



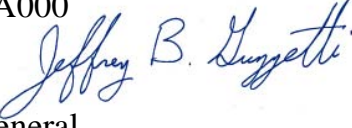
# Memorandum

U.S. Department of  
Transportation

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation  
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement -  
Review of FAA's Air Traffic Facility Realignment  
and Consolidation Efforts  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Project No. 11A3006A000

Date: January 31, 2011

From: Jeffrey B. Guzzetti   
Assistant Inspector General  
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to JA-10  
Attn. of:

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

Many of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) air traffic control facilities were built over 40 years ago and are approaching the end of their useful life. This aging infrastructure, along with FAA's efforts to develop the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), has prompted the Agency to consider facility realignment and consolidation. On September 1, 2010, FAA established a Special Program Management Office to plan and manage large-scale realignments and consolidations. This office developed an initial spending plan of \$1.5 billion through fiscal year 2017 for such efforts as airspace re-designs, facility planning and development, and construction of new facilities.

In November 2010, the then-Ranking Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Subcommittee on Aviation stated that with FAA embarking on NextGen and given the current budgetary environment, there were significant opportunities for the Agency to realign and consolidate its vast network of aging facilities. They requested that we review FAA's current plans for consolidating air traffic facilities and assess the major cost drivers and technical challenges associated with these efforts.

Accordingly, our audit objectives are to assess (1) FAA's current plans for realigning and consolidating its air traffic facilities; (2) FAA's process for evaluating the feasibility and cost effectiveness of these plans; and (3) the major cost, technical, and workforce challenges involved with realigning and consolidating air traffic facilities. We will begin the audit in February and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Barry DeWeese, Program Director, at (415) 744-0420 or Frank Danielski, Project Manager, at (202) 366-1434.

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cc: FAA Deputy Administrator  
Anthony Williams, AAE-001  
Martin Gertel, M-1