



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General

Washington, D.C. 20230

June 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans
and Atmosphere

FROM: Allen Crawley 
Assistant Inspector General for Systems Acquisition
and IT Security

SUBJECT: Audit of NOAA's Geostationary Operational
Environmental Satellite—R Series Program

As part of our FY 2013 work plan, and in conjunction with our *Top Management Challenges Facing the Department of Commerce* report, we plan to audit NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite—R Series (GOES-R) program.

The objective of our audit is to assess the adequacy of GOES-R development activities, as the program completes the ground system and fabrication of flight instruments and the spacecraft, and transitions to system integration and test, per NOAA and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) standards. We will also monitor NOAA's progress in developing and vetting with stakeholders a comprehensive set of trade-off approaches to mitigate launch delays and its oversight of GOES-R systems engineering.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this review, please contact me at (202) 482-1855 or Fred Meny, Director, Satellites and Weather Systems, at (202) 482-1931. We appreciate the cooperation of your staff during this audit.

cc: David Kennedy, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA
Robert M. Lightfoot Jr., Associate Administrator, NASA
Mary E. Kicza, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services,
NOAA
Barbara Fredericks, Assistant General Counsel for Administration
Mack Cato, Director, Office of Audit and Information Management, NOAA