



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

May 2, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Review of the EPA's Assessment of Potential Mining Impacts in Bristol Bay, Alaska  
Project No. OPE-FY14-0039

**FROM:** Patrick Gilbride, Director /s/  
Science, Research, and Management Integrity Evaluations

**TO:** Nancy K. Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water

Lek Kadeli, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development

Dennis McLerran, Regional Administrator  
Region 10

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to begin preliminary research to determine whether the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adhered to laws, regulations, policies and procedures in developing its assessment of potential mining impacts on ecosystems in Bristol Bay, Alaska. We are initiating this review based on congressional requests and hotline complaints OIG has received on this matter.

During the preliminary research phase we plan to review relevant laws, regulations, policies and procedures and other documentation as necessary. We plan to interview EPA personnel in the Office of Water, Office of Research and Development, Region 10 and the Office of the Administrator. We will update your offices on a regular basis on the status of our review.

We will work with your audit follow-up coordinators to arrange a mutually agreeable time for a kickoff meeting to discuss our review objective, scope, methodology and planned time frames. We will also answer any questions you or your staff may have about the review process, and obtain any input you have on our planned work.

Prior to or at our kickoff meeting, we request that you provide us with the following information:

1. A list of all EPA personnel involved in the concurrence and approval chain for the ecological risk assessment of potential mining impacts on ecosystems in Bristol Bay, Alaska. Please also include the job titles, roles, and approximate dates for each person involved in the process. Please include all personnel involved starting from the time the EPA decided to undertake the

assessment through the release of the final report, *An Assessment of Potential Mining Impacts on Salmon Ecosystems of Bristol Bay, Alaska* (EPA910-R-14-001A).

2. A timeline showing the activities the EPA performed to conduct and complete the assessment, starting when the EPA decided to undertake the assessment through the release of the final report.
3. A list of stakeholders the EPA interacted with prior to and during the course of this assessment.
4. An accounting of all costs associated with the development of the report, *An Assessment of Potential Mining Impacts on Salmon Ecosystems of Bristol Bay, Alaska* (EPA910-R-14-001A).

If you or your staff has any questions, please contact me at (303) 312-6969 or [gilbride.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:gilbride.patrick@epa.gov); or Randy Holthaus, Project Manager, at (214) 665-6620 or [holthaus.randy@epa.gov](mailto:holthaus.randy@epa.gov).

cc: Michael H. Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, OW  
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