



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Notification of Audit of
FAA's National Airspace Redesign,
Project No. 03A3015A000

Date: August 15, 2003

From: David A. Dobbs
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation Audits

Reply to
Attn of: JA-10:x60500

To: John F. Hennigan
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO

The Office of Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) program to redesign the Nation's airspace. In 1997, FAA initiated a multi-year effort to increase the efficiency of the National Airspace System by re-routing air traffic, reconfiguring the Nation's domestic and oceanic airspace, and using more efficient air traffic management. The Agency's effort to address "system choke points" during 2001 through 2003 was a small but important step toward a much more comprehensive and ambitious effort.

FAA now expects to spend \$250 million on more than 30 separate airspace redesign projects that affect all phases of flight. Airspace redesign is an important step in taking full advantage of new runways, new technologies, and systems currently onboard aircraft. Airspace changes are complex, require simulation and modeling, and often are controversial because of environmental concerns.

Our objective are to determine (1) if FAA has an effective process to control costs, mitigate risks, and coordinate local, regional, and Headquarters efforts; and (2) whether or not opportunities exist for FAA to make airspace redesign efforts more cost-effective.

This audit is planned for FAA Headquarters and other locations as deemed necessary during our review. We plan to begin our review during the week of August 25, 2003. Matt Hampton is the Program Director and Fidel Cornell, Jr., is

the Project Manager. We will be contacting your office to arrange an entrance conference. If you have questions or need additional information concerning this audit, please call Matt Hampton at (202) 366-1987.

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cc: FAA Administrator, AOA-1
FAA Chief of Staff, AOA-2
FAA Audit Liaison, ABU-100
GAO Audit Liaison, M-1