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The EPA Office of Inspector General Issues the EPA Fiscal Year 2024 Top Management Challenges Report

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General today issued its [EPA Fiscal Year 2024 Top Management Challenges report](#). The report describes seven challenges that represent the most significant barriers to the EPA accomplishing its mission, including vulnerabilities to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement:

1. Mitigating the causes and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
2. Integrating and implementing environmental justice.
3. Safeguarding the use and disposal of chemicals.
4. Promoting ethical conduct and protecting scientific integrity.
5. Managing grants, contracts, and data systems.
6. Maximizing compliance and environmental laws and regulations.
7. Overseeing, protecting, and investing in water and wastewater systems.

The OIG largely retained five of the top management challenges identified in fiscal year 2023, but also brought additional issues to the forefront, such as promoting ethical conduct; managing grants, contracts, and data systems; and overseeing, protecting, and investing in water and wastewater systems.

“We drew on the expertise of our auditors, evaluators, and investigators to identify the seven most serious challenges facing the Agency as it works to protect human health and the environment,” said Inspector General Sean W. O’Donnell. “These seven challenges will serve as the foundation of our work to fight fraud and promote efficiency over the next year.”

The Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 requires each inspector general to prepare an annual statement summarizing what the inspector general considers to be “the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency.” To identify this year’s top management challenges, the OIG reviewed its previous work, as well as input from senior EPA leaders,

feedback from Agency offices, oversight work from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and areas of congressional interest.

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About the EPA OIG

The OIG is an independent office within the EPA that performs audits, evaluations, and investigations of the EPA and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. For more information, visit [our website](#) and follow the OIG on [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#). Anyone with knowledge of potential waste, fraud, and abuse relating to EPA operations and programs is encouraged to report it to the [OIG Hotline](#) at (888) 546-8740 or OIG.Hotline@epa.gov.