

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 5, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

FROM: Majority Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

SUBJECT: Full Committee hearing titled, “GAO’s High Risk Report: 25 Years of Problematic Practices.”

On Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will hold a hearing titled, “GAO’s High Risk Report: 25 Years of Problematic Practices.”

Background

In 1990, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its first “High Risk List.” GAO’s List is an effort “to focus attention on government operations that are high risk due to their greater vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement or that are in need of transformation to address economy, efficiency, or effectiveness challenges.”¹ GAO’s original list included 14 “high risk” programs. On February 11, 2015, the GAO will release the 2015 High Risk List, which is published at the beginning of each Congress. The report examines various high risk programs throughout the government and offers recommendations for agency implementation so that programs may meet the GAO criteria for removal from the High Risk List.

Over the past 25 years, GAO’s List has included 57 areas. To date, 23 areas have been removed and 2 areas have been consolidated into other areas on the List. The 2015 report is composed of 32 programs. Of the 32 programs, two are new additions (Managing Risks and Improving Veterans Affairs Health Care, and Improving the Management of Information Technology Acquisitions and Operations) and six programs remain from the original 1990 High Risk List. Those six programs are:

- Department of Defense, Supply Chain Management
- Department of Defense, Weapon Systems Acquisition
- Department of Energy, Contract Management for the National Nuclear Security Administration and Office of Environmental Management
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Acquisition Management

¹ GAO, draft report, High Risk Series: An Update, (February 2015), pg 1.

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicare Program
- Internal Revenue Service, Enforcement of Tax Laws

Hearing Purpose

The hearing will discuss the 2015 High Risk List with a focus on the six programs that have remained on the List since its inception. The hearing will highlight the problems within these programs that remain unaddressed, as well as solutions that will move these programs off of the High Risk List. Additionally, the hearing will provide Members the opportunity to hear about this year's new additions and other programs that make up the 2015 List.

Witnesses

Panel I:

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Panel II:

The Honorable John Koskinen
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service

The Honorable Alan F. Estevez
Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
U.S. Department of Defense

Mr. John J. MacWilliams
Senior Advisor
U.S. Department of Energy

Shantanu Agrawal, M.D.
Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Program Integrity
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Mr. Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr.
Associate Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Staff Contacts

Please contact Katy Rother or Chris D'Angelo of the Majority staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions about this hearing.