

STATUS OF OIG AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT (Nov. 2020)

Every year, the OIG engages an audit firm to audit the FEC's financial statements. On November 16, 2020, the independent auditor's report on the FEC's Financial Statements for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2019 was issued. Two recommendations from that audit remain open.

Finding 2020-01, Recommendation #1: We recommend the FEC OCIO in conjunction with the direct managers perform and document periodic user access reviews for FEC systems according to the agency's system security plan.

Decision: The FEC OCIO's management has established annual review procedures to examine privileged account access through its Active Directory and established an annual review process that began in 2021. As part of the documentation for the 2021 financial audit, the OCIO provided evidence of emails sent to OCIO managers confirming that they performed this annual review. Therefore, this recommendation should have been closed; however, OIG has indicated that the auditors would like to see a review of system users for specific financial applications. In 2022, OCIO produced reports for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) and Office of Human Resources (OHR) (the relevant financial systems application owners) to use in specifically reviewing their system users and has provided documentation of their user reviews to the auditors. All but one user review has been completed, and we expect to complete that review before the end of the fiscal year. We believe this recommendation should be closed once that final part of documentation is provided to the auditors.

Finding 2020-03, Recommendation #3: We recommend the FEC OCIO utilize lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to determine if any revisions are need to the Continuity of Operations Plan, and schedule periodic testing.

Decision: The FEC awarded a contract in 2020 to address testing, training, and exercises (TT&E) to ensure continual program development through the validation of existing plans, policies, and procedures. A tabletop exercise was conducted in September 2021 and will be done annually going forward. Thus, the agency's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) has been tested, and this recommendation should be closed. To work towards that goal, OCIO plans to meet with the agency's COVID-19 management team before our next annual tabletop exercise to review lessons learned. OCIO notes as well that during the 23 months that the FEC was under a mandatory evacuation order, the agency was able to successfully fulfill all of its mission specific requirements. This success demonstrated our ability to manage a real-world crisis and keep all operations running smoothly.

USE OF TRANSERVE BENEFITS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN SPECIAL REVIEW (Aug. 2020)

The OIG investigated the use of transit subsidies during the 35-day government shutdown in December 2018 to January 2019. Three recommendations from the investigation report remain open.

Recommendation 1: That FEC regularly request, retrieve, and review monthly TRANServe subsidy benefit reports from the [U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)] in efforts to monitor benefit usage and prevent fraud, waste, and/or abuse of government funds.

Decision: FEC management worked with the DOT to resolve technological issues that prohibited retrieving monthly reports in TRANServe. The issue was finally resolved in early 2022 and FEC management is currently drafting a control program to periodically audit transit subsidy data. The control program will be tested and shared with OIG for feedback during the semi-annual review period. FEC management plans to implement the program before the end of FY 2022.

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN (DRP) AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP) AUDIT (Jan. 2013)

On January 30, 2013, an independent auditor issued an inspection report on its inspection of the FEC's Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The FEC has resolved 28 of the findings issued, and two remain open.

Recommendation 11: Procure the necessary hardware/software to fully test the data entry application needed for Disclosure by December 2013.

Decision: The OCIO conducted a review of the Data Entry application and determined there is no need to purchase systems for testing. Subsequently, the FEC awarded a contract in 2020 to address testing, training, and exercises to ensure continual program development through the validation of existing plans, policies, and procedures. The Data Entry application was included in the disaster recovery plan provided to the FEC by those consultants.

The Data Entry application has since been migrated from a physical data center to a cloud environment. The OCIO's IT Modernization team is implementing a disaster recovery plan (DRP) for the FEC's cloud environment which will include the Data Entry application and expects to complete this by the end of FY 2023. The DRP will be submitted to the independent auditors once it is completed.

Recommendation 12: Ensure the disaster recovery Kofax server is updated to mirror the Kofax production server by June 2013.

Decision: The FEC awarded a contract in 2020 to address testing, training, and exercises to ensure continual program development through the validation of existing plans,

policies, and procedures. The Kofax disaster recovery server was included in the disaster recovery plan provided to the FEC by those consultants. Subsequently, this server has been migrated from a physical data center to a cloud environment. The OCIO's IT Modernization team is implementing a disaster recovery plan for the FEC's cloud environment which will include the disaster recovery Kofax server application and expects to complete this by the end of FY 2023. The DRP will be submitted to the independent auditors once it is completed.