



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 20, 2019

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
Superfund Site Visits – Verification of the Effectiveness of Institutional Controls
Project No. OA&E-FY19-0090

FROM: Christina Lovingood, Director /s/
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

TO: Peter Wright, Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Susan Parker Bodine, 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 an evaluation of the status and integrity of institutional controls at Superfund sites. This project is included in our fiscal year 2019 annual plan. The OIG's objective is to answer the following question:

Do the EPA's Superfund institutional controls achieve their stated goal of preventing human exposure at Superfund sites?

The EPA defines institutional controls as "nonengineered instruments, such as administrative and legal controls, that help to minimize the potential for exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of a response action." Institutional controls are typically a subset of Land Use Controls, which include engineering and physical barriers—such as fencing and security guards—as well as institutional controls. The federal facility program may use either term in its decision documents. For purposes of our evaluation, as our scope will include federal facility sites, institutional controls include Land Use Controls.

The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and selected regions. We will interview relevant managers and staff in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, the Office of Land and Emergency Management (including its Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation), and elsewhere as necessary. Applicable Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* will be used in conducting our evaluation.

The anticipated benefits of this project will be increased attention by EPA on institutional controls to monitor their effectiveness and prevent human exposure to Superfund site contaminants. We will work with your Audit Follow-Up Coordinator to arrange an entrance conference at a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of this evaluation. 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 updates on a regular basis to agreed-upon contacts from your office on the status of our evaluation.

To help ensure the success and timely completion of this project, we request that you provide any internal EPA policies, procedures or guidance regarding Superfund institutional controls at or before 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. We will request that you resolve the situation 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*.

The project will be supervised by me and the Project Manager will be Pat Milligan. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov, or Pat Milligan at (215) 814-2326 or milligan.patrick@epa.gov.

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