



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

November 12, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communication and Information, National
Telecommunications and Information Administration

Todd J. Zinser

FROM: Todd J. Zinser

SUBJECT: Notification of audit related to FirstNet procurement issues

On October 25, 2013, the chairman of the board of directors of First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) requested OIG to conduct an independent review of certain ethics and procurement issues concerning the operations of FirstNet that the board's Special Review Committee (SRC) had planned to review. The chairman indicated that as a result of his request, the SRC has suspended its activities.

In response to the chairman's request, we are initiating an audit of FirstNet's acquisition activities. We intend to interview contracting and program officials, review justifications supporting contracting decisions, and evaluate the oversight responsibilities required to monitor contractor performance. We also intend to assess whether contracts were appropriately awarded and administered in accordance with relevant acquisition regulations, and whether acquired services were delivered to meet project needs. Additionally, we will examine the review process undertaken by FirstNet of ethics-related matters as they pertain to the board, and any associated ethics determinations.

We appreciate NTIA's cooperation during our audit. For further information, please contact me or Ann Eilers, Principal Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation, at (202) 482-2754.

cc: Samuel L. Ginn, FirstNet Chairman

