




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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

December 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
Survey of Remedial Project Managers on the Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on
Long-Term Cleanups at Superfund National Priorities List Sites
Project No. OE-FY21-0050

FROM: Tina Lovingood, Director 
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Directorate
Office of Evaluation

TO: Peter Wright, Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Susan Parker Bodine, Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin an evaluation to determine the impact of the coronavirus pandemic—that is, the SARS-CoV-2 virus and resultant COVID-19 disease—on long-term cleanup activities at Superfund National Priorities List sites. This evaluation also addresses the following top management challenge for the Agency, as identified in our *EPA's FYs 2020–2021 Top Management Challenges [report](#)*, issued July 21, 2020: maintaining operations during pandemic and natural disaster responses.

The OIG's objective is to determine the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on long-term cleanup at Superfund NPL sites based on a survey of remedial project managers and interviews with senior management from the Office of Land and Emergency Management and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

The OIG plans to conduct work within the Office of Land and Emergency Management, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and all EPA regional offices. As part of this evaluation, we will survey EPA remedial project managers and interview regional directors and management in the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation and the Office of Site Remediation Enforcement. 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 include enhanced environmental protection of Superfund sites through the identification of effective practices that the Agency implemented to adapt to the coronavirus pandemic, which may also help improve the EPA's operations during future pandemic or continuity of operation events.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our evaluation 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 periodic updates on the status of our work.

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 immediately resolve the situation if an Agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested materials 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 team lead will be Dwayne Crawford. Any information related to the evaluation should be addressed to Dwayne Crawford at (202) 566-2894 or crawford.dwayne@epa.gov or to me at (202) 566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov.

cc: Henry Darwin, Assistant Deputy Administrator
Doug Benevento, Associate Deputy Administrator
Mandy Gunasekara, Chief of Staff
Michael Molina, Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations
Wesley J. Carpenter, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
José Kercado, Backup Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
James Hewitt, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Lance McCluney, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services, Office of the Administrator
Barry Breen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management
Steven Cook, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management
Dana Stalcup, Acting Director, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Sheila Fleming, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Larry Starfield, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
John Irving, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Cyndy Mackey, Director, Office of Site Remediation Enforcement, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Rafael DeLeon, Deputy Director, Office of Site Remediation Enforcement, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Kecia Thornton, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Gwendolyn Spriggs, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Loan Nguyen, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Regional Administrators, Regions 1–10
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10
Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General
Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Edward S. Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General
Eric W. Hanger, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General
Benjamin May, Chief of Staff, Office of Inspector General
Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Helina P. Wong, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Stephanie L. Wright, Assistant Inspector General for Management
Rashmi Bartlett, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation

James Hatfield, Associate Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit

Richard J. Eyermann, Director, Mission Support Directorate, Office of Audit, Office of
Inspector General

Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs

Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General