



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

DEC 13 2011

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Response to Final OIG Evaluation Report "EPA Has Not Fully Implemented a National Emergency Response Equipment Tracking System," Report No. 11-P-0616, dated September 13, 2011

**FROM:** Mathy Stanislaus  
Assistant Administrator *Mathy Stanislaus*

**THRU:** Bob Perciasepe  
Deputy Administrator *Bob Perciasepe*

**TO:** Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.  
Inspector General

This is in response to your report dated September 13, 2011, entitled "EPA Has Not Fully Implemented a National Emergency Response Equipment Tracking System." We agree with the recommendations that are outlined in this report. We have arrived at a plan that we believe will enhance our program and address the recommendations in your report. Listed below are your recommendations, followed by our action plan for each.

**Recommendation #1: Ensure that only data essential to tracking emergency response equipment are required in the EPA national emergency response tracking system.**

**Action Plan:** The Equipment Tracking Module is already designed to track equipment using only "essential tracking data." To track equipment checked out for field use, the module requires six pieces of "essential tracking data," which include: unique barcode number, response site name, name of the EPA responsibility party, name of the person that actually picked up the equipment from the warehouse, the check-out date, and the check-out type. While these six fields are mandatory, there are additional fields where data may be entered by Regions and Special Teams. This improvement is one example of the input OEM has received over the past two years to the Equipment module from the Regions. To date, over 100 improvements have been completed from this regional input.

OEM is also currently working on improving the Equipment Tracking Module's responsiveness by optimizing the data entry screens so that users can enter the essential tracking data quickly and efficiently. We anticipate this work will be completed by January 31, 2012.

**Recommendation #2: Determine whether the Emergency Management Portal (EMP) equipment module is the most cost- efficient and functional national equipment tracking alternative.**

**Action Plan:** OEM has plans to conduct a thorough alternatives analysis, which will consider several products, including commercial and government off-the-shelf-software. This analysis will be conducted by an outside firm that specializes in such analyses. OEM anticipates that this analysis will be conducted by June 30, 2012. Once complete, we will share the results with the OIG for review.

**Recommendation #3: Mandate that regions and response teams employ the national tracking system EPA decides to use for emergency response equipment.**

**Action Plan:** OEM is overseeing the analysis referred to in Recommendation #2, above, and OARM is following up from the OIG's "Audit of EPA's Fiscal 2010 and 2009 Consolidated Financial Statements" (Report No 11-1-0015, dated November 15, 2010); OARM was tasked with developing an asset management tool for use by the entire Agency.

OARM anticipates that it will distribute a Request for Quote in second quarter FY2012. We will update the OIG on the status of these efforts and progress toward deciding on a national tracking system, in fourth quarter FY2012.

We look forward to working with HQ and Regional OEM staff to fully implement a National Emergency Response Equipment Tracking System. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Stanton, Director of the Office of Emergency Management at (202) 564-2092.