



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 31, 2018

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
EPA's Air Monitoring Response to Hurricane Harvey
Project No. OA&E-FY18-0266

FROM: James L. Hatfield, Director, Air Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James L. Hatfield", is written over the printed name of the sender.

TO: Bill Wehrum, Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation

Barry Breen, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Anne Idsal, Regional Administrator
Region 6

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research to determine whether the EPA's and the state of Texas' air quality monitoring and related activities after Hurricane Harvey (1) addressed potential high-risk areas, (2) indicated any potential health concerns, and (3) were accurately communicated to the public with respect to monitoring results and potential health concerns.

The OIG expects its work to focus on the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Land and Emergency Management at headquarters, and at EPA Region 6. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and in Region 6, including Texas. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used to conduct our project. This project will provide value by reviewing how the agency determines where to monitor air quality during and after a disaster and how to communicate the results of that monitoring.

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 updates on a regular basis as agreed upon at this meeting.

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*.

I will supervise the project, and the Project Manager will be Gabby Fekete. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (919) 541-1030 or hatfield.jim@epa.gov, or Gabby Fekete at (919) 541-3537 or fekete.gabrielle@epa.gov.

cc: Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator
Henry Darwin, Acting Deputy Administrator
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
Nancy Grantham, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Elizabeth Shaw, Career Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation
Reggie Cheatham, Director, Office of Emergency Management, Office of Land and
Emergency Management
David Gray, Deputy Administrator, Region 6
Bob Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Michael Benton, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of the Administrator
Marc Vincent, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Air and Radiation
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