At a Glance

Fiscal Year 2015 Federal Information Security Modernization Act Report: Status of EPA's Information Security Program

What We Found

The EPA fully met 60 percent (six of 10) of the information security areas evaluated using criteria specified by the FY 2015 Department of Homeland Security FISMA reporting metrics:

The lack of a fully developed contractor systems program hinders the EPA in protecting its resources and data.

- Continuous Monitoring.
- Configuration Management.
- Incident Response and Reporting.
- Security Training.
- Remote Access Management.
- Contingency Planning.

One metric—**Contractor Systems**—requires significant management attention to correct deficiencies noted in this area. Although the EPA has guidance in place for oversight of contractor systems, significant improvements are needed to (1) ensure contractors comply with required security controls, (2) maintain an accurate inventory of contractor systems, and (3) identify contractor systems that interface with the EPA systems.

For the three remaining metrics, management attention is needed to improve processes that potentially could place these areas at risk.

- **Identity and Access Management:** Improvements are needed in granting access to systems based on need and segregation of duties.
- **Risk Management:** Improvements are needed in tracking the performance of cloud service providers.
- **Plan of Action & Milestones:** Improvements are needed in ensuring that Plans of Actions & Milestones identify the resources and costs necessary to remediate vulnerabilities.

Appendix A contains the results of our analysis in accordance with the FISMA reporting instructions and EPA agreed with our results. We briefed EPA officials on the conclusion and, where appropriate, we updated our analysis and incorporated management's feedback. We made no recommendations for corrective actions related to the Contractor System significant deficiencies because these findings and the corresponding recommendations were disclosed in a prior Office of Inspector General report. The EPA indicated it completed two of the five prior report recommendations and the remaining three recommendations are open with corrective actions pending.