



# At a Glance

## What Are Management Challenges?

According to the GPRM Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRM 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.

Per the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, each fiscal year the Office of Inspector General is to identify major management challenges for the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. In FY 2020, we examined whether the two management challenges we identified in FY 2019—as detailed in Report No. [19-N-0156](#), issued May 20, 2019—were addressed. We also sought to identify any new challenges.

### This report addresses the three CSB goals:

- Prevent recurrence of significant chemical incidents.
- Advocate safety and achieve change.
- Create and maintain an engaged, high-performing workforce.

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[List of OIG reports.](#)

## ***Fiscal Year 2020 U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Management Challenges***

Based on our continuous audit, evaluation, and investigative work, we have determined that the two management challenges we identified in FY 2019 have not been addressed. We also identified a new challenge for FY 2020 related to the coronavirus pandemic—that is, the SARS-CoV-2 virus and resultant COVID-19 disease. This new challenge affects all government agencies.

**Unaddressed management challenges will impede the ability of the CSB to function effectively.**

### ***Management Challenge (Continuing): Accomplishment of CSB Mission Is Impaired Until New Board Members Are Selected***

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 authorized the creation of the CSB and established a board of five members, including a chairperson, that is responsible for major budgeting decisions, strategic planning and direction, general Agency oversight, and approval of investigation reports and studies. In March 2020, the U.S. Senate confirmed a new CSB chairperson. Due to term expirations and resignations of the other board members, the chairperson was, as of June 2020, the only remaining board member.

Having only one member impairs the function of the CSB, as all functions rest with that one member. CSB Order 028, *Executive and Administrative Functions of the Board*, delineates executive and administrative functions of the board, including specific authorities of the chairperson and duties of the board as a whole. The Order does not explicitly address a situation when the only member of the board is the chairperson. Regardless, workload limitations arising from one board member attempting to perform the work of five affect the accomplishment of the board's technical responsibilities, including accident reconstruction, safety engineering, human factor identification, toxicology reviews, and air pollution regulation assessments.

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

In FY 2018, we reported multiple instances when a board member acted inconsistently with established practices or inappropriately provided information to outside entities. The CSB previously agreed to develop new policy, but per the Agency's general counsel, the board decided that a Senate-confirmed chairperson should approve any changes to policy affecting the board.

### ***Management Challenge (New): CSB Must Continue Operations During the Coronavirus Pandemic***

The CSB must rely on its internal controls to continue operations to the extent practicable and to safely return employees to work at CSB facilities.