



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

January 20, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Simon Szykman
Chief Information Officer

FROM: Allen Crawley
Assistant Inspector General for Systems Acquisition
and IT Security

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Crawley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

SUBJECT: Assessing Effectiveness of IT Security Controls Implemented in
Department Systems

As required by the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), the Office of Inspector General is initiating its fiscal year 2011 audit of the Department's information security program and practices. As further mandated by FISMA, we will review a representative subset of Department systems to assess compliance with FISMA requirements.

Our audit objective is to assess the effectiveness of the Department's information security program and practices by determining whether (1) implemented controls adequately protect the Department's systems and information, and (2) continuous monitoring is keeping authorizing officials sufficiently informed about the operational status and effectiveness of security controls. As required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), we will also complete a FISMA template with various assessments and performance measures. These performance measures and the audit report will be incorporated into the Secretary's submission to OMB.

We plan to begin this work immediately. We will contact your audit liaison to establish an entrance conference in order to discuss this audit. We will conduct our field work at selected Department and contractor sites. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 482-1855.

cc.: Operating Unit Chief Information Officers
Susan Schultz Searcy, Audit Liaison, Office of the Chief Information Officer