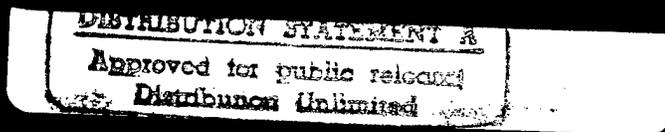


June 1996

MANAGEMENT REFORM

Completion Status of Agency Actions Under the National Performance Review



19970728 074



GAO/GGD-96-94

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4

General Government Division

B255769.4

June 12, 1996

The Honorable Ted Stevens, Chairman
The Honorable John Glenn, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

The Honorable William F. Clinger, Jr., Chairman
The Honorable Cardiss Collins, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight
House of Representatives

The Honorable John R. Kasich, Chairman
Committee on the Budget
House of Representatives

On September 7, 1993, the National Performance Review (NPR)—the administration's major management reform initiative—issued a report containing 384 recommendations intended to make the government “work better and cost less.”¹ NPR subsequently identified a series of 1,203 action items necessary to implement these recommendations. In its September 7, 1995, report,² NPR said that agencies reported to it that nearly one-third, or 380, of the action items had been completed. This report responds to your request that we review the completion status of the 380 action items that NPR said were completed.

Background

On September 7, 1993, under the direction of the Vice President, NPR issued a report containing recommendations that covered 27 federal agencies and 14 government systems, such as procurement, human resource management, and budgeting. Since its 1993 report, NPR has issued 33 accompanying reports that describe in detail the recommendations and the action items necessary to complete them.

We reported our initial comments on the NPR recommendations in December 1993.³ In December 1994, we reported our findings on the

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¹From Red Tape to Results: Creating a Government That Works Better and Costs Less, report of the National Performance Review, Vice President Al Gore, September 7, 1993.

²Common Sense Government: Works Better and Costs Less, third report of the National Performance Review, Vice President Al Gore, September 7, 1995.

³Management Reform: GAO's Comments on the National Performance Review's Recommendations (GAO/OCG-94-1, Dec. 3, 1993).

implementation status of each of NPR's recommendations.⁴ Since then, NPR published its third report, which details agency restructuring recommendations and the administration's regulatory reform efforts.

Results in Brief

Of the 380 action items in NPR records identified as completed, we verified that 294, or 77 percent, were completed. We also determined that 66 action items, or 17 percent, were not completed but that, for all but 1 of them, they were either partially implemented or some action had been taken to begin implementation. For 20 of the action items, or 5 percent, we were unable to make a determination because sufficient information was not available.

Objective, Scope, and Methodology

Our objective was to assess the completion status of the 380 NPR action items that agencies reported to NPR as completed. To accomplish our objective, we first obtained access to NPR's records and identified a total universe of 1,203 action items. These records contained an assessment of the implementation status of each item. We reviewed those items reported by agencies to NPR as completed. In its records, NPR classified an action item as completed under two captions: "completed" or "substantially completed, further action not expected."

To assess NPR's classifications, we contacted the appropriate agency officials to verify that each action item reported by NPR as completed, was indeed completed as of January 16, 1996 (roughly 4 months after NPR's 1995 report was issued). We obtained and reviewed relevant agency documents, such as legislation, executive orders, memorandums, schedules, or policies, that we believed were needed to validate the completion status of the action items.

We compared our findings to the wording contained in the NPR accompanying reports detailing the recommendations and action items. For those action items not included in a published NPR accompanying report, we used the wording describing those action items from NPR records.⁵

⁴Management Reform: Implementation of the National Performance Review's Recommendations (GAO/OCG-95-1, Dec. 5, 1994).

⁵NPR has not released accompanying reports for the Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Transportation, Treasury, and the Executive Office of the President.

In certain cases, we noticed that the original wording describing an action item contained in the accompanying report differed from that contained in NPR's records. For example, the description in NPR's records for action item PROC15.03 was changed from "train procurement officials on source selection techniques" to "develop a course to train procurement officials." To be consistent with our 1994 review and the action items NPR made public in its accompanying reports, we used the wording from those reports. On the basis of our review, we assigned one of the following six status codes to each of the 380 action items:

(1) Fully Implemented. The entire wording of the action item has been fulfilled.

(2) Partially Implemented. Only a portion of the action has been implemented. When the wording of the action item had multiple parts, if one part or a portion of a part had been implemented (but not all parts), we categorized the action item as "partially implemented."

(3) Not Implemented-Action Taken. No part of the action item has been implemented, but some action has been taken toward the completion of the action item. For example, if legislation had been introduced to address the action but had not been enacted into law, we categorized the action item as "not implemented-action taken."

(4) Not Implemented-No Action. No part of the action item has been completed, and no action has been taken to address the action item. For example, if the action item called for changes in legislation but no legislation has even been proposed, we categorized the action item as "not implemented-no action."

(5) Insufficient Information. Insufficient or conflicting information prevented us from determining the status of the action item.

(6) Other. Implementation has occurred or action has been taken that, while not responsive to the letter of the action item, generally was consistent with its purpose. For example, if the action item states that a particular position should be created to coordinate an effort but the coordination is achieved without the creation of the position, we categorized the action item as "other."

We considered those action items we classified as "fully implemented" and "other" to be completed. Action items we classified as "partially

implemented," "not implemented-action taken" and "not implemented-no action taken" were considered not completed. We classified action items as "insufficient information" when sufficient information was not available for us to verify that they were completed. Those action items were from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), whose Director did not provide the necessary information. For those action items we considered not completed, we noted the basis for our conclusions in appendix II.

In making our final determinations on completion status, we provided NPR officials the results of our initial determinations. NPR officials discussed these results with agencies and provided us with additional, clarifying information that we considered and, when we believed appropriate, used in making our final determinations. NPR officials provided written comments on a draft of this report, and their comments appear in appendix III of this report.

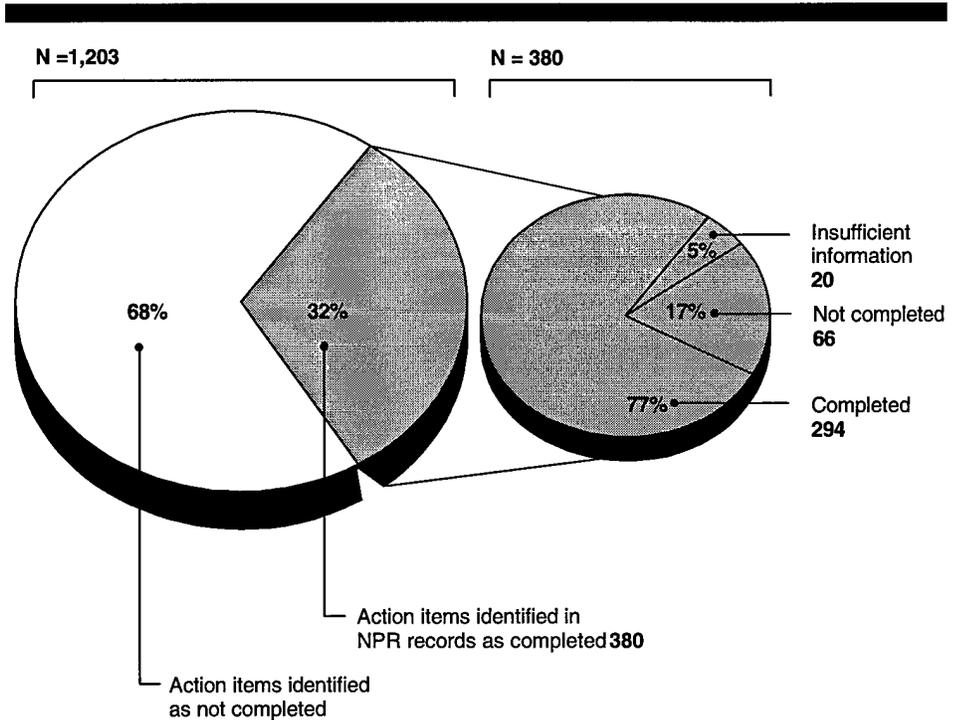
We did not review NPR's estimated savings from implementing its recommendations. The Congressional Budget Office already has analyzed some of the NPR recommendations from that perspective.

We did our work in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards from January through March 1996. The work was done by staff from five of GAO's six divisions in Washington, D.C., and several field locations.

GAO Analysis

Our review of NPR's records indicated that of the 1,203 action items necessary to implement NPR's recommendations to make the federal government work better and cost less, 32 percent, or 380, were classified as completed as of September 7, 1995. In analyzing agency documentation on these 380 action items, we determined that 294, or about 77 percent of the 380 items, were completed as of January 16, 1996. Figure 1 shows the difference between the number of action items identified as completed in NPR's records and the number we determined to be completed.

Figure 1: Difference Between the Number of Action Items Identified as Completed in NPR's Records and GAO's Determination



Note: Percentages do not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: GAO.

We determined that 66 items, or 17 percent, were not completed. Of these, we classified 43 as being partially implemented, 22 as having not been implemented but having action taken, and 1 item for which no action was taken. An example of an action item having not been implemented but having action taken is the Department of Defense (DOD) action item DOD04.03. The action item states that "Executive Order 12615 (Performance of Commercial Activities) should be rescinded and a new Executive Order issued." We found that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rejected DOD's recommended change to the executive order. OMB believed that it would be inappropriate to change the executive order without first changing OMB Circular A-76. OMB is in the process of changing

its circular, but its intentions regarding changing the executive order after that are unclear.

For 20 of the action items, or 5 percent, we were unable to make a determination because sufficient information was not available. These action items were from the CIA.

For the 27 action items we classified as "other," we determined that the action items had been implemented in a manner that was consistent with the purpose of the recommended action item but that the implementation was not completed specifically as called for in the action item. For example, the Department of the Interior (DOI) action item DOI14.03 states that "DOI should establish a legal strike force by the end of 1994 to address barriers to cleanup." Although DOI did not establish a "legal strike force" because of budget constraints, it instead established, in 1994, a coordination group within DOI's Solicitor's office that meets monthly to address barriers to cleanup.

