



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

September 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretarial Officers
Heads of Operating Units

FROM: Todd J. Zinser

SUBJECT: Department of Commerce's FY 2011 Top Management Challenges

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is required by statute to report annually on the major management challenges facing the Department of Commerce in the coming year. These challenges are reported in the *Department's Performance and Accountability Report* and the IG's *Semiannual Report to Congress*. OIG has identified eight top management challenges for the Department for FY 2011. The challenges are listed below and will be presented in greater detail in a report to be issued in late November 2010.

- Strengthening Department-Wide Information Security
- Effectively Managing the Development and Acquisition of NOAA's Environmental Satellite Programs
- Managing Acquisition and Contract Operations More Effectively to Obtain Quality Goods and Services at Reasonable Prices and on Schedule
- Enhancing Accountability and Transparency of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Program's Key Technology and Construction Programs
- Improving USPTO's Patent Processing Times, Reducing Its Pendency and Backlogs, and Mitigating Its Financial Vulnerabilities
- Effectively Balancing NOAA's Goals of Protecting the Environment and Promoting the Fishing Industry
- Protecting Against Cost Overruns and Schedule Slippages for the Commerce Headquarters Renovation
- Effectively Planning the 2020 Decennial

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback on our challenges, please contact me at (202) 482-4661, or Ann Eilers, principal assistant inspector general for audit and evaluation, at (202) 482-2754.

