



# At a Glance

*Catalyst for Improving the Environment*

## Why We Did This Review

We initiated this audit to determine whether the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) implemented audit recommendations from three Offices of Inspector General (OIGs) and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), and whether the corrective actions taken were effective.

## Background

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, GAO began to report problems with CSB's policies, management, procedures, and overall governance. From FYs 2002 through 2007, three OIGs provided oversight and made recommendations to address governance issues. In FY 2008, in response to a mandate in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the consolidated Appropriations Act, GAO examined how CSB responded to GAO and OIG recommendations.

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

The full report is at:  
[www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2011/20110215-11-P-0115.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2011/20110215-11-P-0115.pdf)

## ***Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Did Not Take Effective Corrective Actions on Prior Audit Recommendations***

### What We Found

CSB did not take timely corrective actions to address a total of 34 audit recommendations from three OIGs and from GAO. In four instances, it took CSB 4 years beyond the agreed-upon corrective actions date (or report date) to implement corrective actions. CSB's actions to address 13 recommendations were not completely effective and require additional corrective actions, and 7 recommendations are not yet completed. CSB has not established and implemented a management control program to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of controls related to its program operations.

CSB's control environment and control activities do not ensure accountability. Specifically, CSB's office directors are not accountable for achieving individual and program initiatives leading to chemical accident prevention. Effective control activities, including Board Orders, have not been developed and implemented. In addition, without a clearly defined statutory mandate, CSB will face difficulties in developing outcome-related goals for measuring its impact on chemical accident prevention. Without effective controls, CSB is not timely in carrying out initiatives to achieve the board's goal of chemical accident prevention.

On September 16, 2010, CSB announced an internal reorganization, appointing a managing director who will oversee all aspects of CSB operations. A managing director who ensures accountability should provide for more timely and effective resolution of audit recommendations.

### What We Recommend

We recommend that the Chairman, Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, create a management control plan, take actions to fully address all outstanding audit recommendations, and further improve upon actions taken on previous recommendations. CSB concurred with all of our new recommendations and developed timelines and completion dates for the corrective actions. CSB's comments are summarized in each chapter and the entire response is included as appendix C.