Thus, on the basis of our review of the 1,203 action items NPR identified as needed to implement its recommendations, we found that 24 percent were completed. Table 1 summarizes our findings concerning the completion status of the 380 action items. (The action items are identified by NPR-assigned abbreviations for recommendation areas. See app. I for a listing of the agencies and issues.)

Table 1: Summary of the Completion Status of Action Items

| Agency or Issue | Total action items | Action items listed in NPR records as completed | Action items GAO found to be | | Insufficient information to determine status |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------|--|
| | | | Completed | Not completed | |
| AID | 38 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| BGT | 28 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| DES | 4 | 0 | a | a | a |
| DOC | 46 | 16 | 12 | 4 | 0 |
| DOD | 62 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| DOE | 32 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| DOI | 61 | 24 | 17 | 7 | 0 |
| DOJ | 49 | 21 | 18 | 3 | 0 |
| DOL | 49 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| DOS | 34 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| DOT | 44 | 17 | 16 | 1 | 0 |

(continued)

| Agency or Issue | Total action items | Action items listed in NPR records as completed | Action items GAO found to be | | Insufficient information to determine status |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------|--|
| | | | Completed | Not completed | |
| DVA | 30 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| ED | 47 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| ENV | 12 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| EOP | 32 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| EPA | 44 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| FEMA | 15 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| FM | 54 | 16 | 10 | 6 | 0 |
| FSL | 11 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| GSA | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| HHS | 47 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| HRM | 46 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| HUD | 40 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 0 |
| ICS | 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| INTEL | 33 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| IT | 47 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| NASA | 19 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| NSF | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| OPM | 9 | 0 | a | a | a |
| ORG | 6 | 0 | a | a | a |
| PROC | 63 | 31 | 25 | 6 | 0 |
| QUAL | 13 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| REG | 20 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| SBA | 15 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| SMC | 16 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| SUP | 49 | 22 | 18 | 4 | 0 |
| TRE | 55 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| USDA | 12 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,203 | 380 | 294 | 66 | 20 |

^aWe did not attempt to verify action items under this agency or issue because NPR did not report any as being completed.

Agency Comments

To obtain NPR's comments we provided a draft of this report to the Project Director of NPR. To prepare its response, NPR obtained comments from each of the agencies that we reported as having not completed specific actions. NPR found our report to be valuable overall and said that it would be helpful in assuring Congress and the public that NPR's recommendations are being implemented.

NPR and the agencies agreed with us on 42 of the 70 action items that we had classified as not complete. For the remaining 28 action items, the agencies and NPR disagreed with our classifications. According to NPR, for nearly all of the action items on which we disagreed, the disagreement was not based on the facts but on a difference in interpretation. We reviewed NPR's comments for each of the 28 action items on which we disagreed. Where appropriate, we made additional inquiries of the relevant agencies. We changed our classification on four action items. For three action items involving the Department of Transportation (DOT), we changed our classification after pertinent documentation, which was not previously made available to us, was provided by DOT officials. We changed our classification of one action item involving the Immigration and Naturalization Service in deference to the agency's view of what was meant by the ambiguous wording of the action item.

On the remaining 24 action items, we did not change our classification because we continue to believe that the facts and documentation available to us do not support a conclusion that the action items had been fully implemented. For example, for more than half of the action items, efforts to fulfill the action items were either still in process or no evaluation or other evidence supporting the agency's position was available. Therefore, we could not determine whether the action items had been completed. In five instances, we found that the wording of the action item was substantively changed from that originally published by NPR. In effect, the changes lowered the requirements necessary to complete the action item. For six of the action items, NPR, according to its own records, classified the action items as only "substantially completed, further action not expected."

In addition, NPR suggested that we drop from our baseline the 20 action items for which sufficient information was unavailable. NPR's Project Director said that we should either drop these action items from the baseline or accept the intelligence community's self-assessment that these items were completed. To accomplish our objective of independently assessing the status of agency actions that NPR reported as completed and

to ensure consistency with our earlier review of NPR, we retained as part of our baseline the 20 items classified as having insufficient information.

In response to NPR's comments on each of the 28 action items, we made technical changes to clarify our comments in appendix II. A copy of NPR's comments and our response are in appendix III.

Copies of this report will be sent to other congressional committees, the Vice President, the Director of OMB, the Director of NPR, OMB's Deputy Director for Management, and other interested parties. Copies also will be made available to others upon request.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please call me on (202) 512-8676.



L. Nye Stevens
Director, Federal Management
and Workforce Issues

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Abbreviations

| | |
|------|---|
| BOP | Bureau of Prisons |
| CIA | Central Intelligence Agency |
| DOD | Department of Defense |
| DOE | Department of Energy |
| DOI | Department of the Interior |
| DOT | Department of Transportation |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration |
| FAR | Federal Acquisition Regulation |
| FGDC | Federal Geographic Data Committee |
| GED | General Equivalency Degree |
| HUD | Department of Housing and Urban Development |
| INS | Immigration and Naturalization Service |
| NASA | National Aeronautics and Space Administration |
| NPR | National Performance Review |
| OMB | Office of Management and Budget |
| OMC | Office of Motor Carriers |
| OPM | Office of Personnel Management |
| VA | Department of Veterans Affairs |
| VSO | Veterans Service Organizations |

NPR Recommendation Areas

| Recommendation code | Focus of NPR recommendations |
|----------------------------|---|
| AID | Agency for International Development |
| BGT | Mission-Driven, Results-Oriented Budgeting |
| DES | Rethinking Program Design |
| DOC | Department of Commerce |
| DOD | Department of Defense |
| DOE | Department of Energy |
| DOI | Department of the Interior |
| DOJ | Department of Justice |
| DOL | Department of Labor |
| DOS | Department of State/U.S. Information Agency |
| DOT | Department of Transportation |
| DVA | Department of Veterans Affairs |
| ED | Department of Education |
| ENV | Reinventing Environmental Management |
| EOP | Executive Office of the President |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FM | Improving Financial Management |
| FSL | Strengthening the Partnership in Intergovernmental Service Delivery |
| GSA | General Services Administration |
| HHS | Department of Health and Human Services |
| HRM | Reinventing Human Resource Management |
| HUD | Department of Housing and Urban Development |
| ICS | Improving Customer Services |
| INTEL | Intelligence Community |
| IT | Reengineer Through the Use of Information Technology |
| NASA | National Aeronautics and Space Administration |
| NSF | National Science Foundation/Office of Science and Technology Policy |
| OPM | Office of Personnel Management |
| ORG | Transforming Organizational Structures |
| PROC | Reinventing Federal Procurement |
| QUAL | Creating Quality Leadership and Management |
| REG | Improving Regulatory Systems |
| SBA | Small Business Administration |
| SMC | Streamlining Management Control |
| SUP | Reinventing Support Services |

(continued)

Appendix I
NPR Recommendation Areas

| Recommendation code | Focus of NPR recommendations |
|----------------------------|---|
| TRE | Department of the Treasury/Resolution Trust Corporation |
| USDA | Department of Agriculture |

Status of NPR's Completed Action Items

On the basis of our review, we assigned one of the following six status codes to the 380 action items identified in NPR records as completed:

(1) Fully Implemented. The entire wording of the action item has been fulfilled.

(2) Partially Implemented. Only a portion of the action has been implemented. When the wording of the action item had multiple parts, if one part or a portion of a part had been implemented (but not all parts), we categorized the action item as "partially implemented."

(3) Not Implemented-Action Taken. No part of the action item has been implemented, but some action has been taken toward the completion of the action item. For example, if legislation had been introduced to address the action but had not been enacted into law, we categorized the action item as "not implemented-action taken."

(4) Not Implemented-No Action. No part of the action item has been completed, and no action has been taken to address the action item. For example, if the action item calls for changes in legislation but no legislation has even been proposed, we categorized the action item as "not implemented-no action."

(5) Insufficient Information. Insufficient or conflicting information prevented us from determining the status of the action item.

(6) Other. Implementation has occurred or action has been taken that, while not responsive to the letter of the action item, generally was consistent with its purpose. For example, if the action item states that a particular position should be created to coordinate an effort but the coordination is achieved without the creation of the position, we categorized the action item as "other."

Empty cells in the GAO comments column indicate that we had no comment.

**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

Table II.1: Summary of Completed NPR Action Items

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|--|---|-----------------|---|
| AID01 Redefine and Focus AID's Mission and Priorities | | | |
| AID01.01 | The AID Administrator should conduct a zero-based, bottom-up review of all AID programs and operations, identifying programs and operations that (a) do not directly support a clearly defined mission of sustainable development, and (b) can be undertaken by other assistance providers with a comparative advantage over AID. Nonessential and redundant programs should be eliminated. | 1 | |
| AID01.03 | The AID Administrator should develop a strategic vision of what the agency should look like as it enters the 21st century. | 1 | |
| AID01.04 | The AID Administrator should conduct a comprehensive review of all agency directives and other internal and public issuances to ensure that they clearly express the agency's mission, priorities, and objectives in clear, consistent, and accurate terms. | 1 | |
| AID02 Reduce Funding, Spending, and Reporting Micromanagement | | | |
| AID02.01 | Funding for AID development assistance programs should be appropriated on a 2-year or multiyear basis determined by reference to specific assistance needs. | 1 | |
| AID03 Overhaul the AID Personnel System | | | |
| AID03.02 | AID should reinvigorate the International Development Intern Program. | 1 | |
| AID03.04 | AID should ensure that junior officers develop management and administrative skills as part of their career development. | 1 | |
| AID03.06 | AID should encourage rotational assignments in and out of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). | 6 | The rotational assignments were intended to eliminate friction between AID and OIG. However, a change in personnel has accomplished the goal of reducing friction. AID reports relations between AID and OIG to be at an all-time high. |
| AID03.07 | AID should restructure the performance review and employee incentive programs to link individual performance to organizational performance. | 1 | |
| AID03.09 | AID should integrate qualified spouses of overseas couples into the assignment process and cultivate them as part of the overseas workforce. | 2 | AID has pilot-tested using the talents of nondirect-hire spouses; however, budget limitations preclude any further action. Further implementation will depend on adequate funding. |

