



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

December 6, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Allen Crawley".

SUBJECT: Audit of NOAA's Joint Polar Satellite System
Baseline Adequacy

As part of our FY 2012 work plan and in conjunction with our Top Management Challenges facing the Department of Commerce, we plan to audit NOAA's Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) program.

Our objective is to determine the adequacy of JPSS formulation activities, including development of requirements, schedule, and cost baselines. Specifically, we will examine program activities supporting baseline development and compare them with appropriate standards and best practices. We also will monitor the program's efforts to maintain both near-term continuity of polar satellite data from the afternoon orbit—as National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System Preparatory Project (NPP) on-orbit operations transition to NOAA and NPP data are made ready for operational use—and continuity of data after NPP end-of-life, based on schedule developments for JPSS-1.

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
Mack Cato, Director, Office of Audit and Information Management, NOAA