




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

JAN 3 1 2012

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Response to Final OIG Evaluation Report "EPA Progress on the 2007 Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act," Report No. 11-P-0708, dated September 27, 2011

**FROM:** Mathy Stanislaus  
Assistant Administrator 

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

This memo is in response to your staff's January 17, 2012 message requesting additional information on one of OSWER's Corrective Actions in the report entitled "EPA Progress on the 2007 Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act," dated September 17, 2011. More specifically, information was requested regarding requirements in the Meth Act and the status of a technology transfer conference. Below you will find our revised Corrective Action for this, which is outlined in Recommendation #1 of this report. Also attached is OSWER's original proposed corrective action plan described in my January 10, 2012 memorandum.

**Recommendation #1: Establish a plan to implement the Meth Act requirements and inform Congress which requirements will not be met or will be delayed.**

**IG Request for More Information:** There is one item missing for Recommendation 1 - a milestone date for convening the next technology transfer conference.

**Revised Corrective Action Plan:** OSWER contemplated putting on a national meeting during the spring of 2011, but was unable to do so because of financial constraints that have already been referenced in this report. We are currently unable to produce a date for when a national meeting will be held, as it would be necessary to bring together a meeting of national experts to update the cleanup guidelines. This would require OEM to cover invitational travel for many of these participants, as well as other extramural expenses necessary for putting together such a meeting.

As a result of these financial constraints, OSWER is currently exploring several alternatives to this national meeting, with the intent of updating the cleanup guidelines, but it is unlikely this

may happen through a large face-to-face meeting. OSWER plans to have a meeting with ORD on the viability of these alternatives sometime in the near future.

The results of this meeting will be transmitted to Congress in the Agency's status update, which we anticipate will be completed by **June 30, 2012**.

We look forward to working to implement this recommendation, as well as the other OSWER recommendation outlined in this report. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Stanton, Director of the Office of Emergency Management at (202) 564-2092.

Attachment

cc: Elizabeth Grossman, OIG  
Carolyn Copper, OIG  
Steve Hanna, OIG



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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JAN 10 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Response to Final OIG Evaluation Report "EPA Progress on the 2007 Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act," Report No. 11-P-0708, dated September 27, 2011

**FROM:** Mathy Stanislaus  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Paul T. Anastas, PhD  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development

Arvin Ganesen  
Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

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

This is in response to your report dated September 27, 2011, entitled "EPA Progress on the 2007 Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act." We agree with the three recommendations contained in this report. The Agency has arrived at a plan that we believe will address the recommendations in your report, and thereby enhance our programs. Listed below are your recommendations, followed by our action plan for each.

**Recommendation #1: Establish a plan to implement the Meth Act requirements and inform Congress which requirements will not be met or will be delayed.**

**Action Plan:** The Office of Research and Development (ORD) has developed a research plan to identify critical needs related to the implementation of the Meth Act requirements. ORD sent the draft plan to the appropriate Congressional staff in March 2009, and an update was provided through EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) in May 2010. OIG has already received copies of both documents.

More recently, ORD has conducted a literature review and begun work on a high priority research project, decontamination with hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) that will assist the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) in updating its guidelines. Working with the



OCIR and OSWER, ORD will provide an update on its current activities related to the meth research requirements outlined in the Meth Act.

We expect this update will be provided by June 30, 2012, and again after completion of the research project.

**Recommendation #2: Address the following issues in the next update to the voluntary remediation guidelines:**

- a) Clarification of whether meth lab waste can legally be disposed of as household hazardous waste (HHW)
- b) Availability of EPA Local Governments Reimbursement funding to pay for meth lab cleanup
- c) Information on websites containing lists of former meth lab sites
- d) Consideration of children's health and environmental justice

EPA concurs with this recommendation. We plan to begin updating the guidelines this year and will consider the definition of meth lab waste as HHW, as well as update Local Governments Reimbursement for meth cleanup, any additional websites with meth lab sites, and children's health and environmental justice issues. OSWER's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR) is the lead office in redefining meth lab waste as HHW, and OSWER's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will coordinate with ORCR appropriately to update this.

These guidelines are expected to be updated by December 31, 2012.

**Recommendation #3: Develop internal controls to ensure that legislative requirements are identified and tracked, and that their status is reported to Congress as required.**

**Action Plan:** EPA continues to work on developing a system to track Reports to Congress. The Associate Administrators for OCIR and Policy have both assigned staff for this effort. EPA has initiated discussions about possible ways of tracking reports to Congress broadly, and is examining existing Agency tracking systems to see if any of them could be of any use in this context.

We expect to implement this tracking system by September 30, 2012.

We look forward to working to implementing the three recommendations outlined in this report. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Stanton, Director of OEM at (202) 564-2092.