(continued)

**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|--|--|------------------------|---|
| AID03.10 | AID should initiate an interagency review of Foreign Service (FS) benefit policies among the various agencies using FS employees. | 1 | |
| AID04 Manage AID Employees and Consultants as a Unified Workforce | | | |
| AID04.02 | AID should put systems in place to accurately monitor employee work years for both direct-hire employees and personal service contractors. | 1 | |
| AID05 Establish an AID Innovation Capital Fund | | | |
| AID05.03 | AID should conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis of any proposed capital expenditure. | 1 | |
| AID05.04 | AID should obtain customer input during business process reengineering. | 1 | |
| AID06 Reengineer Management of AID Projects and Programs | | | |
| AID06.02 | The AID Administrator should designate selected AID missions as pilots to experiment with innovative approaches to programming and delivery of AID assistance. | 1 | |
| AID06.06 | AID should improve donor coordination both at headquarters and in the field. | 1 | |
| AID07 Consolidate or Close AID Overseas Missions | | | |
| AID07.02 | AID should support establishing the requirement that all assistance programs include plans for graduation from U.S. assistance. | 1 | |
| BGT03 Empower Managers to Perform | | | |
| BGT03.04 | Propose revolving funds for those agencies that do not have them. | 6 | Every major department has the authority to create revolving funds, and some such funds have been in existence since the 1940s. This authority preceded the NPR recommendation. |
| BGT03.06 | Simplify the apportionment process. | 3 | Neither the 1994 or 1995 updates of OMB Circular A-34, "Instructions on Budget Execution," contain any new instructions for a simplified apportionment process. As stated in our December 1994 NPR report, absent a change in formal guidance, OMB has for several years offered some agencies an annual apportionment approval process—letter apportioning—which reduces paperwork and gives agencies increased control over the rate at which they obligate funds. There is an indication of some broader use of this process. However, OMB neither monitors centrally how many agencies use this annual apportionment process nor how many budget accounts are affected. |

(continued)

Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|---|------------------------|--|
| BGT05 Provide Line Managers With Greater Flexibility to Achieve Results | | | |
| BGT05.03 | Expedite reprogramming of funds within agencies. | 3 | OMB's guidance on expediting reprogrammings has not changed. This guidance is limited to reviews by OMB and does not govern agencies' internal review and approval process. As stated in OMB Circular A-11, "Preparation and Submission of Budget Estimates," section 12.9(b), in exceptional circumstances, agencies may request oral clearance of reprogramming materials or make other arrangements with their OMB representatives for expedited review. |
| DOC02 Provide Better Coordination to Refocus and Leverage Federal Export Promotion | | | |
| DOC02.01 | The President should issue an executive order to grant the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC) broader authority to control federal export promotion efforts. | 1 | |
| DOC02.02 | TPCC should establish a pilot program to physically integrate the domestic field offices of federal agencies that provide export counseling and financial services. | 1 | |
| DOC02.03 | A recruiting program should be established through TPCC to increase the Foreign Commercial Service Office Corps. | 1 | |
| DOC03 Reform the Federal Export Control System for Commercial Goods | | | |
| DOC03.05 | The Commerce Department's Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) should adapt its operations to the changing nature of export controls. | 2 | BXA has completed a major reorganization of its operations to adapt to the changing nature of export controls and has initiated an ongoing program to train other nations, especially the newly independent states, in the complexities of dual-use export controls. Commerce is finalizing a rewrite of its regulations to provide clear and concise regulations and timely export control information. The regulations are expected to be published in March 1996. |
| DOC05 Create Public/Private Competition for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fleet | | | |
| DOC05.03 | NOAA should obtain an independent review of its modernization program. | 1 | |
| DOC09 Expand the Electronic Availability of Census Data | | | |
| DOC09.02 | The Census Bureau should publish reports electronically on the Internet. | 1 | |
| DOC09.03 | The Census Bureau should publish frequently used statistics on the Internet. | 1 | |

(continued)

**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|---|------------------------|---|
| DOC09.04 | The Census Bureau should provide data from micro-records through a dial-up system. | 1 | |
| DOC09.05 | The Census Bureau should link these systems (particularly Internet databases) to each of the Census Bureau's 12 regional offices. | 1 | |
| DOC10 Amend the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act to Increase the Data Quality of the National Trade Data Bank | | | |
| DOC10.01 | Section 5412 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (P.L. No. 100-09418, 15 U.S.C. sec. 4912) should be amended by removing reference to "fees consistent with" the Freedom of Information Act. | 1 | |
| DOC10.02 | The Department of Commerce should place the National Trade Data Bank (NTDB) on a firm financial foundation to ensure its continued viability. | 2 | Legislative changes have allowed Commerce to establish a revolving fund for financing NTDB with revenue from NTDB sales reinvested into further NTDB operations. Although these actions do appear to make NTDB self-funding, more time will be needed to evaluate their outcome. |
| DOC10.03 | The Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) should contact international organizations (the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund) and develop an action plan for including their data in NTDB. | 3 | Commerce officials told us that they have discussed plans with international agency officials to include their data in NTDB. They added that high licensing fees for the data are the main barrier to this effort and that an action plan has not been developed for including them in NTDB. |
| DOC10.04 | The Secretary of Commerce should direct all Commerce agencies to comply with requests from ESA for data. | 1 | |
| DOC10.05 | ESA, with the authority of the Secretary and the assistance of Commerce's Office of Public Affairs and the International Trade Administration, should take appropriate steps to develop an effective marketing plan that publicizes NTDB as an exporter's resource tool to a large number of potential customers. | 2 | ESA did develop an NTDB marketing plan for fiscal year 1995 and created an NTDB Marketing Manager position within the agency. Although Commerce officials report an increase in demand for NTDB, the effectiveness of the marketing plan will be difficult to determine because it lacks a thorough evaluation component. |
| DOC10.06 | ESA should deliver the content of NTDB using a full range of up-to-date computer techniques. | 1 | |
| DOC14 Build a Business and Economic Information Node for the Information Highway | | | |
| DOC14.03 | Commerce should establish a prototype "on-line" business and economic information system in the White House (National Economic Council) to develop the concept, refine its data and communications standards, and create a state-of-the-art search and retrieval and analytical system. | 1 | |

(continued)

**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|--|---|------------------------|---|
| DOD01 Rewrite Policy Directives to Include Better Guidance and Fewer Procedures | | | |
| DOD01.01 | DOD should clarify policy and decentralize procedures to empower people to do their jobs better. | 1 | |
| DOD01.02 | Components (Office of the Secretary of Defense, military services, and defense agencies) must streamline their procedural guidance. | 1 | |
| DOD03 Purchase Best Value Common Supplies and Services | | | |
| DOD03.03 | DOD should empower any properly delegated individual to buy common supplies and nonprofessional services. | 1 | |
| DOD04 Outsource Noncore DOD Functions | | | |
| DOD04.03 | Executive Order 12615 (Performance of Commercial Activities) should be rescinded and a new executive order issued. | 3 | OMB rejected DOD's recommended change to the executive order. OMB said that it would be inappropriate to change the executive order without first changing OMB Circular A-76. OMB is in the process of changing its circular, but its intentions regarding changing the executive order after that are unclear. |
| DOD07 Create a Healthy and Safe Environment for DOD Activities | | | |
| DOD07.02 | DOD should streamline the clean-up process so that sites may be remediated quickly without prolonged periods of study. | 1 | |
| DOD07.03 | DOD should develop an environmental technology policy that is based on service users' environmental requirements and embodies the DOD environmental strategy. | 1 | |
| DOD07.04 | DOD should develop a more effective pollution prevention program. | 1 | |
| DOD07.05 | DOD should work with EPA regional offices and state and local environmental organizations to develop joint implementation approaches. | 1 | |
| DOD08 Establish a Defense Quality Workplace | | | |
| DOD08.01 | DOD should establish a top leadership and management structure that furthers Total Quality Management (TQM) principles. | 1 | |
| DOD10 Give DOD Installation Commanders More Authority and Responsibility Over Installation Management | | | |
| DOD10.04 | DOD should institute procedures that require a financial impact assessment of major policy decisions. | 1 | |

(continued)

**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|---|------------------------|---|
| DOD10.09 | DOD should empower installation commanders to make best value purchases. | 1 | |
| DOD10.13 | Legislation should be enacted to permit DOD to use simplified acquisition procedures for contracts between \$25,000 and \$100,000. | 1 | |
| DOD10.16 | DOD should reform contract protest procedures. | 1 | |
| DOD10.18 | The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) should be amended to permit purchasing from large businesses based on cost and quality of items required. | 1 | |
| DOD10.20 | DOD should issue unit cost guidance. | 1 | |
| DOD10.21 | DOD should change applicable DOD regulations to allow stock fund managers to include in their customers' surcharge the costs for procuring, warehousing, packing, crating, and handling. | 1 | |
| DOE01 Improve Environmental Contract Management | | | |
| DOE01.08 | For those environmental services that are paid for on a cost-plus-award or a cost-plus-fixed fee award basis, DOE should perform systematic and timely audits on costs incurred by every contractor to verify that costs charged are legitimate and reimbursable. | 3 | DOE is working on mechanisms to reduce its backlog of contract audits; however, a backlog still exists. |
| DOE01.09 | DOE should reevaluate the merits of requiring environmental restoration contractors to hire as many of the former management and operating contractors' staff, at current salary and benefit levels, as they can effectively employ. | 6 | Reevaluating the merits of requiring environmental restoration contractors to hire former management and operating contractor staff at their former salary levels is no longer an issue because separate contracts for environmental restoration management are no longer awarded. According to an official in the Environmental Management Office of Acquisition Management, the new "integrating contractors" that now have responsibility for managing the overall program are required only to give former employees the right of first refusal and are not required to offer such employees the same levels of salaries and benefits they received under the previous contractor. Thus, the spirit and intent of the original action item are being satisfied. |
| DOE01.10 | DOE should examine options to increase the ratio of federal workers to contract employees to improve management and oversight and control costs. | 1 | |
| DOE03 Make Field Facility Contracts Outcome-Oriented | | | |
| DOE03.01 | Increase the use of performance objectives and goal-based budgeting when establishing funding levels for programs and projects. | 1 | |

