



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 16, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification of Evaluation:  
Evaluation of EPA's Consolidation Efforts at Three Laboratory Facilities  
Project No. OA&E-FY20-0353

**FROM:** Michael Davis, Director *Michael D. Davis*  
Efficiency Directorate  
Office of Audit and Evaluation

**TO:** Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science  
and EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development

Donna Vizian, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Mission Support

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin an evaluation of the EPA's consolidation efforts at three of its laboratory facilities.

The OIG's objectives are to determine if EPA consolidation efforts at laboratories in Athens, Georgia; Corvallis, Oregon; and Grosse Ile, Michigan, are within cost and on schedule. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters in the Office of Research and Development and the Office of Mission Support, as well as at the Region 9 regional office. We also plan to conduct work at other laboratories in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Richmond, California; and Willamette, Oregon, which are to be consolidated with the laboratories in Athens, Corvallis and Grosse Ile. The evaluation will be conducted 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 are improved operational efficiency and effectiveness.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your 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.

To expedite our evaluation, please be ready to provide the following information at the entrance conference:

- Points of contact for the Office of Research and Development; Office of Mission Support; Region 9; and laboratories in Ann Arbor, Athens, Corvallis, Grosse Ile, Richmond and Willamette.
- Planned, revised and actual costs for the consolidations at the Athens, Corvallis and Grosse Ile laboratories.
- Planned and actual schedules of completion for the Athens, Corvallis and Grosse Ile laboratory facilities.

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 evaluation, and the Project Manager will be Gloria Taylor-Upshaw. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (513) 487-2363 or [davis.michaeld@epa.gov](mailto:davis.michaeld@epa.gov), or Gloria Taylor-Upshaw at (404) 562-9842 or [taylor-upshaw.gloria@epa.gov](mailto:taylor-upshaw.gloria@epa.gov).

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