



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

October 1, 2008

Mr. Brant Mitchell  
Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Interoperability  
Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security  
and Emergency Preparedness  
7667 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

The Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General is initiating an audit of the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant awarded to your office by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The audit is required by Public Law 110-53—Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

The objective of our audit is to determine whether your office's use of these grant funds meets all federal requirements. In particular, we will assess whether (1) you have met the 20 percent match for acquiring and deploying interoperable communications equipment, and (2) claimed reasonable and allowable costs under the award. We will also examine whether your office and its subgrantees have complied with applicable federal laws, regulations, and grant terms and conditions.

As a first step in our audit, we have scheduled a meeting with you for Tuesday, October 28, at which time we will discuss these objectives fully.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the audit, please contact John S. Bunting, our Denver regional inspector general for audits, at (303) 312-7663, or me at (202) 482-5643.

Sincerely,

Judith J. Gordon  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

cc: Milton Brown, NTIA audit liaison  
Kathy Smith, NTIA chief counsel  
Laura M. Pettus, NTIA PSIC program manager  
Richard L. Skinner, DHS inspector general  
Bradley A. Shefka, DHS audit liaison  
Gina Norton, FEMA audit liaison  
Joshua Burleigh, audit manager, DHS Office of Inspector General, Office of Audits  
Scott Kelberg, FEMA division director, Grants Management  
Carolyn P. Dunn, PSIC program manager, Grant Programs Directorate, DHS/FEMA  
Mildred Lloyd, audit liaison, Grant Programs Directorate, DHS/FEMA  
Steve J. Theriot, State of Louisiana legislative auditor