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Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|---|-----------------|---|
| DOE03.05 | Improve the capability of the financial management systems used to accumulate data from laboratories and weapons centers to measure, analyze, report, and control spending so that it is uniform, accurate, and received rapidly for programs and facilities. | 3 | DOE has developed a general plan for implementing the actions recommended to improve its financial and management systems and has established pilots for some tasks at various locations. DOE's actions are based on its May 1995 report on the capability of the financial and business systems. According to the report, DOE's current financial and business systems cannot be used to control cost because they are based on old technology and an outdated business model. |
| DOE04 Increase Electrical Power Revenues and Study Rates | | | |
| DOE04.01 | The Secretary of Energy should encourage Power Marketing Administrations (PMA) in the Southeast, Southwest, Western areas, and Bonneville to be more aggressive in promoting energy conservation programs with their subscriber utilities. | 1 | |
| DOE05 Strengthen the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) | | | |
| DOE05.01 | Upgrade the Director of FEMP to Deputy Assistant Secretary 1 status. | | |
| DOE05.02 | Support a priority status for FEMP's budget request for fiscal years 1994 and 1995. | 1 | |
| DOE05.03 | Promptly hire new FEMP staff for fiscal year 1994. | 6 | Although action to hire new FEMP staff has been fully implemented—having taken place on March 20, 1995—it was not completed within the designated time frame for fiscal year 1994. |
| DOE06 Redirect Energy Laboratories to Post-Cold War Priorities | | | |
| DOE06.05 | Laboratory managers should also be encouraged to work more closely with the private sector on high-priority research and development needs and to bid for contract or cooperative work on such projects. | 1 | |
| DOI02 Redefine Federal Oversight of Coal Mine Regulation | | | |
| DOI02.03 | By January 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) should review its organizational structure based on the review of its oversight role and submit a plan to close or downsize offices with declining workloads, eliminate unnecessary management levels, and adjust its field and Washington, D.C., staffing ratio. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|---|------------------------|--|
| DOI02.05 | Future appropriation bills should remove language requiring "per state limits" on abandoned mine land (AML) emergency funds. States should be required to assume responsibility for administering their AML emergency programs. | 3 | In its budget submissions for fiscal years 1995 and 1996, OSM proposed deleting "per state limits" on AML emergency funds. Congress retained the limits in fiscal year 1995 and as of January 16, 1996, had not acted on the fiscal year 1996 budget. (Note: On April 25, 1996, the fiscal year 1996 continuing resolution appropriating funds for DOI was enacted and retained the "per state limits.") |
| DOI02.06 | The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act should be amended so that the Rural Abandoned Mine Program is administered by the states. | 3 | In its budget justification for fiscal year 1996, OSM requested no funds for the program, which in effect would end federal program administration for fiscal year 1996 but would not eliminate federal administration of the program in subsequent fiscal years if additional funds were appropriated for the program in those years. However, Congress as of January 16, 1996, had not acted on the fiscal year 1996 budget. |
| DOI03 Establish a National Spatial Data Infrastructure | | | |
| DOI03.01 | The leadership role of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) should be strengthened beyond its original charter of OMB Circular A-16. Federal agencies should be instructed to participate fully in FGDC activities by providing adequate staff support and high-level committee representation. | 1 | |
| DOI03.03 | FGDC should submit a schedule and funding plan to OMB by September 1994 for completing the collection and production of national core geospatial data by January 2000. | 3 | A working group, which was convened to develop a framework (core) data plan, decided that it was premature to submit a schedule and funding plan to OMB because thousands of organizations collect data that might be considered part of the framework. Instead, the group generated a concept for developing a National Digital Geospatial Data Framework that is being tested in approximately 24 pilot areas around the country. The expectation is that by the end of 1996, there will be a guidebook for database development that can be used by federal, state, local, and private agencies to collect standardized data that are useful to a multitude of organizations. |
| DOI03.04 | FGDC should identify thematic data sets of critical national importance and establish priorities, standards, and a funding plan by September 1994, based on partnerships for collection of these data. | 2 | Under OMB Circular A-16, a dozen subcommittees, each led by a different federal agency, have been assigned responsibilities for developing standards for data on different themes. The subcommittees are in various phases, ranging from developing standards to incorporating comments on standards that have been circulated nationally. |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOI03.05 | By June 1994, FGDC should create a geospatial data clearinghouse, which will use existing computer networks, to provide public access to spatial data. | 6 | As established by FGDC, the clearinghouse is an evolving, distributed, electronically connected network of geospatial data producers, managers, and users. It is not a central repository where data sets are stored. While the goal of June 1994 was not met, as of February 1996, all federal agencies on the national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI) had established a presence on the Internet. Some were making major data sets electronically available while others were making metadata available. Numerous states, many in partnership projects on NSDI with FGDC, have begun to serve data electronically as well. |
| DOI05 Obtain a Fair Return for Federal Resources | | | |
| DOI05.01 | The administration should establish a formula for grazing of federal land at a fee level that is fair to both the taxpayers and the livestock permittees. | 3 | A final rule on administrative reform of the grazing program was issued on February 22, 1995. However, the rule did not include a new formula for grazing fees. The rule stated that enacting appropriate fees for grazing would be left to Congress. |
| DOI07 Improve the Land Acquisition Policies of DOI | | | |
| DOI07.01 | The Secretaries of DOI and USDA and the Director of OMB should modify the process for determining land acquisition priorities and modify current procedures. | 1 | |
| DOI07.02 | DOI should issue a series of policy directives for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Fish and Wildlife Service to address the issue outlined in DOI's 1992 Inspector General report and clarified in the Solicitor's opinion of July 30, 1992. | 1 | |
| DOI08 Improve Minerals Management Service's Royalty Collections | | | |
| DOI08.01 | By fiscal year 1995, the Royalty Management Program should develop and implement additional computer programs to analyze and verify transactions across the lease population. | 1 | |
| DOI08.04 | Current inconsistencies in liability issues should be resolved by DOI and a uniform policy developed in early 1994. | 1 | |
| DOI08.05 | The reinvention laboratory, which has been established to study royalty reporting simplification, should evaluate the potential for greater efficiency, effectiveness, cost savings, and additional revenue from new reporting procedures. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOI09 Establish a System of Personnel Exchanges in DOI | | | |
| DOI09.01 | DOI should implement a system of in-house contracts in early 1994. The in-house contracts should assign individuals with special skills to work as consultants to other bureaus. | 1 | |
| DOI09.02 | DOI should implement a system of temporary interbureau details and personnel exchanges in early 1994. | 1 | |
| DOI09.03 | DOI should facilitate personnel exchanges and interbureau cooperation through an improved internal communication system. | 1 | |
| DOI10 Consolidate Administrative and Programmatic Functions in DOI | | | |
| DOI10.01 | Within 6 months, all DOI bureaus and offices should identify parallel administrative, programmatic, and public outreach functions in areas where offices are collocated. | 6 | Although DOI identified parallel administrative, programmatic, and public outreach functions in areas where offices are collocated, the action item was not fully implemented within the designated time frame. DOI completed its streamlining plan in October 1994, and the Field Structure Working Group completed its study in March 1995. While these initiatives addressed the NPR issues, they were not completed within 6 months of the NPR final report as recommended. |
| DOI11 Streamline Management Support Systems in DOI | | | |
| DOI11.01 | DOI should implement standard practices for electronic communications and an agencywide data network strategy with the following steps: (1) agree upon a conceptual framework identifying networks, common databases (e.g., payroll), and a network architecture; (2) establish ways to share data across bureaus; (3) require data centers to use compatible communications software; (4) require bureaus to optimize communications capacity (e.g., T-1 circuit bandwidth and video-conferencing room time); (5) shift to Government Open Systems' Interconnection Profiles; (6) standardize imaging systems across DOI for transmission of financial data, land records, rules and regulations, library materials, and basic review documents to reduce paperwork in the workplace; and (7) standardize telephone system capability across bureaus to provide timesaving components and to improve quality of direct communication. | 6 | DOI completed five of the seven components of this action item. However, it did not believe that two of the seven components of this action item were appropriate. DOI's rationale for not acting on these two components appears reasonable. Specifically, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) withdrew its requirement to use the Government Open Systems' Interconnection Profiles (GOSIP) because the profiles were outdated and overtaken by events with the popularity of the Internet standards. In addition, the vendor community did not provide follow-up products that complied with GOSIP. Therefore, DOI determined that this component was no longer valid. Also, DOI determined that it could not implement the component of standardizing imaging systems because (1) there are no governmentwide imaging systems standards; and (2) its current, specialized imaging systems did not lend themselves to departmentwide standardization. |
| DOI11.02 | DOI should ensure that its data network initiatives all tie into a departmental data network. | 1 | |

