



February 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Neil A. Jacobs
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur L. Scott, Jr.".

FROM: Arthur L. Scott, Jr.
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Evaluation of NOAA's Oversight of JPSS Contractors in
Preparation for JPSS-3 and JPSS-4 Launch
Project No. 2026-534

We are initiating an evaluation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) program. Our objective is to determine whether selected major contractors for the JPSS are adhering to quality management requirements for identifying, verifying, protecting, and safeguarding system hardware and support equipment.

We plan to begin this work immediately. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss the specific nature of our evaluation with you, including our objective and scope, time frames, and any potential requests for data. If you have any questions about this evaluation, please contact me at 202-792-4192; Acting Executive Director of Engineering, Cybersecurity, and Systems Kevin Ryan at 202-750-5190; or Director for Satellite Programs Ed Kell at 202-753-6125.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

