

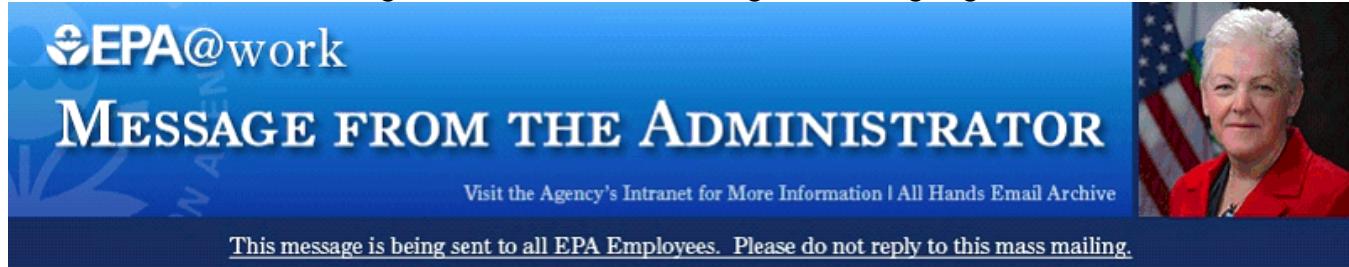


All Hands Messages

EPA-Wide

Date Published: 01/02/2015

Title: Working with OIG to make EPA a High Performing Organization



MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Working with OIG to make EPA a High Performing Organization

FROM: Gina McCarthy

TO: All EPA Employees

To best achieve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's mission, I selected as one of the themes for my tenure as Administrator "embracing EPA as a high-performing organization." It means ensuring that our agency continues to faithfully apply the law and sound science, to support our talented and dedicated work force so all EPA employees have the tools they need to do their important work every day and to use our limited resources effectively.

One of the ways we can ensure that we all perform at our best is to support the internal review and oversight carried out by our Office of Inspector General. The OIG serves as an independent office within our agency, preventing and rooting out fraud, waste and abuse in agency programs and operations, largely through audits and investigations. This important work enables us all to be more effective in achieving the agency's mission.

The vigilance of EPA staff is key to successful OIG oversight. I expect all employees to report fraud, waste and abuse to the OIG if they see it. The types of conduct that should be reported include: theft of EPA funds, misuse of contract or grant monies, misuse of EPA equipment or assets for personal gain, falsification of EPA reports or records, serious employee misconduct, or participation in EPA program fraud. The easiest way to report information to the OIG is to contact the OIG Hotline at OIG_Hotline@epa.gov or toll-free at 1-888-546-8740. You may request anonymity.

I recognize that reporting or providing information to OIG about suspected problems may raise concerns for some about premature public release of this information or disruption to programs or management decisions. Please rest assured that I am working closely with the Inspector General to prevent instances of inappropriate release of information, to ensure EPA employees are being treated fairly and respectfully, and to recognize the valuable role that EPA employees have played in supporting OIG oversight. Please continue to do your part, as you have throughout EPA's history, by continuing to help accomplish our shared mission, and by supporting the work of the OIG.

Embracing EPA as a high-performing organization is essential – not only to ensure that we cultivate the kind of organization that the dedicated, hardworking, professional public servants at EPA deserve, but because the work we do is critical. The health and environmental protections we administer benefit every person in the United States, strengthen our economy, and preserve our environmental resources for generations to come. We do this work with public trust and public resources, and we should approach it with great integrity and great pride.

Working together we can ensure that we uphold the public trust invested in us to protect human health and our environment.

