



OCT 25 2012

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Office of Inspector General "General Results of Technical Network Vulnerability Assessment: EPA's National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory; Recommendations and Agency Corrective Actions for Improving Local Area Network Controls – Report No. 12-P-0900 Dated September 27, 2012

FROM: Elizabeth A. Shaw
Deputy Assistant Administrator

TO: Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General

This document outlines solutions in support of the recommendations made in the OIG report, dated September 27, 2012 that identified NVFEL network resources containing commonly known high-risk and medium-risk vulnerabilities which required remediation.

OIG Recommendation # 1: *Provide the OIG a status update for every critical-risk, high-risk and medium-risk vulnerability identified by the technical scanning tool within 30 days of this report.*

OAR Response: In concurrence with the above recommendation, NVFEL provided the OIG with status updates for OAR responsible high-risk and medium-risk vulnerabilities identified by the technical scanning tool. NVFEL sent the OIG a status report on August 17, 2012 reporting that all OAR responsible high-risk findings were successfully remediated. NVFEL also sent the OIG a status report on September 18, 2012 providing remediation responses for all OAR responsible medium-risk findings. These status reports included details describing the completed remediation corrective actions to address these vulnerabilities. The remediation details were added to the spreadsheet provided to NVFEL by the OIG during the assessment for each specific finding noted on individual I/P addresses.

Completion Date:
September 18, 2012

OIG Recommendation # 2: *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 within 30 days of the report.*

OAR Response: NVFEL acknowledges and appreciates the need to issue Plans of Actions and Milestones (POAMs). NVFEL agrees to create POAMs for all vulnerability findings noted during the OIG assessment, according to Agency procedures, within 30 days of the OIG report dated September 27th.

Completion Date:
October 27, 2012

OIG Recommendation # 3: *Perform a technical vulnerability assessment test of assigned networked resources within 60 days to confirm completion of remediation activities.*

OAR Response: NVFEL agrees to perform a subsequent vulnerability scan utilizing the same Nessus Policy utilized by the OIG during their assessment. The scan will be conducted within the 60 day time frame to confirm the completion of NVFEL's remediation activities associated with the original vulnerabilities noted during the OIG audit. These technical vulnerability scans ensure the compliance of confidentiality, integrity and availability for the information and information systems maintained on the EPA's network.

Completion Date:
October 28, 2012

NVFEL appreciated the opportunity to work with the OIG to ensure there are no vulnerabilities that could expose EPA's assets to unauthorized access and potentially harm the Agency's network.

cc: Larry Dollison
Fidel Galano
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Maureen Hingeley
Scott Sammons
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