

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY-WIDE PLAN TO PROVIDE SOLID  
WASTE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY ASSISTANCE  
TO TRIBES**

**Region 9 Tribal Operations Committee  
Meeting**

**February 9, 2012**

# Outline

2

- Purpose
- Background
- Office of Inspector General (OIG)  
Findings, Conclusions and  
Recommendations
- Development of Agency-Wide Plan

# Purpose

3

- OIG Final Report
- Overview of the Agency-Wide Plan
- Feedback

# Background

4

- ❑ The OIG is an independent office within EPA.
- ❑ The OIG performs audits, evaluations, and investigations of EPA programs.
- ❑ The OIG Report focused on EPA's tribal waste management assistance efforts.



# Background

- OIG interviewed the following EPA offices in the evaluation:
  - Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
  - American Indian Environmental Office
  - Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
  - Regions 5, 8, and 9.

# Background

- The OIG Final Report was released on March 21, 2011.
- The scope of OIG's evaluation, report and recommendations was fairly narrow, and generally restricted to internal EPA issues.
- The Agency-Wide Plan will be based on the recommendations, and thus will also be narrow in scope.

# OIG Findings and Conclusions

7

## □ Findings

EPA has:

- 1) No comprehensive plan
- 2) Ineffective performance measures
- 3) No internal data controls

## □ Conclusions

EPA cannot:

- 1) Ensure consistent assistance to tribes
- 2) Prioritize open dumps based on risk
- 3) Determine if its efforts are effective

# OIG Recommendations

8

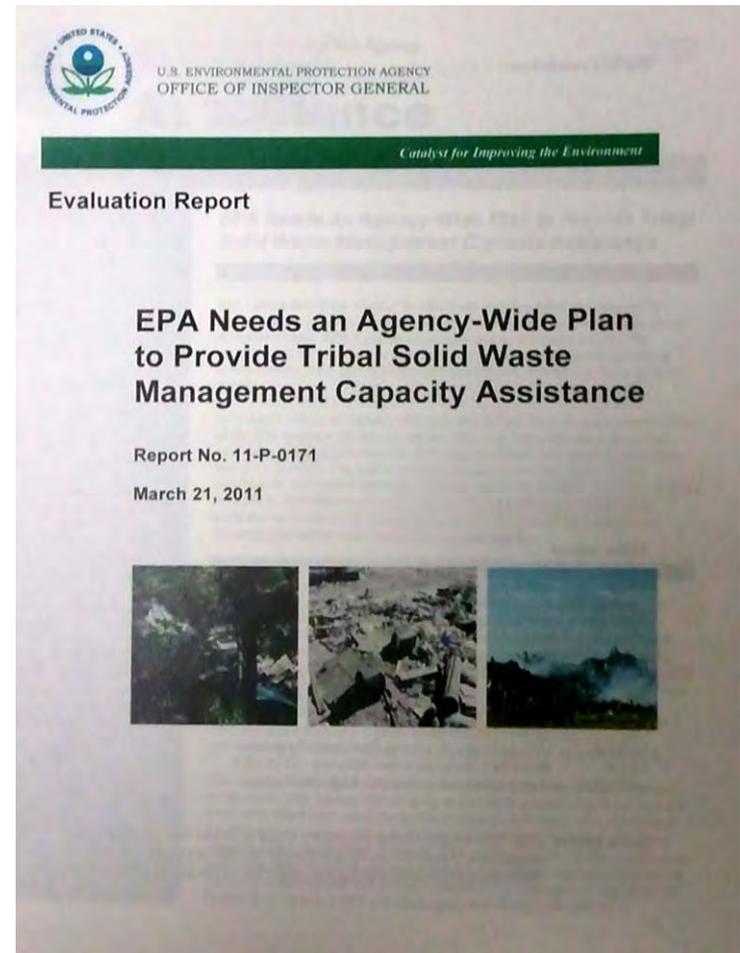
## **EPA must develop an Agency-Wide Plan that:**

- 1) Describes EPA roles & responsibilities
- 2) Identifies the resources required and their sources
- 3) Includes performance measures
- 4) Establishes internal controls for consistent data collection
- 5) Improves coordination between HQ & Regions
- 6) Specifies a timeline for accomplishments

# Agency-Wide Plan

9

- EPA agreed with all of the OIG recommendations.
- The Plan will address internal EPA functions and issues.



# Agency-Wide Plan

10

- Currently developing and reviewing draft of an Agency-Wide Plan
- Formal tribal consultation on draft Plan – Spring/Summer of 2012.
- 120-day comment period
- Target completion date – Late 2012

# Agency-Wide Plan:

## Recommendation 1 - EPA Roles and Responsibilities

11

- EPA will describe the roles and responsibilities of EPA offices which have tribal waste management programs.
- This exercise will make the connections between the EPA offices more clear.
- This will enable us to work more effectively together, as well as provide clear direction on EPA authority.

# Agency-Wide Plan:

## Recommendation 2 - Identify EPA Resources

12

- EPA is assessing our current internal resources (including staff and funding) for tribal solid waste assistance activities.
- These internal resources do not include GAP funds.



