



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

April 13, 2023

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
Effectiveness of the EPA's Community Engagement Regarding the Findett Corp.
Superfund Site in St. Charles, Missouri
Project No. OSRE-FY23-0069

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

Digitally signed by PATRICK
GILBRIDE
Date: 2023.04.13 07:23:57 -0600

TO: Meghan McCollister, Regional Administrator
EPA Region 7

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation based on our [inquiry](#) into the source water contamination in St. Charles, Missouri. This evaluation also addresses the following fiscal year 2023 top [management challenges](#) for the Agency: integrating and leading environmental justice, including communicating risks, and enforcing compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Our objective is to determine whether the EPA adhered to federal laws, regulations, and EPA guidance pertaining to community engagement standards and practices at the Findett Corp. Superfund Site. We plan to conduct work in EPA Region 7; however, we may also include work at EPA headquarters, other EPA regions, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. 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 improvements in the EPA's community engagement at the Findett Corp. Superfund Site and other similar sites.

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 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 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." 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 IG Act, we may report unresolved access matters to the administrator and to Congress.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epa.gov/oig. 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
Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Jon Monger, Associate Deputy Administrator
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Management, Office of the Administrator
Barry Breen, Acting Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management
Edward Chu, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 7
Kecia Thorton, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Susan Perkins, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
José Kercado, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Maria Michalos, Acting Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Lance McCluney, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services, Office of the Administrator
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10
Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General
Nicole N. Murley, Acting Deputy Inspector General