Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: <u>INFORMATION</u>: Notification of Audit—Network
Infrastructure Security
Federal Railroad Administration
Project Number 05F3003F000

Date: January 25, 2005

From: Theodore P. Alves
Assistant Inspector General for Financial and
Information Technology

Reply to
Attn of: JA-20

To: Acting Federal Railroad Administrator

The Office of Inspector General will perform an audit of the Federal Railroad
Administration (FRA) network infrastructure, which is critical to both the
Department of Transportation (DOT) and FRA's mission. FRA has direct Internet
connections allowing the public to access the DOT network, and remote network
entry points allowing state inspectors to access FRA systems. This infrastructure,
if not properly configured, could put FRA and the rest of DOT systems at risk.
The audit will be conducted at FRA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and
regional offices at Cambridge, MA and Vancouver, WA.

Our objective is to determine whether FRA network infrastructure is adequately
secured to support both DOT and FRA missions. Specifically, we will determine
if FRA (1) Internet entry points are adequately protected to prevent cyber attacks,
(2) remote network entry points used by FRA employees and state inspectors are
properly secured to prevent unauthorized access, and (3) network computers are
properly configured and monitored to reduce risks of attacks.

We will contact your audit liaison to establish an entrance conference to discuss
the audit. The Project Manager for the audit is Dr. Ping Sun. If you have
questions, please call Rebecca Leng, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for
Information Technology and Computer Security, or Ed Densmore, Program
Director at (202) 366-1496.

cc: Chief Information Officer, DOT
Martin Gertel, M-1
Debra Steward, RAD-20