



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

March 19, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification:  
Evaluation of the EPA's Oversight of State and Local Ambient Air Monitoring  
Operating Schedules  
Project No. OSRE-FY24-0072

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

**TO:** Joseph Goffman, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Air and Radiation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation of the EPA's oversight of state and local ambient air monitoring operating schedules. This evaluation addresses the following fiscal year 2024 top [management challenges](#) for the Agency: (1) maximizing compliance with environmental laws and regulations and (2) integrating and implementing environmental justice.

Our objective is to determine whether the EPA's oversight and implementation of air quality monitoring resulted in underreported air pollution. We plan to conduct work in the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards within the Office of Air and Radiation and in selected EPA regional offices as necessary. 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 ensuring that the EPA has accurate and reliable information about air quality to safeguard public health, protect the environment, and enhance fairness in the regulated community.

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 a May 16, 2023 email to EPA employees, stated that the “agency and its employees have a duty to cooperate with OIG” and observed that “full engagement and collaboration between the OIG and EPA provides our agency with the opportunity to improve program performance and efficiency.” 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 Inspector General Act, we may report unresolved access matters to the administrator and to Congress.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at [www.epaoig.gov](http://www.epaoig.gov). 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  
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Management, Office of the Administrator  
Elizabeth Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation  
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