



December 10, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator

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

SUBJECT: Audit of NOAA IT Security Practices

Recently, NOAA was the victim of a serious cyber-attack that caused an interruption of services that provide essential data for weather forecasts and warnings that are vital to every American citizen and to the U.S. economy as a whole. In the past, the Office of Inspector General has issued multiple audit reports to NOAA management highlighting the urgency of taking actions to protect critical NOAA systems from cyber-attacks. Given the importance of these systems, we are initiating an audit of NOAA's IT security practices related to this latest cyber-attack.

Our audit objectives are to (1) determine the significant factors that contributed to the successful cyber-attack on NOAA information systems, and (2) evaluate NOAA's handling of the detection, analysis, eradication, and reporting of the attack, as well as recovery from it.

We plan to begin this work immediately and will contact your audit liaison to establish an entrance conference to discuss this audit. We will conduct our fieldwork at selected NOAA sites. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 482-1855 or Dr. Ping Sun, Director for IT Security, at (202) 482-6121.

cc: Steve Cooper, Chief Information Officer
VADM Michael S. Devany, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA
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