

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

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 5, 2017

## **MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Amended Project Notification: Audit of EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel Project No. OA-FY17-0382

**FROM:** John Trefry, Director, Forensic Audits John M. My Office of Audit

TO: David Bloom, Acting Chief Financial Officer

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to expand the scope of preliminary research on the EPA's adherence to policies, procedures and oversight controls pertaining to the Administrator's travel, which was originally focused on his travel to Oklahoma through July 31, 2017. The scope of our review is expanded to include all travel by the Administrator through September 30, 2017. Our revised objectives will be to determine the following:

- The frequency, cost and extent of the Administrator's travel through September 30, 2017.
- Whether applicable EPA travel policies and procedures were followed for Administrator Pruitt's travel, as well as other EPA staff and security personnel traveling with or in advance of Administrator Pruitt.
- Whether EPA policies and procedures are sufficiently designed to prevent fraud, waste and abuse with the Administrator's travel.

To accomplish these objectives, we will review supporting documentation and conduct interviews with management and staff to determine whether the EPA followed applicable policies and practices, and complied with federal requirements. The OIG plans to work with the EPA's Cincinnati Finance Center and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to obtain needed information. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our work. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve operational efficiency.

We will contact the audit coordinator to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our revised objectives. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any questions you may have 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 through a monthly meeting or via email, phone or video conference.

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 Angela Bennett. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-2474 or <u>trefry.john@epa.gov</u>, or Angela Bennett at (404) 562-9844 or <u>bennett.angela@epa.gov</u>.

cc: Scott Pruitt, Administrator Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff Henry Darwin, Chief of Staff for Operations Kevin Chmielewski, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Kevin Minoli, Acting General Counsel Troy Lyons, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations Liz Bowman, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs Julia Valentine, Acting Director, Office of Media Relations, Office of Public Affairs Howard Osborne, Associate Chief Financial Officer Jeanne Conklin, Controller, Office of the Chief Financial Officer Bobbie Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator Ellen Treimel, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of the Administrator 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 Richard Eyermann, Deputy Inspector General for Audit Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General Tia Elbaum, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General