



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 17, 2022

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
Infrastructure: Geographic and National Estuary Program Lessons
Project No. OSRE-FY22-0074

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

TO: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator

Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin an evaluation to review prior EPA OIG and U.S. Government Accountability Office reports about the EPA's Geographic and National Estuary Programs in order to identify lessons related to the EPA's protection of regional waters. This evaluation addresses the following fiscal year 2022 [top management challenge](#) for the Agency: managing infrastructure funding and business operations.

Our objective is to describe the lessons we identify from select EPA OIG and GAO oversight reports to help inform the EPA's Geographic and National Estuary Programs' future efforts to protect regional waters—efforts funded, at least in part, by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. We may contact officials and managers within various EPA program and regional offices regarding the prior reports we select for review. The evaluation will be conducted 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 operational efficiencies.

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

cc: Zealan Hoover, Senior Advisor, Office of the 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
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