

V. Evaluation

Strategic Objectives, Tactical Action Initiatives, and Benchmarks

OIG will conduct audits and evaluations to help ensure that EPA achieves its Homeland Security objectives and its appropriations supporting homeland security are spent efficiently and effectively. Also, OIG is responsible for assessing cyber threat information that affects EPA's computer infrastructure, and will initiate needed investigative responses.

OBJECTIVE 1 ⇒ EPA will add to knowledge, verification, or action contributing to reduction or elimination of infrastructure and other security risks or challenges.

OIG will organize its assessment of EPA homeland security along topical responsibilities: water and wastewater security, food safety, and air. Many of the concerns that apply to water security will be applicable to the other Agency priorities as well. Therefore, OIG will construct an assessment template that can be applied to water, food, and air. The template will consider: threats, capabilities, and deficiencies, readiness, management, and effectiveness. The mix of questions can include – but is not limited to – the following:

- Threats, Risks, and Vulnerabilities: How are threats and risks identified and validated? How are threat assessments to be conducted? How are assessments disseminated, accessed, and stored?
- Preparedness: Do emergency response plans reflect the findings of the vulnerability assessments? What is the emergency response concept of operations and how are the roles, responsibilities, and activities of the respective stakeholders identified, coordinated, and exercised?
- Capabilities: What capabilities are required by each stakeholder to implement the emergency response plans? What is EPA's role in identifying and addressing challenges that may impede implementation of emergency response plans? How will stakeholders compensate for challenges (in the short term) and resolve them (in the long term)?
- Research and Technology Assessment: How will EPA identify and prioritize objectives in its Homeland Security research plan? How will the Agency's research and development complement work in other agencies and the private sector? How will the Agency select the technologies to initiate its technology verification program?
- Financial Assistance: Are current and planned security grants sufficient to achieve the Agency's security objectives? Are the grants effective in achieving the Agency's objectives? Are grants awarded directly to utilities more or less efficient than those administered through the states?

- Oversight and Effectiveness: Are management and financial controls in place to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse by contractors? Are agreements and understandings in place to ensure coordination of functional activities contracted by operators and government agencies? Are objectives established?

TACTICS

1.1 OIG evaluation work will help determine: How can EPA better execute its Strategy to prevent, prepare, and respond to a terrorist attack to minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment?

RESULTS

By FY2005, the OIG will answer the following questions and provide specific recommendations to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness EPA strategic Homeland Security initiatives.

- 1.1.1** Water Security: How well is EPA carrying out its responsibilities to coordinate the protection of drinking water and wastewater infrastructures?
- 1.1.2** Water Security Grants: Is EPA adequately monitoring grantee performance? Are the grants resulting in improvements in security of large drinking water systems?
- 1.1.3** Air Protection - How well is EPA carrying out its responsibilities to protect ambient and indoor air from chemical and biological threats?
- 1.1.4** Food Supply Safety: How well is EPA carrying out its responsibilities assisting other federal agencies in protecting the nation's food supply?
- 1.1.5** Equipment Purchases for Counter Terrorism Preparedness: Should EPA stockpile normal response equipment and supplies? How did EPA determine needed quantities? Does EPA know that contractors do not have or cannot get needed quantities quickly? Have other ways to address the quantity concerns, such as setting up purchase agreements, been pursued? Will contractors receive government-furnished equipment instead of buying equipment themselves? How will EPA track this equipment?