





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D C 20230

November 8, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology

FROM: Ann C. Eilers  
Principal Assistant Inspector General for
Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Review of NIST's Oversight of ARRA Construction Contracts

As part of our oversight of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds awarded through the Department of Commerce, we have selected for review the ARRA contracts awarded by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for maintenance and renovation projects and for the construction of new facilities and laboratories. This review will be conducted under the authority of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and Departmental Order 10-13, dated May 1980, as amended.

Our audit objectives will be to determine whether NIST's (1) contract award and administrative practices comply with applicable laws and regulations, including specific ARRA requirements; (2) policies and procedures include an evaluation of cost, specifications, and performance results; and (3) acquisition staff communicates problems with the projects to NIST management.

Our fieldwork will be conducted at NIST headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and other locations as needed.

As discussed with your staff, an entrance conference has been scheduled at NIST headquarters for December 3, 2010. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 202-482-2754; Kathleen McKeivitt at (202) 482-0264; or Johnny Dawsey at (404) 730-2056.

cc: Michael Herman, Executive Officer for Administration, NIST
Stephen Kunze, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, NIST
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