



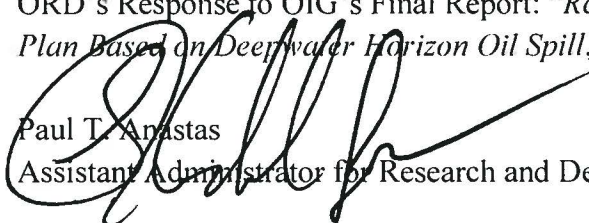
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

NOV 15 2011

MEMORANDUM

Subject: ORD's Response to OIG's Final Report: "*Revisions Needed to National Contingency Plan Based on Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill*," Report No. 11-P-0534

From: Paul T. Anastas

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development

To: Melissa M. Heist
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) final audit report: "*Revisions Needed to National Contingency Plan Based on Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill*" (Report No. 11-P-0534), dated August 25, 2011. This letter is to state ORD's concurrence with the OIG's final recommendation addressed to ORD and to provide further clarification on our progress and plans. We are aware that the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) is providing a more in-depth response addressing your recommendations.

As we mentioned in our response to the draft report, we have already started addressing your recommendation to "*develop a research plan to address gaps on long-term and environmental effects of dispersants*." More specifically, we have drafted a longer-term research strategy to address gaps specifically related to the health and environmental effects of dispersants, as well as addressing other oil spill-related research needs. Since the time we provided our response to your draft report and indicated publication would take place in Fall 2011, the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) conducted a review of our draft research strategy and provided comments. Due to the number of substantive comments¹; we anticipate publication will take place by September 30, 2012.

Should you have any questions, please contact Deborah Heckman at (202) 564-7274.

cc: Lek Kadeli

¹ [http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/065558902A0353FB8525791A0072613B/\\$File/EPA-SAB-11-016-unsigned.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/065558902A0353FB8525791A0072613B/$File/EPA-SAB-11-016-unsigned.pdf)

Kevin Teichman
Amy Battaglia
Trish Erickson
Deborah Heckman
Norman Adkins