



January 30, 2015

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Dr. Kathryn D. 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:** Review of NOAA Common Satellite Ground System Architecture

Pursuant to the requirement in House Report 113-448, "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2015," we are initiating a review of NOAA's existing satellite ground infrastructure and its plans for implementing a common satellite ground system architecture. A report of our review is required within 180 days after enactment of the FY 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 113-235).

Our objectives are to determine (1) the progress of NOAA's planning efforts and milestones for implementing a common satellite ground system architecture and (2) whether NOAA's plans and efforts provide adequate consideration for system redundancy, security, and scalability.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss our objectives in more detail. Because of the short timeframe permitted for our review, we will contact NOAA staff prior to the entrance conference to obtain further insight into NOAA's efforts to develop a common satellite ground system architecture. If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me at (202) 482-1855 or Fred Meny, Director, Satellites and Weather Systems, at (202) 482-1931. We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this review.

cc: Bruce Andrews, Deputy Secretary  
Ellen Herbst, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration  
VADM Michael S. Devany, Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA  
Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Services, NOAA  
Marvin LeBlanc, Director, Office of System Architecture and Advanced Planning, NOAA  
Steven Petersen, Director, Office of Satellite Ground Services, NOAA  
Suzanne Hilding, Director, Office of Systems Development, NOAA  
Vanessa Griffin, Director, Office of Satellite and Product Operations, NOAA  
Greg Mandt, GOES-R System Program Director, NOAA  
Harry Cikanek, JPSS Program Director, NOAA  
Mack Cato, Director, Office of Audit and Information Management, NOAA