



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

September 7, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Response to "Results of Technical Network Vulnerability Assessment"  
OIG Report No. 12-P-0659, dated August 10, 2012

**FROM:** Ronnie Crossland *Ronnie D. Crossland*  
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Management  
and Senior Information Officer (SIO)

**TO:** Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.  
Inspector General

This memorandum contains the EPA Region 6 response to "Technical Network Vulnerability Assessment", OIG Report No. 12-P-0659, dated August 10, 2012. I am pleased to report the following:

Recommendation 1 – The Technical Scan Status Report has been completed and is being transmitted to you under separate cover.

Recommendation 2 – Plans of action and milestones (POAM) have been entered in the Agency's Automated Security Self-Evaluation and Remediation Tracking (ASSERT) system to address vulnerabilities requiring more than 30 days to remediate, and a listing has been included in this document as an attachment - POAMs.

Recommendation 3 – The Technical Vulnerability Assessment Test is scheduled for completion by October 10, 2012. We have a work order in place and a team assembled for the task.

Recommendation 4 – Written procedures for granting authorized access to Region 6 server rooms for all Region 6 facilities have been completed and included in this document as an attachment – "Region 6 Server Room – Request for Access." This will be incorporated into the Region 6 Information System Security Plan (ISSP).

Recommendation 5 - The Work Order to secure and/or sanitize all used drives kept in the Houston server room has been completed.

Recommendation 6 - A work group has been formed and a time schedule established to develop a process for the continuous monitoring of environmental conditions in the Dallas and Houston server rooms by personnel or real-time monitoring with existing IT equipment with environmental monitoring capabilities.

Attached is Status of Recommendations, a summary with details for each of the recommendations and action items.

If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Region 6's Enterprise Technology Section Chief, Tom Nelson at (214) 665-6695 or Primary Information Security Officer, Barry Everett at (214) 665-6509.

Attachments (3)

cc: Rudy Brevard, Product Line Director,  
Information Resources Management Assessments  
Patricia Hill, Assistant Inspector General for Mission Systems  
David Garcia, Acting Assistant Regional Administrator for Management  
Verne McFarland, Chief, Enterprise Operations Branch (6MD-O)  
Thomas Nelson, Chief, Enterprise Technology Section (6MD-OE) &  
Information Management Officer (IMO)  
Lisa Bokun, Chief, Facilities Operations Support Section (6MD-OO)  
Barry C. Everett, Information Security Officer (ISO)  
Sam Alaw, R6 LAN System Manager (LAN)  
Susan Jenkins, R6-OIG Audit Liaison

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## Status of Recommendations

<b>Rec</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>1</b>	Provide the OIG a status update for all identified critical-risk, high-risk, and medium-risk vulnerability findings from the technical scanning tool within 30 days of this report.		<b>Done</b>	<b>R6 ISO</b>	<b>9/10/2012</b>	<b>09/06/12</b>
<b>2</b>	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 this report.		<b>Done</b>	<b>R6 ISO</b>	<b>9/10/2012</b>	<b>9/5/2012</b>
<b>3</b>	Perform a technical vulnerability assessment test of assigned network resources within 60 days to confirm completion of remediation activities.		<b>Planned</b>	<b>R6 LAN</b>	<b>10/10/2012</b>	
<b>4</b>	Establish written procedures for granting authorized access to Region 6 server rooms in Dallas and Houston.		<b>Done</b>	<b>R6 LAN</b>	<b>9/30/2012</b>	<b>8/16/2012</b>
<b>5</b>	Sanitize and secure all used drives kept in the Houston server room in addition to logging their receipt, rotation, and/or disposal.		<b>Done</b>	<b>R6 LAN</b>	<b>9/10/2012</b>	<b>8/22/2012</b>
<b>6</b>	Establish a process for continuous monitoring of Dallas and Houston server rooms' Environmental conditions by personnel or real-time monitoring by existing IT equipment with environmental monitoring capabilities.		<b>Planned</b>	<b>R6 LAN R6 Facilities</b>	<b>10/10/12</b>	