




OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 13, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Evaluation of Risks to Federal Facility Superfund Site Remedies from Sea-Level Rise
Project No. OSRE-FY24-0114

FROM: Gabby Fekete, Director
Programs, Offices, and Centers Oversight Directorate
Office of Special Review and Evaluation 

TO: Barry Breen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation of potential climate change impacts on federal facility Superfund sites. This evaluation addresses the following fiscal year 2024 top management challenge for the Agency: mitigating the causes and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Our objective is to determine whether the required Five-Year Reviews for federal facility Superfund sites adequately assess impacts to the continued protectiveness of implemented cleanup remedies from sea-level rise and storm surges caused by climate change. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Land and Emergency Management. We will conduct the evaluation 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 an assessment of whether the EPA is identifying potential climate-change-related issues that may affect whether the cleanup remedies at federal facility Superfund sites remain protective of human health and the environment.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives. At that time, we can discuss any concerns that you may have and answer any 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 Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, authorizes the OIG to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete our 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. Additionally, Administrator Michael S. Regan, in a June 17, 2024 email to EPA employees, stated that “it is the duty of all EPA personnel to

cooperate fully with the OIG and to provide information the office needs to fulfill its oversight responsibilities.” He also indicated that the “OIG’s independent oversight of our agency makes it an indispensable partner in our efforts to protect public health and the environment.” If an Agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested materials to the OIG or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG, we will request that you immediately resolve the situation. Consistent with the Inspector General Act, we may report unresolved access matters to the administrator and to Congress.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epaoig.gov. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this evaluation should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator
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Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Management, Office of the Administrator
Clifford Villa, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management
Gregory Gervais, Director, Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office, Office of Land and
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