



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

February 24, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification of Audit:  
Integrated Risk Information System Security Access Controls  
Project No. OA-FY22-0071

**FROM:** LaSharn Barnes, Director *LaSharn Barnes*  
Information Resources Management Directorate  
Office of Audit

**TO:** Dr. Maureen Gwinn, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin fieldwork for our audit of the Integrated Risk Information System security access controls. This audit is part of the OIG's [oversight plan](#) for fiscal year 2022 and is being initiated to examine access controls around the IRIS database, which contains chemical risk data to support scientifically sound environmental regulations and policies. This audit also addresses the following fiscal year 2022 [top management challenge](#) for the Agency: protecting information technology and systems against cyberthreats.

The OIG's objective is to determine whether the EPA's IRIS database adheres to federal and Agency access control requirements. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and regional offices as needed. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our audit. The anticipated benefit of this audit is enhanced protection against cyberthreats.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your 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.

To expedite our audit, please be ready to provide the requested information noted in the attachment at the entrance conference.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its 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 an April 28, 2021, email message to EPA employees, conveyed his "expectation that EPA personnel provide OIG timely access to records or other information" and observed that "full cooperation with the OIG is in

the best interest of the public we serve.” We will request that you immediately resolve the situation if an Agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested materials 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*.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at [www.epa.gov/oig](http://www.epa.gov/oig).

#### Attachment

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator  
Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator  
Jon Monger, Associate Deputy Administrator  
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator  
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
José Kercado, Backup Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
Lindsay Hamilton, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
Lance McCluney, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services, Office of the Administrator  
Kelly van Bronkhorst, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development  
Caitlin Schneider, Backup Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development  
Heather Cursio, Backup Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development  
Dahnish Shams, Application Owner, Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment, Office of Research and Development  
Maureen Johnson, IT Specialist, Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment, Office of Research and Development  
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10  
Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General  
Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General  
Edward S. Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General  
Benjamin May, Counsel to the Inspector General  
Stephanie Wright, Assistant Inspector General for Management  
Kellie J. Walker, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Inspector General  
Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Paul H. Bergstrand, Assistant Inspector General for Special Review and Evaluation  
Marc Perez, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
Jee Kim, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Management  
Tom Collick, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General  
Laura B. Nicolosi, Principal Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Erin Barnes-Weaver, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation  
Susan Barvenik, Associate Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General  
James Hatfield, Associate Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs  
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General  
Lori Hoffman, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General

## ***List of Deliverables***

Please provide the following at the entrance conference:

- Access control policy and procedures for the IRIS database.
- IRIS database's system security plan.
- System-generated user listing for IRIS database including user's role, type of access they have (such as read, write, and admin), account creation date, account status, last login, and all system and shared accounts.
- List of IRIS database system and shared accounts and personnel with access to those accounts.
- List of authorized approvers for IRIS database access.
- Password configurations for each IRIS database role (including length, expiry, failed login attempts, password reuse settings, password grace time, and password lock time).

This is not all-inclusive list. Additional documentation may be requested during the audit.