



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

October 9, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Audit of EPA Region 1 Awards of the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program
Project No. OA-FY24-0126

FROM: Elizabeth Schubert, Director
Special Drinking Water Projects
Office of Audit

TO: Bruno Pigott, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

Kimberly Patrick, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Mission Support

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of the preaward phase of the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program. This audit is part of the OIG's [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act oversight plan](#). This audit also addresses the following fiscal year 2024 top [management challenge](#) for the Agency: managing grants, contracts, and data systems.

Our objective is to determine whether EPA Region 1 evaluated grant applications and awarded Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds from the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program in accordance with preaward requirements under 2 C.F.R. part 200 and EPA grant policies and guidance. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Water, the Office of Grants and Debarment under the Office of Mission Support, EPA Region 1, and the states. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards to conduct our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit include identifying potential operational efficiencies that ensure grant funds are awarded to eligible entities. Early identification of improperly awarded grant funds will allow the EPA to implement additional monitoring and assessment of grant applications from small and disadvantaged communities.

We will contact you 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 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. 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 Michael S. Regan, in a June 17, 2024 email to EPA employees, stated that “it is the duty of all EPA personnel to cooperate fully with the OIG and to provide information the office needs to fulfill its oversight responsibilities.” He also indicated that the “OIG’s independent oversight of our agency makes it an indispensable partner in our efforts to protect public health and the environment.” 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 audit should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Jane Nishida, Acting Deputy Administrator

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