



August 5, 2015

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
and NOAA Administrator

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

**SUBJECT:** Audit of GOES-R Integration and Test Activities

As part of our fiscal year 2015 work plan, and in accordance with our most recent report on the top management challenges facing the Department of Commerce, we are initiating an audit of NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R Series (GOES-R) integration and test activities.

Our objective is to assess the adequacy of GOES-R development as the program completes system integration and test activities for the flight and ground segments in preparation for launch and data distribution, per NOAA and NASA standards. We will also monitor the program's progress in developing and reporting on flight and ground segment contracting actions and changes to minimize cost increases.

An entrance conference has been scheduled for August 18, 2015, at which time we will discuss our objectives in more detail. As agreed by your staff, we will request information to be provided by the GOES-R program prior to the entrance conference to obtain further insight into the ongoing integration and test activities. If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me at (202) 482-1855 or Fred Meny, Director, Satellites and Weather Systems, at (202) 482-1931. We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this review.

cc: Bruce Andrews, Deputy Secretary  
Ellen Herbst, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration  
VADM Michael S. Devany, Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA  
Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Services, NOAA  
Greg Mandt, GOES-R System Program Director, NOAA  
Mack Cato, Director, Office of Audit and Information Management, NOAA