



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 11, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Identification of Unregulated Facilities Using Toxic Release Inventory Data
Project No. OPE-FY16-0021

FROM: Christina Lovingood, Director /s/
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Evaluations
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the identification of unregulated facilities using data from the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). This project is self-initiated.

The OIG's overall objective is to determine how EPA uses Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) data to identify potentially unregulated facilities in its major media programs. Specific questions to be addressed during preliminary research are:

1. Have TRI facilities meeting Risk Management Plan (RMP) criteria filed these plans with the EPA for all chemicals?
2. Have TRI facilities identified as surface water dischargers received the required permits from the EPA or the delegated state?
3. Have RMP filers and surface water dischargers subject to TRI reporting filed TRI reports?

The OIG plans to conduct work at Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and selected EPA regions. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefit of this project is enhanced environmental protection through more complete identification of the regulatory universe.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during

the course of the project. Throughout the project, we will provide email updates to agreed-upon contacts on a regular basis.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request your resolution if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records to the OIG, or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG. We may report unresolved access matters to the Administrator and include the incident in the Semiannual Report to Congress.

The project will be supervised by me, and the Project Manager will be Steve Hanna. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov, or Steve Hanna at (415) 947-4527 or hanna.steve@epa.gov.

cc: Louise P. Wise, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Lawrence Starfield, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
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