




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General

Washington, D.C. 20230

October 20, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere and
NOAA Administrator

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

SUBJECT: NOAA's Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) Audit

As part of our FY 2011 work plan and in conjunction with our Top Management Challenges facing the Department of Commerce, we plan to audit NOAA's JPSS program.

Our objective is to determine the adequacy of JPSS' development activities (e.g., ground system software development, fixes, and testing) intended to maintain continuity of climate and weather forecast data obtained from polar orbit. We will determine the completeness of technical approaches used in developing and testing the flight and ground project segments. Also, we will assess the impacts of development modifications (such as re-sequencing of environmental test activities) and project risks on JPSS' cost, schedule, and technical performance. Finally, we will determine the adequacy of preparations for post-launch data production.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this review, please contact me at (202) 482-1855 or Fred Meny at (202) 482-1931. We appreciate the cooperation of your staff during this audit.

cc: Mary M. Glackin, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA
Christopher Scolese, Associate Administrator, National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Mary E. Kicza, Assistant Administrator, National Environmental Satellite, Data
and Information Service, NOAA
William F. Broglie, Chief Administrative Officer, NOAA
Mack Cato, Director, Office of Audit and Information Management, NOAA