At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted this audit to assess the security posture and in-place environmental controls of the computer rooms in the EPA Ariel Rios and Potomac Yard buildings in Washington, DC, and Arlington, Virginia, respectively. This audit was conducted in support of the audit of EPA's directory service system authentication and authorization servers.

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

- *Strengthening 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/2012/
20120926-12-P-0879.pdf**

EPA's Office of Environmental Information Should Improve Ariel Rios and Potomac Yard Computer Room Security Controls

What We Found

The security posture and in-place environmental control review of the computer rooms in the Ariel Rios and Potomac Yard buildings revealed numerous security and environmental control deficiencies. These control deficiencies greatly reduce the ability of the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) to safeguard critical information technology assets and associated data from the risk of damage and/or loss.

Recommendations/Planned Agency Corrective Actions

We recommended in our draft report that OEI remediate physical and environmental control deficiencies. Following the issuance of the draft report, OEI provided a corrective action plan with milestone dates to address agreed-upon recommendations. In its response, OEI agreed with recommendations 1 and 2, and stated that it had completed corrective actions for recommendation 1. OEI did not agree with recommendations 3 and 4 because it asserts that the Office of Administration and Resources Management bears responsibility for remediation for these recommendations. For recommendation 5, OEI did not agree because it stated that it is already monitoring environmental variable information which would alert it to the presence of a computer room water leakage. During the audit, the OIG requested policies and procedures that address limiting water damage to IT assets. OEI did not provide any documentation in response to this request and the OIG concluded that such policies did not exist.

We consider recommendation 1 closed with agreed-upon corrective actions complete. Recommendation 2 is open with agreed-upon corrective actions pending. The OIG believes that OEI bears the responsibility for addressing recommendations 3, 4, and 5 because it is responsible for managing IT assets in the Ariel Rios and Potomac Yard computer rooms. We consider recommendations 3, 4, and 5 unresolved with resolution efforts in progress.