



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

OFFICE OF WATER

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Response to Office of Inspector General’s Final Report *EPA’s 2018 BEACH Act Report to Congress Does Not Fully Meet Statutory Requirements*, Report No. 20-E-0246, dated August 13, 2020

**FROM:** David P. Ross  
Assistant Administrator

**DAVID  
ROSS**

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**TO:** Sean W. O’Donnell, Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the final findings and recommendations in the subject final evaluation report. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) maintains its position that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) withdraw its report. EPA appreciates that the OIG has incorporated some language into the final report to more accurately characterize the Agency’s efforts to implement the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (BEACH Act), including the efforts to evaluate state programs. However, we continue to be disappointed that much of the language and the two recommendations in the final report remained largely unchanged despite EPA’s good faith efforts to provide additional comments and explanation at OIG’s encouragement, transmitted on June 30, 2020.

EPA does not agree with the recommendation that the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water “develop and adopt a written strategy that lays out steps the EPA will take to verify that future reports to Congress fully meet (a) the reporting requirements in the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000, (b) expectations that federal agencies comply with the Plain Writing Act of 2010, and (c) federal internal control principles.” As stated previously, EPA does not need such a strategy because it has already committed to submit reports to Congress in accordance with the requirements of the BEACH Act (as documented in the Supplemental Response memo regarding the Office of Water’s response to Recommendation 1 in OIG Report No. 18-P-0071, dated May 10, 2018).

Therefore, we are re-submitting our previous comments (dated June 5, 2020) and the additional suggested language edits (transmitted June 30, 2020).

## Attachments

1. June 5, 2020 Response to Office of Inspector General's Draft Report *EPA's 2018 BEACH Act Report to Congress Does Not Fully Meet Statutory Requirements*, Project No. OA&E-FY20-0062, dated May 15, 2020
2. June 30, 2020 Language Suggestions for Office of Inspector General's Draft Report *EPA's 2018 BEACH Act Report to Congress Does Not Fully Meet Statutory Requirements*, Project No. OA&E-FY20-0062, dated May 15, 2020