



Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit of Federal
Aviation Administration's Long Range Radar Program

Date: February 14, 2002

From: David A. Dobbs 
Deputy Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation

Reply to
Attn of:

To: Chris Bertram
Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO

The Office of the Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) long range radar program. Long range radars are used to independently track and monitor the movement of en route aircraft. FAA intended to decommission the majority of these radars and use secondary surveillance radars, which rely on an aircraft transponder, to track aircraft identification, position, and altitude information. The September 11 terrorist attacks have made clear that long range radars are essential to locate aircraft without active transponders, including general aviation aircraft. However, many of these radars have exceeded their useful life by 20 years and must be upgraded or replaced.

Our objectives are to determine if FAA has (1) identified all funding requirements to upgrade or replace long range radars, (2) addressed gaps in domestic radar coverage, and (3) coordinated aircraft surveillance requirements with other Government agencies, such as the Department of Defense. Planned locations include FAA Headquarters, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, and other Government facilities and organizations as determined during our review.

We plan to begin audit work during the week of February 18, 2002.