



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 10 2013

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: OEI's Response to the OIG's Final Report: EPA's Office of Environmental Information Should Improve Ariel Rios and Potomac Yard Computer Room Security Controls Report No. 12-P-0879

FROM: Vaughn Noga 
Director, Office of Technology Operations and Planning
and Agency Chief Technology Officer

TO: Arthur A. Elkins, Jr
Inspector General

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Office of Environmental Information (OEI)/Office of Technology Operations and Planning's (OTOP) updated response to the subject final report and provide additional clarification regarding OEI/OTOP's management practices and security controls for our computer rooms.

The OEI/OTOP agrees with the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Recommendations 1 and 2. The OEI/OTOP does not agree with the OIG's Recommendations 3, 4 and 5 as outlined below.

Recommendation 3: Move the server racks so that they are not directly under sprinkler heads or water pipes, or, if that is not possible, install leak shields on or above the server racks directly under sprinkler heads or water pipes.

Response: As part of the Federal Government's data consolidation initiative, the Ariel Rios computer room will be closed; therefore no further action for this room is necessary. With respect to the Potomac Yard facility, the OTOP will contact the Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM) and discuss the feasibility of taking the recommended action. OARM is responsible for the installation of sprinklers.

Recommendation 4: Install a master shutoff valve for the water pipes that flow through the computer room.

Response: The OTOP will contact the OARM and discuss the feasibility of taking the recommended action. While OTOP is responsible for managing the IT assets, OARM is responsible for alterations to the facility, water pipes and shut off valves.

Recommendation 5: Develop and implement policies and procedures that address limiting water damages to IT assets in the computer room that include (1) 24 hours/day, 7 days/week monitoring; and (2) timely actions to be taken in the event of a water leak in the computer room.

Response: Monitoring of environmental variable information such as water, fire, temperature, humidity, power, and smoke is part of the current standard procedures. The information is monitored 24/7 and issues are reported to an identified group by text message and email. OARM is also notified when normal computer room environmental conditions are affected. No further action is required.

Attached is the full corrective action plan. If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact me at 202-566-0300.

Attachment

cc: Maja Lee
Anne Mangiafico

**Office of Environmental Information
Corrective Action Plan
As of 1/10/13**

Auditing Group: OIG Audit No.: 12-P-0879 Report Date: September 26, 2012 OEI Lead Office: OTOP/EDSD	Audit Title: Final Report – EPA’s Office of Environmental Information Should Improve Ariel Rios and Potomac Yard Computer Rooms Security Controls OEI Lead and Phone: James Freeman 703-305-8186
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Recommendation	OIG Revised Recommendations	Corrective Action	Planned Completion Date	Status / Actions Taken	Concur Yes/No
1. Develop and implement computer room policies and procedures that ensure that computer room access is only granted to employees with authorization and that visitor access is approved, documented, and reviewed.		Completed Policies and procedures are currently in place to ensure that computer room access is only granted to employees with authorization and that visitor access is approved, documented and reviewed.		Memorandum title: Request for Access to Secure Areas (Data Center/LAN closet) creation date June 8,2011	Yes
2. Acquire and implement an uninterruptible power supply that will automatically perform an orderly shutdown of IT assets without manual intervention in the event of a long-term loss of power		Concur As part of the Federal Government’s data consolidation initiative, the Ariel Rios computer room will be closed and the servers migrated to Potomac Yard. Efforts are underway with GSA to install a backup generator at the Potomac Yard facility. The generator will	3/30/2013	Update: This effort is being lead by GSA on behalf of EPA and the planned completion date is 3/30/13. POAM’s will be created in ASSERT to track the installation of the new power source for Potomac Yard and the Federal Government data center consolidation initiative that will affect	Yes

Recommendation	OIG Revised Recommendations	Corrective Action	Planned Completion Date	Status / Actions Taken	Concur Yes/No
		provide 24/7 backup power to the computer room and in the event of a prolonged power outage, sufficient notification would enable an orderly shutdown of IT assets.		computer rooms at EPA headquarters.	
3 Move the server racks so that they are not directly under sprinkler heads or water pipes, or, if that is not possible, install leak shields on or above the server racks directly under sprinkler heads or water pipes.		Non-Concur As part of the Federal Government's data consolidation initiative, the Ariel Rios computer room will be closed and the servers migrated to Potomac Yard. With respect to the Potomac Yard facility, the OTOP will contact the Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM) and discuss the feasibility of taking the recommended action. OARM is responsible for the installation of sprinklers.			No
4. Install a master shutoff valve for the water pipes that flow through the computer room.		Non-Concur The OTOP will contact the OARM and discuss the feasibility of taking the recommended action. While OTOP is responsible			No

Recommendation	OIG Revised Recommendations	Corrective Action	Planned Completion Date	Status / Actions Taken	Concur Yes/No
		for managing the IT assets, OARM is responsible for alterations to the facility, water pipes and shut off valves.			
5. Develop and implement policies and procedures that address limiting water damages to IT assets in the computer room that include a) 24 hours/day, 7 days/week monitoring; and (2) timely actions to be taken in the event of a water leak in the computer room.		Non-Concur Monitoring of environmental variable information such as water, fire, temperature, humidity, power, and smoke is part of the current standard procedures. The information is monitored 24/7 and issues are reported to an identified group by text message and email.		Update: No additional policies or procedures are needed to monitor environmental variable information. EPA monitors environmental variable information through HP OpenView with e-mail and text message notifications to personnel in order to address any reported issues. OARM is also notified when normal computer room environmental conditions are affected.	No