



# At a Glance

## What Are Management Challenges?

According to the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRA stands for *Government Performance and Results Act*), major management challenges are programs or management functions within or across agencies that have greater vulnerability to waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement, and where a failure to perform well could seriously affect the ability of an agency or the federal government to achieve its mission or goals.

As required by the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) identifies the issues we consider to be the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's (CSB's) major management challenges each fiscal year. In fiscal year (FY) 2018, we identified two CSB management challenges (Report No. [18-N-0208](#), issued June 4, 2018). One has been closed, while the other remains a challenge for FY 2019.

### This report addresses the following CSB goal:

- *Create and maintain an engaged, high-performing workforce.*

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List of [OIG reports](#).

## Fiscal Year 2019 U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Management Challenges

Based on our continuous work, we have identified two management challenges for the CSB for FY 2019. One is new, while the other is a continuing challenge previously identified in FY 2018.

**The CSB faces two challenges in FY 2019 that, if not addressed, may impede its ability to efficiently and effectively achieve its mission or meet its goals.**

### **Management Challenge (New): Without New Members by August 2020, the CSB Governing Body Cannot Complete Its Mission or Meet Its Goals**

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 authorized the creation of the CSB and established a board of five members responsible for major budgeting decisions, strategic planning and direction, general agency oversight, and approval of investigation reports and studies. Each board member is appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for a term of 5 years. However, as of May 2019, the governing body consisted of only three members, with their terms expiring in December 2019, February 2020 and August 2020, respectively. It took an average of 10.5 months to confirm the current members after they were nominated. Following this timeline, there is a risk that if no new members are nominated and confirmed in the next several months in anticipation of expiring terms, the governing body will not have enough members to maintain full functionality by February 2020 and may even have no members by August 2020.

### **Management Challenge (Continuing): The CSB Has Not Developed Guidance on Board Member Responsibilities**

This challenge was formerly called *The Position of CSB Chairperson Lacks Authority to Hold Board Members Accountable*. In FY 2018, we reported that there were multiple instances when a board member acted inconsistently with established practices or inappropriately provided information to outside entities. In December 2018, the board reported to us that there have been no new incidents. Several people we interviewed—including board members, the acting General Counsel and the Senior Advisor—attributed this development to better communication among staff and board members.

### **Prior Management Challenge Removed**

We no longer consider a management challenge identified in FY 2018—*Budget Uncertainties and the President's Proposals to Eliminate the CSB Negatively Impact Efforts to Attract, Hire and Retain Staff*—to be a management challenge. Congressional committees expressed bipartisan support for the agency in 2018, and the CSB reported that it is now able to attract, hire and retain staff.