

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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 25, 2021

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
Changes to Final Long-Chain Perfluoroalkyl Carboxylate and Perfluoroalkyl Sulfonate
Chemical Substances Significant New Use Rule
Project No. OSRE-FY22-0024

FROM: Renee McGhee-Lenart, Acting Director *Renee D. McGhee-Lenart*
Programs, Offices, and Centers Oversight Directorate
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

TO: Michael S. Regan, Administrator
Office of the Administrator

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin an evaluation within the Office of the Administrator. This evaluation is a result of a Congressional request. This evaluation is part of OIG's oversight plan for fiscal year 2022 and addresses the following fiscal year 2022 top management challenge for the Agency: ensuring safe use of chemicals.

Our objective is to determine the extent to which the EPA followed applicable policies, procedures, and guidance for the changes made to the Long-Chain Perfluoroalkyl Carboxylate and Perfluoroalkyl Sulfonate Chemical Substances Significant New Use Rule between the EPA Administrator's signing of the final rule on June 22, 2020, and the publication of the final rule in the *Federal Register* on July 27, 2020. We plan to conduct work at EPA headquarters. 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 greater assurance that the EPA has controls in place to maintain the integrity of signed final rules prior to final publication in the *Federal Register*.

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.

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. Similarly, EPA Manual 6500, *Functions and Activities of the Office of Inspector General* (1994), requires that each EPA employee cooperate with and fully disclose information to the OIG. Also, Administrator Michael S. Regan, in an April 28, 2021 email message to EPA employees, conveyed his "expectation that EPA personnel provide OIG timely access to records or other information" and observed that "full cooperation with the OIG is in

the best interest of the public we serve.” 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*.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epa.gov/oig.

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator
Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Faisal Amin, Agency Follow-Up Official
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
José Kercado, Backup Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Melissa Hoffer, Acting General Counsel, Principal Deputy General Counsel
Robin Richardson, Acting Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
Lindsay Hamilton, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Stefan Martiyan Director, Office of Continuous Improvement, Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Lance McCluney, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services, Office of the Administrator
Michael Benton, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of the Administrator
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators
Sean W. O’Donnell, Inspector General
Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Edward S. Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General
Benjamin May, Counsel to the Inspector General
Stephanie Wright, Assistant Inspector General for Management
Kellie J. Walker, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Inspector General
Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Paul H. Bergstrand, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Special Review and Evaluation
Marc Perez, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Jee Kim, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Management
Tom Collick, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General
Laura B. Nicolosi, Principal Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Erin Barnes-Weaver, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation
Susan Barvenik, Associate Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General
James Hatfield, Associate Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General
Lori Hoffman, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General