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OSIG NEWS

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OSIG Plans Audits of Drinking Water Regulations, Meat, Poultry Inspections and Snow Removal in 2019

Sparked by the Flint water crisis and a call for greater oversight of state drinking water programs, a performance audit of Virginia's drinking water regulations tops the list of audits planned by the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) for the coming year. In collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water, the audit will expect to identify any issues related to drinking water quality, monitoring, and regulations enforcement, with a potential impact of improving quality of service and drinking water safety for Virginia residents.

The agency's audit division has also proposed a review of Virginia's Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) program under the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. This audit aims to look at efficiency of operations, safety and quality of meat and meat handling practices, as well as compliance with federal guidelines.

In keeping with OSIG's mission to encourage operations efficiency, another high-priority audit will center on Virginia's snow removal program under the Virginia Department of Transportation, with potential benefits related to oversight, cost savings and road safety.

"After careful consideration of various and diverse areas recommended for review, OSIG has set a course of meaningful activities in its fiscal year 2019 annual work plan," said State Inspector General Michael C. Westfall. "This plan intends to assess state programs and operations that have the greatest impact on citizens, with a focus on the health and safety of Virginia residents."

The annual work plan also includes the following projects:

- Department of Forensic Science, forensic technical services audit;
- Secretary of Natural Resources, law enforcement recruitment audit;
- Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, vocational rehabilitation services audit; and
- Unannounced inspections of Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-operated facilities, with a focus on pharmacy services.

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Established in 2012, the Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) manages the State Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline; conducts investigations and performance audits of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth's internal audit divisions; and conducts inspections and reviews of Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services' facilities and programs. Additional information is available at www.osig.virginia.gov.