and procedures, including any documents developed by EPA regions, for identifying areas that need a mitigation plan and reviewing submitted mitigation plans.
- All policies and procedures, including any documents developed by EPA regions, provided to states related to developing mitigation plans, if applicable.
- Budget documentation from calendar year 2016 through 2025 for EPA costs to oversee wildfire-related mitigation plans.

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 an email to EPA employees dated February 7, 2025, 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](http://www.epa.gov/oig). Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this audit should contact the OIG Hotline at [OIG.Hotline@epa.gov](mailto:OIG.Hotline@epa.gov) or 888-546-8740 or via our [online form](#).

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