



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 18, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Public Notification of Drinking Water Quality  
Project No. OPE-FY17-0020

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

**TO:** Michael Shapiro, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water

Lawrence Starfield, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the public notification of drinking water quality as required under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This project is included in the OIG's Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Plan.

The OIG's objective is to determine whether the EPA adequately ensures that public drinking water systems notify the public as required by the public notification rule promulgated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, such as when the systems identify contamination at unsafe levels.

The OIG plans to conduct work at the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water within the Office of Water. We will also conduct work at the EPA's Office of Civil Enforcement within the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Our work will also include EPA regional drinking water and enforcement offices, and select states and drinking water utilities. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are improved protection of public health through improved communication of drinking water quality and associated risks.

We will contact you through your respective Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would be interested particularly in hearing from you and your staff on our selection of states and drinking water utilities to include in our evaluation, as well as 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 email updates every 4 weeks, or by the method and frequency determined when we meet.

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 Kathryn Hess. 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 Kathryn Hess at (617) 918-1487 or [hess.kathryn@epa.gov](mailto:hess.kathryn@epa.gov).

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff  
Henry Darwin, Chief of Staff for Operations  
Kevin Chmielewski, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations  
Benita Best-Wong, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
David Cozad, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
Peter Grevatt, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Office of Water  
Susan Shinkman, Director, Office of Civil Enforcement, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Anita Thompkins, Director, Drinking Water Protection Division, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Office of Water  
Mark Pollins, Director, Water Enforcement Division, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Bobbie Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
Liz Bowman, Acting Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
Julia Valentine, Acting Director, Office of Media Relations, Office of Public Affairs  
Steven Moore, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Water  
Gwendolyn Spriggs, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Regional Administrators, Regions 1–10  
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 Deputy 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, OIG  
Tia Elbaum, Congressional and Media Liaison, OIG  
Kathryn Hess, Project Manager, Office of Program Evaluation, OIG  
Tiffine Johnson-Davis, Program Analyst, Office of Program Evaluation, OIG  
Gerry Snyder, Engineer, Office of Program Evaluation, OIG