



**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