



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 10, 2026

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Inspection of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act-Funded Activities at the Ely Copper Mine Superfund Site in Vershire, Vermont
Project No. OSRE-FY26-0072

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

TO: Thomas Croci, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Mark Sanborn, Regional Administrator
EPA Region 1

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an inspection of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funded remediation activities at the Ely Copper Mine Superfund site in Vershire, Vermont. This inspection is self-initiated and aligned with the OIG's [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Oversight Plan](#).

Our objective is to determine the extent to which the EPA is using Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA, funds to progress remediation at the Ely Copper Mine Superfund site and whether the EPA followed its consultation processes to reduce the risk of sudden, uncontrolled fluid mining waste releases at the site. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Land and Emergency Management and EPA Region 1. We will conduct the inspection 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 that you may have and answer any questions about the inspection process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the inspection. Throughout the inspection, 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 inspection 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 for Management, Office of the Administrator
Steven Cook, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and
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Elizabeth (Nena) Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management, Office of Land and
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Karen McGuire, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 1
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Audit Follow-Up Coordinators
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