



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 7, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Audit of EPA's Superfund Task Force Creation and Operation  
Project No. OA&E-FY18-0291

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

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

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the creation and operation of the EPA's Superfund Task Force. This project is self-initiated.

During preliminary research, our objective is to determine whether the EPA followed applicable criteria, such as laws and rules, in creating the Superfund Task Force, and the development of the Task Force's July 2017 report and recommendations. The OIG plans to conduct work at the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, within the Office of Land and Emergency Management, and selected EPA regions. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefit of this project is enhanced use of appropriate public participation and transparent science in EPA's decision-making.

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 monthly email updates to an agreed-upon point of contact.

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 Steve Hanna. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-2906 or [lovingood.tina@epa.gov](mailto:lovingood.tina@epa.gov), or Steve Hanna at (415) 947-4527 or [hanna.steve@epa.gov](mailto:hanna.steve@epa.gov).

cc: Henry Darwin, Acting Deputy Administrator  
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff  
Michael Molina, Special Advisor, Office of the Administrator  
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