

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Inspector General (OIG)

Office of Program Evaluation (OPE)

Presentation for the
Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies

2017 Fall Business Meeting

September 21, 2017

Agenda

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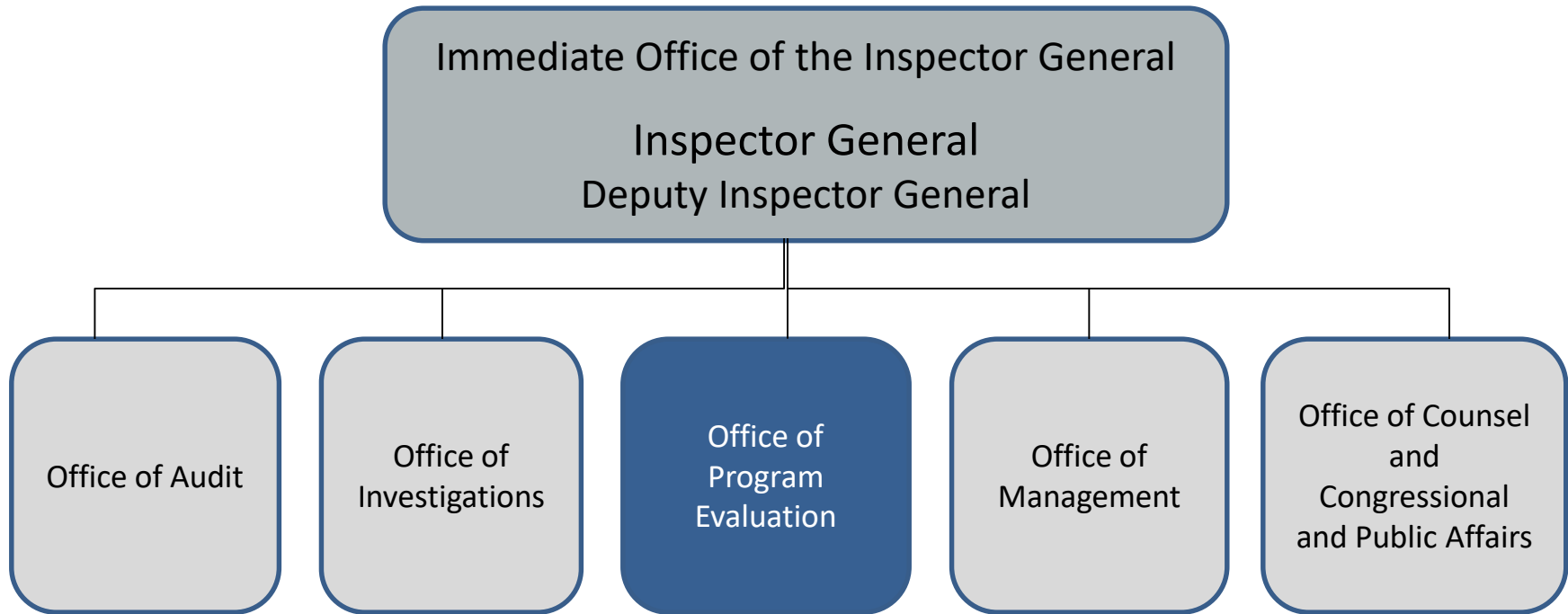
OIG Background

The OIG is an independent office within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Per the act, OIGs perform the following functions:

- Conduct and supervise audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations of their agencies.
- Review existing and proposed legislation and regulations relating to the programs and operations of their agencies.
- Provide leadership and coordination, and recommend policies for activities designed to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and to prevent and detect fraud and abuse.
- Provide a means for keeping the head of the establishment and Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies and about the necessity for and progress of corrective actions.



OIG Organization



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OPE Organization

**Assistant Inspector General
Deputy Assistant Inspector General**

Air

Water

**Land Cleanup and Waste
Management**

**Toxics, Chemical
Management and Pollution
Prevention**

**Environmental Research
Programs**

Special Program Reviews



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Recent Reports



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Recent Reports

Certain State, Local and Tribal Data Processing Practices Could Impact Suitability of Data for 8-Hour Ozone Air Quality Determinations; February 6, 2017

- ❑ Two monitoring agencies we reviewed adjusted ozone data prior to reporting it to the Air Quality System, and were not implementing critical criteria as recommended in the EPA's Quality Assurance Handbook.
- ❑ About 26 percent of the 2012-2014 national hourly ozone data original recorded in AirNow were different from the ozone data reported to the Air Quality System. Presents risk that other air monitoring agencies were improperly adjusting their data, which could impact the quality of data used in EPA's designation process.



Recent Reports

Eleven Years After Agreement, EPA Has Not Developed Reliable Emission Estimation Methods to Determine Whether Animal Feeding Operations Comply With Clean Air Act and Other Statutes, September 19, 2017

- ❑ The EPA had not finalized emission estimating methodologies (EEMs) for animal feeding operations (AFOs). Delays stemmed from uncertainty about how to address the EPA's Science Advisory Board concerns regarding limitations in the monitoring data used to develop draft EEMs, and a lack of agricultural air expertise and committed resources.
- ❑ Applicability of CAA requirements to individual AFOs remain undetermined, enforcement protections for consent agreement participants remain in effect, and a number of EPA actions on animal feeding operation emissions continue to be on hold.



Recent Reports

Improved Data and EPA Oversight Are Needed to Assure Compliance With the Standards for Benzene Content in Gasoline; June 8, 2017

EPA Implemented Prior OIG Recommendations, but Additional Guidance Could Strengthen the Human Subjects Research Program; August 1, 2017

For information and access to all OIG reports

- ❑ <https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/oig-reports>



Current Evaluations

Review of Ambient Monitoring Data Changes and Gaps

- Objective:** To determine whether selected air monitoring data in EPA's Air Quality System meet criteria established by EPA. Specifically,
 1. Do data revisions comply with EPA criteria?
 2. Do data exclusions or gaps comply with EPA criteria?

- Status:** Drafting report



Current Evaluations

Effectiveness of EPA's Oversight of State Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Programs in Achieving Emission Reductions

- Objective:** To determine whether EPA's oversight has ensured that vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) programs are effective and efficient in reducing vehicle emissions in enhanced I/M areas.
- Status:** Preliminary research



Current Evaluations

EPA's Approval Process for Air Quality Dispersion Models

- Objective:** To assess the effectiveness of EPA's process for reviewing and approving air quality dispersion models recommended for use by state , local and tribal air pollution control agencies.
- Status:** Preliminary research



Current Evaluations

EPA's Estimation of Methane Emissions From the Oil and Natural Gas Production Sector

- Objective:** To determine: (1) How EPA estimates methane emissions from the oil and gas production sector, including the extent to which EPA has used the results of 2013 and 2014 emission studies conducted jointly by the EDF and UT-Austin to estimate those emissions, and 2) Whether concerns about technical or other problems with the EDF/UT-Austin studies were identified or brought to EPA's attention, and how EPA addressed and resolved any such concerns.
- Status:** Preliminary research



More Information on the OIG

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