

EPA OIG Reports That EPA's FY 2024 Top Management Challenges Include Safeguarding the Use and Disposal of Chemicals

Article By:

Lynn L. Bergeson

Carla N. Hutton

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued on November 15, 2023, its [report on EPA's fiscal year \(FY\) 2024 top management challenges](#). OIG states that the report "summarizes what the inspector general considers to be 'the most serious management and performance challenges facing the agency'" for **FY 2024** and briefly assesses EPA's progress in addressing those challenges. According to OIG, the management challenges include "Safeguarding the Use and Disposal of Chemicals":

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OIG concludes that for EPA to protect public health effectively from the risks of using and disposing of chemicals, "it will need to be able to conduct credible and timely chemical risk assessments, effectively oversee and safeguard the management of a variety of chemical

wastes through regulated containment and disposal actions, and efficiently respond to and remediate any unexpected chemical releases or spills.” According to OIG, EPA is challenged by a lack of resources and stringent statutory deadlines. OIG notes that unpredictable events, such as chemicals spills resulting from infrastructure degradation or stronger storms and flooding because of climate change, also directly impact EPA’s ability to provide for all necessary cleanup and remediation efforts.

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