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Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOI11.07 | DOI should streamline the processing of bills by establishing a separate appropriation account within DOI to pay common costs rather than issuing separate billings to each bureau. | 3 | DOI studied establishing a separate appropriation account to pay common costs but decided in July 1994 not to do so. It has, however, made billing improvements by billing costs quarterly instead of monthly. |
| DOI11.10 | DOI should identify all parties that may be interested in a rulemaking and involve them early in the process. | 1 | |
| DOI12 Create a New Mission for the Bureau of Reclamation | | | |
| DOI12.01 | By the beginning of fiscal year 1995, the Bureau of Reclamation should develop a new mission that assumes a leadership role in western water policy and focuses on water management functions. | 1 | |
| DOI13 Improve the Federal Helium Program | | | |
| DOI13.03 | The Bureau of Mines should reduce costs and increase efficiencies by discontinuing operations, such as small cylinder filling, maintenance, and testing, and other nonrevenue-producing operations. | 2 | The Bureau of Mines' helium program was officially transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by an order of the Secretary of the Interior, dated March 12, 1996. While the helium program has been downsized, it will continue to operate but within BLM. Selling, filling, maintaining, and testing of small cylinders of grade A helium have been discontinued. However, the Helium Field Office has not yet identified or discontinued "other nonrevenue-producing operations." |
| DOI14 Enhance Environmental Management by Remediating Hazardous Material Sites | | | |
| DOI14.03 | DOI should establish a legal strike force by the end of 1994 to address barriers to cleanup. | 6 | Although DOI did not establish a "legal strike force" because of budget constraints, in 1994 it instead established a coordination group within the Solicitor's office that meets monthly to address barriers to cleanup. |
| DOJ01 Improve the Coordination and Structure of Federal Law Enforcement Agencies | | | |
| DOJ01.03 | The Director of Law Enforcement should reinvent federal law enforcement to ensure activities are coordinated and critical resources are shared. | 6 | The Department of Justice (DOJ) has established the Office of Investigative Agency Policies (OIAP), whose Director rotates every 4 years. OIAP currently is headed by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Freeh and coordinates law enforcement efforts for all DOJ law enforcement entities, including the U.S. Marshals Service, Bureau of Prisons, Drug Enforcement Administration, FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and U.S. Attorney offices. This coordination includes sharing of critical resources, such as technology and intelligence information. |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOJ04 Improve DOJ's Debt Collection Efforts | | | |
| DOJ04.01 | Congress should amend the Federal Debt Recovery Act to authorize DOJ to use private debt collection counsel in all districts where appropriate. | 1 | |
| DOJ04.02 | DOJ should be authorized by Congress to retain up to 1% of amounts collected through litigating civil debt collection claims under \$500,000. | 1 | |
| DOJ04.03 | Congress should authorize DOJ to credit the DOJ Working Capital Fund up to 3% of all amounts collected through DOJ civil debt collection litigation activities to be used only for paying the costs of processing and tracking such litigation. | 1 | |
| DOJ05 Improve the Bureau of Prisons' Education, Job Training, and Financial Responsibilities Programs | | | |
| DOJ05.01 | DOJ should help inmates working in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) labor programs complete a GED degree. | 2 | According to BOP, the total number of inmates tested for the general equivalency diploma (GED) decreased from 7,950 in FY 94 to 7,712 (-3%) in FY 95. However, at the same time, the number who passed the test increased from 5,488 to 5,814 (5.9%). Overall, the pass rate for those tested increased from 69% to 75.4%. For FY 1995, BOP exceeded its own target of a 70% pass rate. However, BOP provided no data on the number of inmates who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Therefore, it was not possible to determine if BOP has succeeded in increasing GED program participation, although the pass rate of those who participate has improved. |
| DOJ05.03 | BOP should expand use of minimum security prison labor. | 1 | |
| DOJ05.04 | BOP should charge a nominal user fee for prison health care. | 3 | BOP is developing a legislative package for submission to DOJ by June 1996, which would grant BOP authority to implement a user fee program. After legislation for BOP health care is approved, BOP plans to revisit implementation of the recommendation. |
| DOJ06 Improve the Management of Federal Assets Targeted for Disposition | | | |
| DOJ06.01 | The Departments of the Treasury and Justice should oversee the implementation of memorandums of understanding associated with Treasury's new Asset Forfeiture Fund. | 1 | |
| DOJ06.02 | Agencies should allow all Asset Forfeiture Fund's administrative costs to be paid from asset sales receipts. | 1 | |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOJ08 Reinvent the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) Organization and Management | | | |
| DOJ08.03 | The INS Commissioner should restructure the organization to better meet its responsibilities. | 1 | Although INS reorganized on October 1, 1994, with the intent of better meeting its responsibilities, not enough time has passed, and no evaluation has been done that would permit a conclusion that the objectives of the reorganization have been achieved. |
| DOJ08.04 | The INS Commissioner should issue strategic planning guidance that includes appropriate performance standards and output measures. | 1 | |
| DOJ09 Make DOJ Operate More Effectively as the U.S. Government Law Firm | | | |
| DOJ09.01 | DOJ should develop a departmentwide case management system capable of tracking case status and staff productivity. | 2 | According to the Deputy Director of DOJ's Performance Review Team, DOJ's Departmental Case Management system was implemented in July 1995. The project was not expanded to track staff productivity because of funding constraints. |
| DOJ09.03 | DOJ should establish temporary 12-month details between headquarters and U.S. Attorney's Offices to cross-train staff. | 1 | |
| DOJ09.04 | DOJ should include representatives from both headquarters' legal divisions and U.S. Attorney's Offices in department litigation working groups to foster greater cooperation. | 1 | |
| DOJ09.05 | DOJ should conduct client surveys to improve customer service. | 1 | |
| DOJ09.06 | DOJ should encourage its federal agency clients to avail themselves of Special Assistant U.S. Attorney status. | 1 | |
| DOJ10 Improve White-Collar Fraud Civil Enforcement | | | |
| DOJ10.01 | The Attorney General should emphasize civil fraud recovery as a national priority. | 1 | |
| DOJ10.02 | DOJ should lead an interagency health care fraud prevention team. | 1 | |
| DOJ10.03 | Legislation should be enacted authorizing DOJ to retain a percentage of U.S. Attorney's Offices civil fraud recoveries to pay for the cost of creating civil fraud recovery teams. | 1 | |
| DOJ10.04 | DOJ should include attorneys from its Civil Division in the white-collar fraud civil enforcement working group. | 1 | |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOJ16 Develop Lower Cost Solutions to Federal Prison Space Problems | | | |
| DOJ16.02 | BOP should expand the use of alternative sanctions, such as halfway houses, home detention with electronic monitoring, and supervised home release for appropriate offenders. | 1 | |
| DOL03 Expand Negotiated Rulemaking and Improve Up-Front Teamwork on Regulations | | | |
| DOL03.02 | DOL should employ a team concept in the development of rules. | 1 | |
| DOL05 Automate the Processing of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) Annual Financial Reports (Form 5500) to Cut Costs and Delays in Obtaining Employee Benefit Plan Data | | | |
| DOL05.03 | IRS should revise its regulations to facilitate electronic filing of Form 5500-series data. | 1 | |
| DOL13 Integrate Enforcement Activities Within the Department of Labor | | | |
| DOL13.07 | DOL should select one or two priority areas to receive a full court press. | 1 | |
| DOL19 Transfer the Veterans' Employment and Training Service to the Employment and Training Administration | | | |
| DOL19.02 | DOL should explore possibilities for improving employment delivery and customer choice of service provider by requiring states to make delivery of veterans' employment and training service competitive. | 1 | |
| DOL20 Reduce Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) Fraud | | | |
| DOL20.01 | FECA and section 1920 of title 18, United States Code, should be amended to make it a felony to knowingly and willfully make a false or misleading statement or representation in connection with the application for or receipt of FECA benefits. | 6 | P.L. 103-333, the 1995 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, achieved the goals of this action item by amending section 1920 of title 18, United States Code. FECA was not amended. |
| DOL20.02 | Section 8102(a) of title 5, United States Code, should be amended to provide that an individual convicted of a violation under the amended statute, or other fraud related to FECA, forfeits all entitlement to any benefits as of the date of conviction. | 6 | The goals of this action item were achieved by P.L. 103-333, which added a new section 8148 to title 5, United States Code, rather than by amending section 8102(a). |
| DOL20.03 | Section 8116 of title 5, United States Code, should be amended to provide no benefits to an individual confined in a jail, prison, or other penal institution or correctional facility if that individual's conviction constituted a felony under applicable law. | 6 | The goals of this action item were achieved by P.L. 103-333, which added a new section 8148 to title 5, United States Code, rather than by amending section 8116. |