# Agency-Wide Plan:

## Recommendation 3 - Performance Measures

13

- The OIG Report recommends that EPA establish performance measures that:
  - ▣ Track whether our assistance to tribes “is consistent and effective in developing tribal solid waste management capacity and reducing risks from open dumps in Indian country.”



# Agency-Wide Plan:

## Recommendation 3 - Performance Measures

14

- EPA has several existing tribal solid waste performance measures:
  - Number of tribes with approved integrated waste management plans (IWMPs).
  - Number of open dumps closed, cleaned up, or upgraded.

# Agency-Wide Plan: Recommendation 4 - Internal Controls for Consistent Data Collection

15

- The OIG Report focused on EPA's open dumps data.
- National Open Dump Inventory:
  - EPA uses the IHS web Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System (w/STARS) database.
  - 4,060 open dumps nationwide as of 2/2/2012.
  - Between 10/1/2006 and 9/30/2011, a total of 647 open dumps were reported as closed or cleaned up.



# Agency-Wide Plan: Recommendation 4 - Internal Controls for Consistent Data Collection

16

- Open dump data internal controls:
  - The OIG Report expressed concerns over EPA's internal controls on the open dump data.
  - OIG reported that the definition of open dump seems to be implemented inconsistently.
  - EPA resources to assess dumps and collect data are constrained.

# Agency-Wide Plan: Recommendation 4 - Internal Controls for Consistent Data Collection

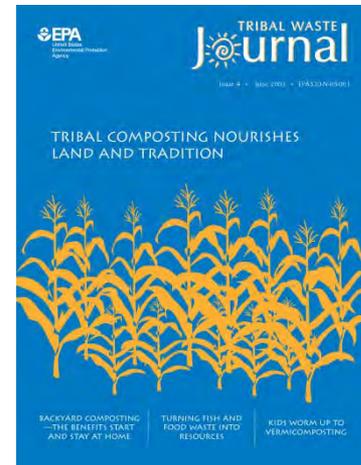
17

- QA/QC Guidelines for Data Collection
  
- EPA currently uses the *Solid Waste Survey Form*
  - This form is a two-page w/STARS data collection sheet.

# Agency-Wide Plan: Recommendation 4 - Internal Controls for Consistent Data Collection

18

- Other internal controls:
  - We are examining all of the products we have published on solid waste management topics
  - EPA's Tribal Waste Management Website ([www.epa.gov/tribalmsw](http://www.epa.gov/tribalmsw)) is currently in the process of being updated.



# Agency-Wide Plan: Other Outreach Efforts

19

- Webinars
  - ▣ Internal EPA Training Webinars
  - ▣ Tribal Waste Webinar Series
  
- National Peer Matching Program
  
- Promoting Other EPA Initiatives



2/6/2012

# Agency-Wide Plan: Recommendation 5 - Improved Coordination Between HQ & Regions

20

- The OIG Report recommended that EPA establish a process to ensure coordination between EPA program offices (HQ) and the Regions.



# Agency-Wide Plan: Recommendation 5 - Improved Coordination Between HQ & Regions

21

- OSWER/ORCR works closely with the Regional Solid Waste Coordinators:
  - ▣ Several existing monthly conference calls between staff in HQ offices and the Regions;
  - ▣ Informal contact between staff in HQ and the Regions;
  - ▣ Conducts regular conference calls and meetings between HQ and Regional management; and
  - ▣ Looking for other ways to improve our coordination and communication.

# Agency-Wide Plan: Recommendation 5 - Improved Coordination Between HQ & Regions

22

- Both EPA HQ and the Regions coordinate with other programs such as AIEO, Brownfields, Pollution Prevention (P2), Superfund, Air, Water, and Enforcement and Compliance Assistance.
- EPA also collaborates with other federal agencies such as IHS, BIA, USDA, DoD and HUD.

# Agency-Wide Plan: Recommendation 5 - Improved Coordination Between HQ & Regions

23

- How can EPA improve its internal coordination among the EPA program offices, and external coordination with other federal agencies?

# Agency-Wide Plan:

## Recommendation 6 - Timeline

24

- EPA expects to complete the Agency-Wide Plan in late 2012.
- Some of the action items may be completed after that date, such as:
  - Performance measures;
  - Additional guidance on internal controls;
  - Information resources.

# Summary

25

- The OIG evaluated EPA's efforts to build tribal solid waste capacity.
- EPA will develop an Agency-Wide Plan.
- There will be formal tribal consultation on the draft Plan.

# Questions:

26

- What types of training or other technical assistance would be helpful to build capacity and implement an integrated waste management program?
- How can EPA help to build sustainable waste management programs?

# Contact Information

27

Michaëlle Wilson, Chief, Federal, State and Tribal  
Programs Branch, ORCR

[Wilson.michaëlle@epa.gov](mailto:Wilson.michaëlle@epa.gov)

703-308-8790

Kim Katonica-Mule', Office of Resource Conservation  
and Recovery (ORCR)

[Katonica.kim@epa.gov](mailto:Katonica.kim@epa.gov)

703-308-6087