



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

December 18, 2025

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Audit of the EPA's Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program
Project No. OA-FY26-0031

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

TO: Jessica Kramer, Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of the EPA's Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program. This audit is the result of our continued oversight of the EPA's post-award monitoring of grants. The project number is OA-FY26-0031.

Our objective is to determine whether the EPA's oversight of funds awarded through the Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program is sufficient to ensure that program goals are achieved and that recipients are monitored in accordance with post-award requirements under 2 C.F.R. part 200 and EPA grant policies and guidance. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Water at EPA headquarters and with selected recipients who received funding through the program. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards to conduct our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit include ensuring that investments made by the EPA in the water workforce achieve their intended purpose of addressing staffing shortages at water and wastewater systems.

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.

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. 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. 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" [web page](#).

cc: David Fotouhi, Deputy Administrator

Travis Voyles, Associate Deputy Administrator

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