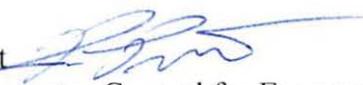




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

February 7, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Robert M. Groves
Director, U.S. Census Bureau

FROM: Ron Prevost 
Assistant Inspector General for Economic and Statistical Program
Assessment

SUBJECT: Review of 2020 Census Planning Efforts

As part of our FY 2011 audit and evaluation plan, we will conduct a review of the Census Bureau's 2020 Census planning efforts. Our objectives are to evaluate the bureau's efforts to improve the 2020 Census design, focusing on how the results of the bureau's 2010 evaluation plans will inform the design, and evaluate and monitor the implementation of a sample of the Census Bureau's management initiatives.

We believe that improvements to the decennial census design—combined with operational and management changes—will contribute to a more efficient use of resources to enumerate the population in 2020, minimizing the need for resource-intensive field operations and containing costs. Without these changes, the next decennial could cost between \$22 billion and \$30 billion (according to recent estimates).

As a first step in our review, we will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 482-3052 or Carol Rice, Division Director for Statistical Programs, at (202) 482-6020. We appreciate the cooperation of your staff during this review.

cc: Thomas L. Mesenbourg, Deputy Director
Ted A. Johnson, Associate Director for Administration and Chief Financial Officer
Marilia A. Matos, Associate Director for Administration for Field Operations
Arnold A. Jackson, Associate Director for Decennial Census
Frank A. Vitrano, Division Chief for Decennial Management
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