



At a Glance

What Are Management Challenges?

According to the Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act of 2010, major management challenges are programs or management functions, within or across agencies, that have greater vulnerability to waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement where a failure to perform well could seriously affect the ability of an agency or the federal government to achieve its mission or goals.

As required by the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, the Office of Inspector General is providing the issues we consider as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) major management challenges for fiscal year 2015.

This report addresses all of the EPA's strategic goals and cross-agency strategies.

Send all inquiries to our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391 or visit www.epa.gov/oig.

The full report on management challenges is at: www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2015/20150528-15-N-0164.pdf

EPA's Fiscal Year 2015 Management Challenges

Attention to agency management challenges could result in stronger results and protection for the public, and increased confidence in management integrity and accountability.

The EPA Needs to Improve Oversight of States Authorized to Accomplish Environmental Goals:

- We have identified the absence of robust oversight by the EPA of the states authorized to implement environmental programs. Oversight of state activities requires that the EPA establish consistent national baselines that states must meet, and the EPA must monitor the states.

Limited Controls Hamper the Safe Reuse of Contaminated Sites:

- As the EPA promotes and encourages the redevelopment and reuse of contaminated properties, it must strengthen its oversight of the long-term safety of sites, particularly when non-EPA parties have key responsibilities.

The EPA Faces Challenges in Managing Chemical Risks:

- EPA needs to enhance program management and overcome statutory limitations on data availability to effectively ensure that the production and use of chemicals does not harm human health or the environment.

The EPA Needs to Improve Its Workload Analysis to Accomplish Its Mission Efficiently and Effectively:

- The EPA's program and regional offices have not conducted a systematic workload analysis or identified workforce needs for budget justification purposes; such analysis is critical to mission accomplishment.

The EPA Needs to Enhance Information Technology Security to Combat Cyber Threats:

- The EPA faces information security challenges involving risk management planning, implementation of security tools, computer security incident response capability, and follow-up on remediation actions taken.

The EPA Continues to Need Improved Management Oversight to Combat Fraud and Abuse and Take Prompt Action Against Employees Found to Be Culpable:

- Recent events and activities indicate a possible "culture of complacency" among some supervisors at the EPA regarding time and attendance controls, employee computer usage, real property management, and taking prompt action against employees.