



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

December 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere

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

SUBJECT: Audit of NOAA's Joint Polar Satellite System

As part of our FY 2013 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 review the adequacy of JPSS development activities, including the flight, ground, and free flyer projects, as the program completes system definition and transitions to implementation per NOAA and NASA standards. We also will monitor NOAA's overall progress in establishing the JPSS program's capabilities (requirements), schedule, and cost baselines by the end of summer 2013 and its efforts in mitigating the projected data gap between Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership satellite's end-of-design life and the planned operational availability of the first JPSS satellite (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, Director, Satellites and Weather Systems, at (202) 482-1931. We appreciate the cooperation of your staff during this audit.

cc: Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Observation
and Prediction, NOAA
Dr. David Titley, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA
Robert M. Lightfoot Jr., Associate Administrator, NASA
Mary E. Kicza, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services,
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Geovette E. Washington, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Commerce
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