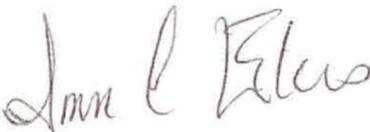




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

FROM: Ann Eilers 
Principal Assistant Inspector General for
Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Review of the Effectiveness of NTIA's Monitoring of Broadband
Technology Opportunities Program Grant Awards

As part of our continued oversight of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA's) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), we plan to review the effectiveness of NTIA's monitoring processes for BTOP and its use of monitoring results to manage and strengthen the program. The specific audit objectives will be to (1) assess the reasonableness of assigned monitoring levels and corresponding monitoring activities scheduled; (2) evaluate the effectiveness of desk reviews and site visits as monitoring tools; and (3) evaluate the effectiveness of the processes in place to adjust the monitoring levels of specific recipients.

Our audit will be conducted at NTIA's headquarters in Washington, D.C., and other locations as needed.

We have contacted the audit liaison to arrange for an entrance conference. Should you have any questions regarding our evaluation, please contact me at 202-482-2754, Kathleen McKeivitt at (202) 482-0264, or Chris Rose at (202) 482-5558.

cc: Milton Brown, NTIA Audit Liaison
Cynthia Schultz, Director of Post-Award Grants Administration and Compliance for
BTOP