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| DOS02 Integrate the Foreign Affairs Resource Management Process | | | |
| DOS02.01 | The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the National Security Council and OMB, should reform the interagency foreign policy resource management process for Budget Function 150. | 2 | Effective use of resources requires a strategic planning and budgeting process that allocates resources to the most important priorities. Current U.S. government processes for allocating resources to U.S. foreign affairs objectives are fragmented among many different agencies and congressional committees. The Secretary of State established the Office of Resources, Plans, and Policy to assist the State Department and other Function 150 agency heads in developing policies, plans, and programs to achieve foreign policy goals and enable the Secretary to present an integrated international affairs (Function 150) resource budget request to OMB and other government agencies. Nonetheless, the Secretary lacks authority to implement further reform and does not make resource allocation decisions for other agencies in the Function 150 account. |
| DOS05 Reduce Mission Operating Costs | | | |
| DOS05.02 | The State Department should review all Marine Security Guard detachments and deactivate them where possible. | 2 | The State Department conducts periodic reviews of security needs in regions throughout the world, but it has not reviewed all Marine Security Guard detachments. Since September 1993, the State Department has deactivated 12 detachments. It has activated or reactivated two in the same period. At least one other post is under review for deactivation. |
| DOS06 Consolidate U.S. Nonmilitary International Broadcasting | | | |
| DOS06.01 | Legislation should be enacted to consolidate U.S. international broadcasting under the U.S. Information Agency. | 1 | |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOS08 Improve the Collection of Receivables | | | |
| DOS08.01 | The State Department should ensure that overseas medical expenses are accurately identified and reported by each embassy. | 2 | Since October 1, 1993, the Office of Medical Services has issued individual obligation numbers for each transaction so that it can track medical expenditures and identify funds reimbursed to its allotment. In addition, the Bureau of Finance and Management Policy developed accounting and debt collection procedures for funds that have been expended on employees' overseas medical expenses. The Bureau sends notices reminding employees to file for reimbursement from their insurance companies. At the same time, the Bureau opens an account receivable in the employees' names. If employees do not file for reimbursement from their insurance companies and reimburse the State Department within a specified amount of time, the State Department withholds money from their paychecks. These actions resulted in collections of over \$1 million in fiscal year 1994. However, the Department is circulating revisions to the Foreign Affairs Manual for internal review. Further evaluations are needed to determine if all embassies are following procedures. |
| DOS09 Change United Nations (U.N.) Administrative and Assessment Procedures | | | |
| DOS09.01 | Seek U.N. member support for establishment of a consolidated oversight and accountability mechanism, such as an Office of Inspector General. | 1 | |
| DOT07 Examine User Fees for International Overflights | | | |
| DOT07.01 | DOT should conduct a cost allocation study to determine whether (1) foreign carriers who cross U.S. airspace should pay fees and whether (2) direct user fees should be introduced. If so, DOT should propose legislation and work with Congress. | 1 | |
| DOT08 Increase Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Fees for Inspection of Foreign Repair Facilities | | | |
| DOT08.01 | DOT should increase the fees FAA charges for certification and surveillance of foreign repair facilities. | 1 | |
| DOT10 Establish a Public-Private Consortium to Develop an Aeronautical Telecommunications Network | | | |
| DOT10.01 | DOT should create a public-private consortium under a cooperative agreement with industry to develop an Aeronautical Telecommunications Network. | 1 | |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOT11 Improve Intermodal Transportation Policy Coordination and Management | | | |
| DOT11.01 | DOT should institute a strategic planning process to promulgate national, integrated transportation policies. | 1 | |
| DOT12 Develop an Integrated National Transportation Research and Development Plan | | | |
| DOT12.01 | DOT should develop an integrated national transportation plan that considers specific and intermodal transportation needs. | 1 | |
| DOT12.02 | The President should direct a transportation-related research and development (R&D) focal point to be established within the federal government. | 1 | |
| DOT12.03 | DOT should designate an R&D technology focal point in the Office of the Secretary. | 1 | |
| DOT12.04 | DOT should develop a departmentwide R&D policy and an integrated strategic plan. | 1 | |
| DOT13 Create and Evaluate Telecommuting Programs | | | |
| DOT13.01 | DOT should work with other federal agencies to implement a telecommuting program for DOT employees and evaluate transportation-related behavior and other topics requiring research. | 1 | |
| DOT15 Provide Reemployment Rights for Merchant Mariners | | | |
| DOT15.01 | Legislation should be enacted to provide reemployment rights for merchant mariners who are called to active duty during a war or national emergency. | 1 | |
| DOT19 Rescind Unobligated Earmarks for the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) New Starts and Bus Program | | | |
| DOT19.01 | Congress should rescind unobligated earmarks for the FTA New Starts and Bus program. Balances for 1991 and prior, not obligated by October 1, 1993, should be reconsidered and, if appropriate, rescinded. | 1 | |
| DOT19.02 | Balances for 1992 and earlier that remain unobligated on October 1, 1994, should be reconsidered and, if appropriate, rescinded by Congress. | 1 | |
| DOT19.03 | Balances for 1993 and earlier that remain unobligated on October 1, 1995, should be reconsidered by Congress and, if appropriate, rescinded. | 1 | |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| DOT20 Reduce the Annual Essential Air Service Subsidies | | | |
| DOT20.01 | Congress should amend the Airport Safety and Capacity Expansion Act to prohibit subsidies to Essential Air Service points within 70 miles of a hub airport, limit subsidies to \$200 per passenger, and give DOT authority to change criteria to fit costs to appropriations. | 1 | |
| DOT21 Terminate Grant Funding for FAA Higher Education Programs | | | |
| DOT21.01 | Legislation should be enacted to terminate the Airway Science Curriculum and the Collegiate Training Initiative for Air Traffic Controllers grants programs, rescind unobligated grant funds, and phase out FAA's active involvement in the programs. | 2 | Unobligated funds have been rescinded, and FAA is in the process of transferring the Airway Science Curriculum Program to a private aviation association. Although FAA did not request funding in FY 1996 for the Collegiate Training Initiative Program, Congress appropriated \$250,000 in grants to one of the institutions participating in the program. FAA said that the Collegiate Training Initiative Program, when not subsidized by federal funds, is cost-effective because it reduces the amount of FAA-funded training that students will need to become air traffic controllers. |
| DOT22 Assign Office of Motor Carriers (OMC) Field Staff to Improve Program Effectiveness and Reduce Costs | | | |
| DOT22.01 | DOT should place a geographic information system (GIS) in each DOT regional office to merge many national-level databases with the existing OMC safety data sets. | 6 | According to the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, which is a research arm of DOT's Research and Special Projects Administration, DOT placed GIS software in each DOT region. However, because of the complexity and cost of merging databases to allocate staff and travel resources in order to address safety problems as initially envisioned, OMC implemented an alternative method that accomplishes the same objective that is described in DOT22.02. |

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| DOT22.02 | DOT should develop a resource allocation model and integrate it into GIS to better allocate staff and travel budgets. | 6 | The Volpe National Transportation System Center said that the same results could be achieved with GIS software. However, OMC found that GIS was too restrictive because it could not include all of the factors needed for an effective resource allocation model. Therefore, OMC utilized an alternative model, using a delphi technique to consolidate input from numerous OMC officials. The model includes a variety of factors, including safety, and weights these factors by their importance. OMC began implementing the model in fiscal year 1995. The model deploys staff resources among regions, where they are needed most, thus better utilizing travel resources. In addition, OMC also implemented telecommuting arrangements to enable staff to work from a home base, which is to facilitate a better use of travel resources |
| DVA03 Eliminate Legislative Budget Constraints to Promote Management Effectiveness | | | |
| DVA03.01 | Eliminate travel, training, and personnel restrictions (including floors and ceilings) in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) budget and authorizing legislation, and give flexibility to field managers to (a) transfer funds between programs and object classes and (b) obtain multiyear funding when requested. | 2 | P.L. 104-19 removed the restriction on transferring funds from the Medical Care "Personal Services" account to other accounts, and VA's FY 1996 appropriation bill also would have excluded the restriction. Other restrictions—including limitations on travel expenditures, reorganizations, and multiyear funding—remain in place. |
| DVA04 Streamline Benefits Claims Processing | | | |
| DVA04.03 | The Veterans' Appeals Improvement Act of 1993 should be enacted into law. | 1 | |
| DVA05 Consolidate Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation and Retired Pay Programs | | | |
| DVA05.01 | VA and DOD task forces should jointly examine their disability compensation adjudication and disbursement processes, identify potential areas that can be streamlined or consolidated, and expeditiously implement the resulting recommendations. | 2 | A VA/DOD work group completed a study on the consolidation of disability compensation disbursement processes that identified potential areas for streamlining and consolidation. The work group concluded that such consolidation would not be worthwhile and recommended other improvements. The work group's study did not deal with the agencies' disability compensation adjudication processes, as recommended in NPR's action item. Therefore, the action item should be considered only partially implemented. |
| DVA06 Enhance VA Cost Recovery Capabilities | | | |
| DVA06.01 | VA should revise its policy to allow Medical Care Cost Recovery (MCCR) funds to be used to defray all collection costs for all categories of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) receivables. | 1 | |

(continued)

**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|--|--|------------------------|---|
| DVA08 Decentralize Decisionmaking Authority to Promote Management Effectiveness | | | |
| DVA08.01 | VA Central Office and field managers should jointly develop a management policy framework for all departmental management policy directives. | 1 | |
| DVA10 Serve Veterans and Their Families as Customers | | | |
| DVA10.02 | VA should develop a departmentwide policy for collecting and responding to veterans' suggestions and concerns. | 2 | VA's Customer Service Plan directs its facilities to collect information about veterans' concerns and identifies staff and computer resources that will track these concerns. The plan specifies few mechanisms for ensuring that concerns are addressed and that problems are corrected. |
| DVA10.03 | VA should develop a comprehensive approach for improving its capacity to respond to its customers' concerns, inquiries, and complaints. | 2 | VA's Customer Service Plan directs that its facilities conduct customer surveys but does not establish full accountability or procedures to ensure that concerns are addressed. |
| DVA10.04 | VA should develop a comprehensive approach for providing the veterans service organizations (VSO) with a stronger consultative role in policymaking and decisionmaking. | 2 | Although the current Secretary of Veterans Affairs has demonstrated his interest in using VSOs, written policies would help ensure that future Secretaries continue to consult with VSOs on major decisions. |
| ED01 Redesign Chapter 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act | | | |
| ED01.01 | Rigidity in the Chapter 1 program should be replaced by accountability for results. | 1 | |
| ED01.02 | The disincentives created by the use of standardized testing should be reversed. | 1 | |
| ED01.04 | Schools and school districts should be permitted to use some Chapter 1 funds to identify needed social services and develop cooperative arrangements with the other agencies that can provide those services. | 1 | |
| ED02 Reduce the Number of Programs the Department of Education Administers | | | |
| ED02.02 | Legislation should be enacted to consolidate the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the proposed Safe Schools Act programs into a single, comprehensive, flexible program for safe and drug-free schools. | 1 | |
| ED05 Streamline and Improve the Department of Education's Grants Process | | | |
| ED05.01 | Legislation should be enacted to repeal section 431 of the General Education Provisions Act. | 6 | Section 431 was not repealed, but major streamlining revisions to the rulemaking process were enacted in P.L. 103-382, Improving America's Schools Act of 1994. |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| ED05.06 | The Department of Education should develop materials to explain better to customers how the department reviews applications so that applicants have a better understanding of what happens to an application once it reaches the department. | 1 | |
| ED05.08 | The Department of Education should initiate immediate steps to further standardize the negotiation process through staff training. | 1 | |
| ED05.09 | The Department of Education should notify applicants of the status of their applications and funding as early as possible to help applicants plan and, if necessary, seek alternative funding. | 2 | The process has been speeded up, but there is no evidence that applicants receive notification early enough to pursue other funding. |

