



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

11/15/2023

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Evaluation of the EPA's 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment and the Resulting Fiscal Year 2023 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Allocation for Lead Service Line Replacements
Project No. OSRE-FY24-0022

FROM: Patrick Gilbride, Director
Implementation, Execution, and Enforcement Directorate
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

TO: Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation on the EPA's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allocation for lead service line replacements. This evaluation addresses the following fiscal year 2024 top [management challenges](#) for the Agency: overseeing, protecting, and investing in water and wastewater systems and integrating and implementing environmental justice.

Our objective is to determine whether the design and execution of the 7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment were appropriate to create accurate allocations of infrastructure funds based on the lead-service-line-replacement needs in each state. We plan to conduct work at the Office of Water and select states. We will conduct the evaluation using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The anticipated benefits of this evaluation include improved use of EPA resources to ensure that funds are appropriately allocated and distributed to states with the most needs.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives. At that time, we can discuss any concerns that you may have and answer any questions about the evaluation process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the evaluation. Throughout the evaluation, 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. Also, Administrator Michael S. Regan, in a May 16, 2023 email to EPA employees, stated that the "agency and its employees have a duty to cooperate

with OIG” and observed that “full engagement and collaboration between the OIG and EPA provides our agency with the opportunity to improve program performance and efficiency.” 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.epaoig.gov. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this evaluation should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator
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