



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 29, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
EPA Oversight of State Monitoring and Reporting of Drinking Water Results From  
Public Water Systems  
Project No. OPE-FY16-0032

**FROM:** Kathlene Butler, Director, Water Issues  
Office of Program Evaluation

**TO:** Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water

Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research to evaluate the EPA's oversight of state drinking water monitoring. This project is included in the OIG's Annual Plan for fiscal year 2016.

Our objectives are to evaluate how the EPA ensures that Safe Drinking Water Act primacy states monitor and report drinking water sampling results from public water systems, and to determine whether the EPA can improve its oversight of state drinking water sampling programs.

The OIG plans to conduct initial work at EPA headquarters, as well as in selected regions and states. To conduct our work, we are requesting that the Office of Water provide us with information on who collects drinking water samples for the states in each region (e.g., water utility, state personnel, contractor).

Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are improvements in the protection of human health by determining the extent that EPA ensures compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements for regular drinking water compliance sampling.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the project. Throughout the project, we will provide monthly updates via scheduled teleconference calls with your designated officials.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request your resolution if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records 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.

I will supervise the project, and the Project Manager will be Tim Roach. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (404) 562-9736 or [butler.kathlene@epa.gov](mailto:butler.kathlene@epa.gov), or to Tim Roach at (312) 886-3026 or [roach.tim@epa.gov](mailto:roach.tim@epa.gov).

cc: Michael Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
Lawrence Starfield, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Shari Wilson, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Eleanor Nolan, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Water  
Gwendolyn Spriggs, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Nic Grzegozewski, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
Frank Benenati, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
Melissa Harrison, Press Secretary, Office of Public Affairs  
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10  
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General  
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General  
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General  
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation  
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
Edward Shields, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Management  
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation  
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs  
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General