ED07 Simplify and Strengthen Institutional Eligibility and Certification for Participation in Federal Student Aid

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|--|
| ED07.03 | Section 435(m)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 should be amended to avoid the effect of the interpretation of the existing statute made in recent court decisions. The amendment should remove allegations of improper servicing and collection of loans as a basis for contesting the accuracy of cohort default rates. | 2 | We agree that the action item is substantially completed and that further action is improbable. With legislative changes made in 1993, the rules were relaxed to allow schools to review loan servicing records before the Department of Education determinations became final. But these changes did not eliminate a school's ability to contest the accuracy of its cohort default rate because of improper servicing or collections of loans. No further congressional action is expected on the topic. |
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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|---|-----------------|---|
| ED11 Build a Professional, Mission-Driven Structure for Research | | | |
| ED11.01 | <p>The upcoming reauthorization of Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) should include several of the central recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences report. These include: (1) A stable and broad-based advisory board—including outstanding researchers, teachers, principals, parents, and state and local officials—should be established and charged with guiding the agenda-setting process of OERI. (2) The board should identify procedures for contracts and grant peer-review panels that ensure that research merit and programmatic merit of proposals are judged only by those with the appropriate professional expertise. (3) The currently fragmented education research structure (centers, labs, clearinghouses, etc.) and the functional division of research funding (institution-based, individual, etc.) should be replaced as it becomes feasible by a very few education R&D institutes established after the model of the National Institutes of Health. Each should target a specific problem area with a sustained program of R&D that includes field-initiated efforts, institutionally based R&D, and special projects. These institutes should be charged with conducting high-quality R&D in support of the national education goals. (4) A Reform Assistance Office should be established to coordinate the integration and translation of research into reform assistance efforts. (5) OERI should report research findings directly to streamline its work and minimize opportunities for political pressure.</p> | 2 | Only the action item to create an advisory board was enacted. |
| ED12 Develop a Strategy for Technical Assistance and Information Dissemination | | | |
| ED12.02 | <p>The Department of Education should create multipurpose technical assistance centers that serve several programs and focus on a variety of issues, in contrast to those related to specific programs.</p> | 1 | |
| ED12.04 | <p>The Department of Education should establish the laboratories as institutions directed toward assisting state and local education agencies as they plan and implement systemic reform.</p> | 1 | |
| ENV02 Develop Cross-Agency Ecosystem Planning and Management | | | |
| ENV02.03 | <p>Conduct management and budget reviews for the ecosystem management projects as part of the fiscal year 1995 budget process.</p> | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|--|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| ENV02.04 | Establish regional ecosystem management teams for each of the cross-agency ecosystem management projects. | 1 | |
| ENV03 Increase Energy and Water Efficiency | | | |
| ENV03.01 | Issue a directive on energy and water efficiency in federal facilities. | 1 | |
| ENV03.02 | Propose legislation to allow DOD to retain savings generated through water efficiency projects. | 1 | |
| ENV04 Increase Environmentally and Economically Beneficial Landscaping | | | |
| ENV04.01 | Issue a directive to require the use of environmentally beneficial landscaping at federal facilities and federally funded projects, where appropriate. | 1 | |
| EOP01 Delegate Routine Paperwork Review to the Agencies and Redeploy OMB's Resources More Effectively | | | |
| EOP01.01 | OMB should reduce the federal paperwork burden through programmatic reviews of the cumulative impact of the paperwork burden on categories of respondents. | 1 | |
| EOP01.02 | OMB should employ delegations of authority and other mechanisms to reduce unnecessary paperwork burdens and manage useful information. | 1 | |
| EOP01.03 | OMB and other federal agencies should make greater use of public opinion to evaluate paperwork burden reduction efforts. | 1 | |
| EOP04 Improve Federal Advisory Committee Management | | | |
| EOP04.02 | OMB should establish goals to stabilize the number of advisory committees for the next 5 years and to reduce advisory committee operations costs by 5 percent. | 1 | |
| EOP05 Reinvent OMB's Management Mission | | | |
| EOP05.03 | OMB should work with agencies to develop a system for "red-flagging" and correcting special high-risk situations. | 1 | |
| EOP09 Establish a Customer Service Bureau in the Executive Office of the President (EOP) | | | |
| EOP09.01 | The Office of Administration should establish a small, one-stop-shopping Customer Service Bureau to increase the effectiveness of administrative support within EOP. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| EOP12 Improve Administrative Processes | | | |
| EOP12.01 | EOP should modernize and streamline its mail processing operation. | 1 | |
| EOP12.03 | OA should modernize its supply management operations by further implementing and upgrading its baseline automated supply system. | 1 | |
| EOP12.04 | OA should create one-stop-shopping to meet publishing and printing needs for EOP agencies. | 1 | |
| EPA01 Improve Environmental Protection Through Increased Flexibility for Local Governments | | | |
| EPA01.02 | The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should convene a series of town meetings across the United States with environmental and other citizen groups and local officials to ensure that outside input is considered before regulatory reform recommendations are finalized. | 1 | |
| EPA01.03 | EPA should establish a pilot project that will assist one community to assess its environmental and community health risks in directing resources to priority problems. | 1 | |
| EPA02 Streamline EPA's Permit Program | | | |
| EPA02.03 | EPA should identify, by June 1994, statutes that prevent flexibility in permitting and report to the Administrator for follow-up action. | 6 | In July 1994, EPA established the Permits Improvement Team to improve environmental permitting processes. In January 1995, the team briefed the EPA Deputy Administrator on its activities, including planned efforts to identify barriers to streamlining permits and to suggest appropriate response actions. In October 1995, the team published for review and comment a final draft concept paper. The paper (1) discussed statutes that the team reviewed to identify barriers to flexibility in permitting and (2) presented a new approach to environmental permitting. As of February 1996, the draft concept paper was undergoing final agency review. |

