



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) prepared this supplemental report to document the details, and make recommendations, for weaknesses the OIG identified during its review of the Agency's information security program and practices. That review was conducted as required by the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), which requires inspectors general to prepare an annual evaluation of their agencies' information security programs and practices. The Department of Homeland Security issued reporting guidelines documenting 11 FISMA reporting metrics to be evaluated as part of the fiscal year 2012 FISMA audit.

This report addresses the following EPA Goal or Cross-Cutting Strategy:

- *Strengthen EPA's Workforce and Capabilities.*

For further information, contact our Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at (202) 566-2391.

The full report is at:
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2013/20130513-13-P-0257.pdf

Briefing Report: Improvements Needed in EPA's Information Security Program

What We Found

We found weaknesses in the following Agency programs regarding its information security program and practices:

- Continuous monitoring management
- Configuration management
- Risk management
- Plan of action and milestones
- Contractor systems

This supplemental report to our previously issued report, *Fiscal Year 2012 Federal Information Security Management Act Report: Status of EPA's Computer Security Program* (Report No. 13-P-0032), issued October 26, 2012, provides additional detailed information for the above weaknesses.

Recommendations and Planned Agency Corrective Actions

We recommend that the Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information implement the continuous monitoring activities as specified in the Agency's Continuous Monitoring Strategic Plan, document the remediation of configuration-related vulnerabilities, and implement a strategic plan for EPA's risk management framework.

The Agency concurred with the report's recommendations and provided high-level planned corrective actions with completion dates. The Agency needs to provide a completion date for one planned corrective action and additional information on how the EPA will verify that offices remediate identified weaknesses.

Noteworthy Achievements

The Office of Environmental Information has developed a strategic plan for continuous monitoring, approved the risk management framework, and created a Risk Executive Group tasked with developing an Agency-wide risk management strategy.