



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 5, 2017

The Honorable Vanessa Allen Sutherland
Chairperson and Board Member
U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 910
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Sutherland:

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is beginning work to update for fiscal year 2017 its list of proposed key management challenges and internal control weaknesses confronting the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB). We also plan to provide you information on internal control weaknesses for your consideration as a part of your Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act review.

The Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 provides a governmentwide definition of major management challenges. According to the act, major management challenges are programs or management functions, within or across agencies, that have greater vulnerability to waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement, wherein a failure to perform well could seriously affect the ability of an agency or the federal government to achieve its mission or goals. Internal control weaknesses are deficiencies in internal control activities designed to address and meet internal control standards.

We will contact your audit liaison to arrange a meeting date and time to discuss with your staff our process, the status of last year's challenges and weaknesses, and any new challenges for consideration. We hope to have this meeting in February 2017. We plan to issue our proposed management challenges letter to CSB by the end of June 2017. Your input, along with final audit reports, prior year challenges and weaknesses, and any public records, will be used to develop the fiscal year 2017 management challenges and internal control weaknesses.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request your resolution if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records to the OIG, or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG. We may report unresolved access matters to the Board and include the incident in the Semiannual Report to Congress.

The project will be supervised by Mike Davis, Director, Efficiency Audits. Randy Holthaus will be the Project Manager. Any information related to the project should be addressed to Mike Davis at (513) 487-2363 or davis.michaeld@epa.gov, or Randy Holthaus at (214) 665-6620 or holthaus.randy@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "C".

Kevin Christensen
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

cc: Rick Engler, Board Member, CSB
Manuel Ehrlich Jr., Board Member, CSB
Kristen Kulinowski, Board Member, CSB
Anna Brown, Director of Administration and Audit Liaison, CSB
Kara Wenzel, Acting General Counsel, CSB
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Edward Shields, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Management
Richard Eyer mann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General