*OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL*

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:**   October 8, 2004

**TO:**   Chairman

**FROM:**   Office of Inspector General

**SUBJECT:**   Report on the Cable Operations & Licensing System (COALS) Security Survey

The Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is charged with ensuring the security of the Commission's e-filing web applications and systems. This survey examined the security of the Cable Operations & Licensing System (COALS) web application.

The OIG has not previously reviewed the COALS web application security either in the Web Presence Audit (01-AUD-01-10) or its follow-up (03-AUD-09-12). This review served to assess the Commission's efforts to address audit observations and recommendations contained in this program area.

The objectives of this review are to: (1) review password and login security protocols for the COALS application to insure unwanted entry attempts are denied; and, (2) to determine if the current security measures comply with FCC Computer Security Program Directive 1479.2 and OMB "E-Authentication Guidance for Federal Agencies" Memorandum M-04-04.

Our survey disclosed several positive observations on COALS security. The report also identified one finding. On August 31, 2004, we provided a draft report to the Office of Managing Director (OMD) for review and comments. In its response dated September 29, 2004, OMD indicated concurrence with the finding. OMD outlined the corrective action to be taken and a schedule for implementation of corrective action. We have included a copy of the response in its entirety as Appendix B to this report.

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Cline, Assistant Inspector General for Audits or me at (202) 418-0470.

H. Walker Feaster III

cc:   Chief, Media Bureau
　　　Managing Director
　　　AMD-PERM