



MEMORANDUM

FROM: Michael Kenyon, Senior Information Official,
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Michael Kenyon

TO: Arthur A. Elkins, Jr., EPA Inspector General

Renee Wynn
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator and Senior Information Official
EPA Office of Environmental Information

SUBJECT: *Final OIG Report No. 12-P-0518 Results of Technical Network
Vulnerability Assessment OMS-FY12-0001*

This is EPA Region 1's response to the final report on the above subject audit conducted by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The site assessment was conducted in conjunction with the OIG's annual audit of EPA's information security program as required by the Federal Information Security Management Act.

The final report disclosed that network resources at the Region 1 office contained potentially 18 **high-risk** and 166 **medium-risk** vulnerabilities. Upon analysis of the testing results, the OIG found that both regional and headquarters offices are responsible for managing the resources located in Region 1 that contain these weaknesses.

Of the 18 **high-risk** and 166 **medium-risk** vulnerabilities identified, Region 1 can only effect a change to the 14 **high risk** and 151 **medium-risk** vulnerabilities for which it has control. The remaining 4 **high-risk** and 15 **medium-risk** vulnerabilities fall under direct control of headquarters.

In response to the 14 **high-risk** vulnerabilities identified during the review, EPA Region 1 remediated all 14 **high-risk** vulnerabilities before the issuance of this report. As noted in the final report, the OIG found no weaknesses pertaining to the security of the wireless encryption protocols being used on the region's wireless local area network.

EPA Region 1's Response to the OIG's Recommendations

The OIG recommended that the Senior Information Officials within Region 1 and the Office of Environmental Information respond to the following recommendations:

OIG Recommendation: Provide the OIG a status update for all identified high-risk and medium-risk vulnerability findings.

EPA Region 1 Response: EPA Region 1 has fixed, within 30 days, all high vulnerabilities detected as a result of the IG TVA Project No. OMS-FY12-0001

conducted on 2/27/2012 in the Boston Region 1 office. Most of the medium vulnerabilities have been corrected and a Plan of Action and Milestone has been entered in Automated Security Self-Evaluation and Remediation Tracking (ASSERT) system to address the remaining medium vulnerabilities that require assistance from the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) or the respective vendor for remediation.

OIG Recommendation: Create plans of action and milestones in the Agency's Automated Security Self-Evaluation and Remediation Tracking system for all vulnerabilities according to Agency procedures.

EPA Region 1 Response: A Plan of Action and Milestone has been entered in ASSERT to address the medium vulnerabilities that require assistance from the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) or the respective vendor for remediation.

ASSERT POAM Created:

Task ID: 119571

Task Code / Type: CAP-A - Corrective Action Plan - Audit

Task Title: Corrective Action Plan - Audit (Project No. OMS-FY12-0001)

TVA Medium Vuln.

OIG Recommendation: Perform a technical vulnerability assessment test of assigned network resources within 60 days to confirm completion of remediation activities.

EPA Region 1 Response: EPA Region 1 utilized the Tenable Nessus scanner to confirm the mitigation of the vulnerabilities detected by the IG. Nessus is updated daily with new signatures to detect new vulnerabilities. These new vulnerabilities are addressed by Region 1 as part of our continuous monitoring process.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please do not hesitate to contact Valerie Marshall of my staff at 617-918-1674.

cc: Rudolph M. Brevard, Director, Information Resources Management Assessments
Scott Sammons, OIG
Sean McDermott, EPA R1