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Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|--|--|-----------------|---|
| EPA02.04 | EPA should develop a cross-program permit tracking system pilot with one state and one region by June 1994. | 6 | In April and October 1995, EPA's Permits Improvement Team, established by the Administrator in July 1994, prepared draft concept papers that discussed automated permit tracking systems identified at state and regional levels. According to agency officials, EPA (1) is assessing these systems in lieu of developing a separate tracking system pilot and (2) plans to share the results with state and regional officials through the National Environmental Performance Partnership System agreed to between EPA and the states in May 1995. As of February 1996, the team's draft concept paper was undergoing final agency review. |
| EPA03 Shift EPA's Emphasis Toward Pollution Prevention and Away From Pollution Control | | | |
| EPA03.08 | EPA should work cooperatively with the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Food and Drug Administration, and other agencies to develop a national strategy to promote more efficient use of pesticides and fertilizers. | 1 | |
| EPA03.09 | EPA should develop a plan for implementing the two pending executive orders on pollution prevention and recycling so that it can carry out its role and work jointly with other federal agencies, as outlined in the executive orders. | 1 | |
| EPA05 Increase Private Sector Partnerships to Accelerate Development of Innovative Technologies | | | |
| EPA05.01 | EPA should develop an action plan with specific milestones, by mid-1994, for improving the regulatory and statutory climate for innovative technologies. | 6 | In December 1994, we reported that the EPA Administrator announced the U.S. EPA Environmental Technology Initiative: FY 1994 Program Plan and the Technology Innovation Strategy as a combined action plan for developing public-private partnerships to accelerate the development of environmental technologies. We also reported that milestones were being set for the various projects under the action plan. In February 1996, EPA provided us with example project records showing specific milestones. |
| EPA05.03 | EPA should develop and promote a series of monographs to assist industry in identifying pollution prevention opportunities and making informed, responsible design choices. | 1 | |
| EPA07 Establish Measurable Goals, Performance Standards, and Strategic Planning Within EPA | | | |
| EPA07.01 | By April 1994, EPA should prepare measurable internal goals to provide direction for assessing and redirecting existing EPA strategies where needed. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| EPA07.02 | By April 1995, EPA should draft measurable environmental goals for the range of environmental problems the United States faces. | 1 | |
| EPA08 Reform EPA's Contract Management Process | | | |
| EPA08.01 | EPA should fully implement performance standards for contract management advocated by the standing committee, the OMB review, and the EPA Administrator by January 1994. | 1 | |
| EPA09 Establish a Blueprint for Environmental Justice Through EPA's Operations | | | |
| EPA09.01 | EPA should develop, by mid-1994, a blueprint of actions that will incorporate environmental justice considerations into all aspects of EPA operations. | 1 | |
| EPA09.02 | EPA should prepare an annual report providing analysis of the progress it has made regarding environmental justice and should develop appropriate remedies for communities that have suffered environmental injustice. | 1 | |
| EPA10 Promote Quality Science for Quality Decisions | | | |
| EPA10.01 | EPA should work to establish guidelines for professional development and promotion of scientific and technical staff. | 1 | |
| EPA10.02 | EPA should expand the use of peer review and quality assurance procedures to promote excellence in science. | 1 | |
| EPA10.03 | The EPA Administrator should assess the organizational effectiveness and appropriate structures of EPA's laboratories. | 1 | |
| EPA10.04 | EPA should develop a plan to integrate opportunities for increased scientific communications within and outside EPA. | 1 | |
| EPA11 Reorganize EPA's Office of Enforcement | | | |
| EPA11.01 | EPA should implement the administrator's headquarters enforcement reorganization proposal. | 1 | |
| FEMA01 Shift Emphasis to Preparing for and Responding to the Consequences of All Disasters | | | |
| FEMA01.01 | The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should continue to shift emphasis to preparation for and response to the consequences of all disasters. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| FEMA01.02 | The Director of FEMA should review the agency's classified responsibilities and ensure that they do not detract from its unclassified mission of general disaster preparedness. As part of that review, the director should ensure the maintenance of a single point of contact to manage the scaled-down enduring constitutional government programs. | 1 | |
| FEMA02 Develop a More Anticipatory and Customer-Driven Response to Catastrophic Disasters | | | |
| FEMA02.03 | FEMA should reexamine its field structure in relation to the agency's mission. | 1 | |
| FEMA03 Create Results-Oriented Incentives to Reduce the Costs of a Disaster | | | |
| FEMA03.04 | Grants for mitigation and preparedness should fund preparedness for the greatest risks. | 1 | |
| FEMA04 Develop a Skilled Management Team Among Political Appointees and Career Staff | | | |
| FEMA04.01 | Through organizational restructuring and reordering of priorities, all agency directorates should be responsible to the Director of FEMA for fulfilling the primary agency mission of disaster response. | 1 | |
| FEMA04.02 | The Director of FEMA should select and develop capable and cohesive executive leaders for the agency. | 1 | |
| FEMA04.03 | The Director of FEMA should institute a staff career development program. | 1 | |
| FM01 Accelerate the Issuance of Federal Accounting Standards | | | |
| FM01.01 | Issue a comprehensive set of federal financial accounting standards within 18 months. | 2 | The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board is in the process of publishing the one remaining new standard. This will complete a comprehensive set of accounting standards for the federal government. |
| FM01.02 | Create an independent federal financial accounting standards board with the power to develop, publish, and interpret accounting principles and standards for the federal government, if a comprehensive set of accounting standards is not issued within 18 months. | 6 | Because a comprehensive set of standards is now being completed, this action item is no longer applicable. |
| FM01.03 | Dedicate staff to the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board to develop a high-level set of cost accounting standards. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| FM02 Clarify and Strengthen the Financial Management Roles of OMB and Treasury | | | |
| FM02.01 | Develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to clarify central agency roles and responsibilities for financial management. | 6 | OMB's and the CFO Council's Federal Financial Management Status and 5-Year Plan discusses the central agencies' and the CFOs' roles in improving financial management. Also, Treasury, OMB, and we share a general consensus on major federal financial management issues that need to be addressed. While no formal MOU has been finalized, in response to this action item, Treasury and OMB officials are meeting on a monthly basis to ensure ongoing communication. Top officials from all three agencies have also held a series of meetings with CFOs and IGs at all 24 CFO Act agencies to help ensure that the responsibilities for the financial statement audits and other financial management objectives of the CFO Act are met. |
| FM02.02 | Develop and publish a strategic plan for improving financial management. | 1 | |
| FM02.03 | Create a governmentwide budget and financial information steering group. | 1 | |
| FM02.04 | Develop and publish a definition of an integrated budget and financial system. | 1 | |
| FM02.05 | Develop an integrated budget and financial information strategic plan. | 3 | The Joint Financial Management Improvement Program Framework describes the basic elements of a model for an integrated financial management system. It is intended to be a reference tool and does not include specific objectives, detailed steps for achieving those objectives, milestone dates, or points of responsibility for meeting milestones—all necessary parts of a sound strategic plan. |
| FM03 Fully Integrate Budget, Financial and Program Information | | | |
| FM03.04 | Establish a clearinghouse of financial systems applications, cross-servicing, and best practices. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| FM04 Increase the Use of Technology to Streamline Financial Services | | | |
| FM04.05 | Issue all payments to individuals through electronic funds transfer (EFT) or electronic benefits transfer (EBT). | 2 | The Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (GMRA) requires that agencies pay individuals through EFT, unless another method has been determined by the Secretary of the Treasury to be appropriate. GMRA does not address EBT. The Federal Electronic Benefits Transfer Task Force published <i>From Paper to Electronic: Creating a Benefit Delivery System That Works Better and Costs Less</i> in May 1994, which outlines an implementation plan for nationwide EBT. The task force is also providing leadership for the development of an integrated, nationwide EBT payment system that is expected to eventually be developed and rolled out nationwide. |
| FM06 "Franchise" Internal Services | | | |
| FM06.01 | Implement franchising for service functions at the agency head's discretion. | 3 | OMB forwarded to Congress a proposal for five pilot franchise funds. As of January 16, 1996, OMB had not received approval for the pilots. (Note: On February 28, 1996, OMB obtained congressional approval for five pilot franchise funds.) |
| FM06.02 | Establish an implementation team under the President's Management Council. | 6 | We consider the intent of this recommendation to have been met because the CFO Council, rather than the President's Management Council, is working with OMB to develop guidance for agencies applying for franchise fund pilots. |
| FM07 Create Innovation Funds | | | |
| FM07.03 | Convene a working capital fund forum. | 1 | |
| FM09 Simplify the Financial Reporting Process | | | |
| FM09.01 | Propose legislation to permit OMB, in consultation with appropriate congressional committees, to have the flexibility to consolidate and simplify statutory reports to Congress and the President. | 1 | |

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Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| FM10 Provide an Annual Financial Report to the Public | | | |
| FM10.03 | Develop a method of identifying and budgeting for the expected costs of contingent liabilities of the federal government. | 2 | The recently published Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards, "Accounting for Liabilities of the Federal Government" addresses identification and accounting for contingent liabilities in the federal government. However, the standard does not cover budgeting for contingent liabilities. |
| FM11 Strengthen Debt Collection Program | | | |
| FM11.07 | Establish performance agreements on each major loan and debt collection program. | 3 | Although a few agencies have begun efforts to develop performance measures, no consensus has been achieved by the credit program managers on what measures should be included in performance agreements. The Federal Credit Policy Working Group is in the process of developing performance measures to manage loan and debt collection, but much remains to be done before this recommendation is fully implemented. |
| FSL01 Improve the Delivery of Federal Domestic Grant Programs | | | |
| FSL01.03 | Establish a Cabinet-level Enterprise Board to oversee new initiatives in community empowerment. | 1 | |
| FSL02 Reduce Red Tape Through Regulatory and Mandate Relief | | | |
| FSL02.02 | Issue a regulatory executive order addressing the problems of unfunded federal mandates and regulatory relief. | 1 | On March 22, 1995, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-4), was enacted into law. This statute may have superceded, in whole or in part, the executive order. |
| FSL03 Simplify Reimbursement Procedures for Administrative Costs of Federal Grant Disbursement | | | |
| FSL03.01 | Modify OMB Circular A-87 to provide a fee-for-service option in lieu of cost reimbursement. | 1 | |
| FSL05 Simplify Administration by Modifying the Common Grant Rules on Small Purchases | | | |
| FSL05.01 | Modify OMB Circular A-102 to require that the common grants management rules increase the dollar threshold for small purchases by local governments from \$25,000 to \$100,000. | 1 | |
| FSL06 Strengthen the Intergovernmental Partnership | | | |
| FSL06.01 | Reinvent the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and charge it with responsibility for continuous improvement in federal, state, and local partnership and intergovernmental service delivery. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| GSA01 Separate Policymaking From Service Delivery and Make the General Services Administration (GSA) a Fully Competitive, Revenue-Based Organization | | | |
| GSA01.01 | Separate policymaking and oversight from service delivery and fund policymaking from direct appropriations. | 1 | |
| GSA01.02 | Allow agencies to choose whether to purchase GSA services and fund GSA service delivery from customer revenues. | 2 | Federal agencies do not yet have the freedom to purchase real property, telecommunications, and certain other information technology services from alternative sources. GSA has committed to ending its service monopolies in these areas and seems to be moving in that direction. Also, GSA is exploring the most cost-effective methods of carrying out all of its support-services functions. |
| GSA01.04 | Suspend acquisition of net new office space and courthouses. | 1 | As part of its Time Out and Review Initiative in late 1993 and early 1994, GSA suspended all new acquisitions of space and reported overall savings of over \$1.3 billion, including \$324 million from reducing or rescoping 43 courthouse construction projects. Although GSA's moratorium on net new office space remains in effect, Congress continues to authorize, and GSA continues to construct, new courthouses, and additional courthouses are planned over the next 10 years to meet expanding court needs. Our November 1995 testimony on the multibillion-dollar federal courthouse construction program (1) recognized that GSA and the judiciary have actions under way to improve the planning and oversight of these projects; and (2) made several recommendations to further improve courthouse planning, promote better decisionmaking, and reduce courthouse construction costs. |
| GSA01.06 | Improve GSA service delivery. | 2 | GSA has taken and continues to take a number of actions to improve service delivery, but few of these actions have been completed. For example, GSA has reorganized its Public Buildings Service, which is now implementing recommendations from an extensive business process reengineering initiative. GSA also has actions under way to improve its supply and procurement, information technology, and telecommunications services to federal agencies. In addition, GSA is determining the most cost-effective method of carrying out each of its 15 major business lines and expects to make reform proposals later this year. |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| HHS02 Reengineer the Health and Human Services (HHS) Process for Issuing Regulations | | | |
| HHS02.01 | HHS should use planning and control procedures to encourage the prompt adoption of regulations and to promote the efficient use of available department resources. | 1 | |
| HHS02.02 | In drafting regulations affecting programs for which administrative responsibility is shared with states, HHS should solicit assistance from states and other interested parties about the nature and extent of the relevant administrative matters. | 1 | |
| HHS02.03 | In instances of OMB review of HHS regulation, an OMB analyst should be assigned as a liaison to each agency within HHS. | 1 | |
| HHS02.05 | HHS should consolidate its internal reviews to reduce multiple layers of reviewers in the current process. | 1 | |
| HHS02.06 | In instances when the states' deadline for program implementation will precede the publication of regulations, HHS should institute a program similar to IRS' private letter ruling process. | 6 | HHS already has processes in place that serve this purpose. HHS has issued instructions to be followed when states' deadlines for program implementation precede the publication of regulations. Examples of these instructions include disseminating information on states' deadlines through (1) initial Federal Register notices announcing the program, (2) informative materials in application packages, and (3) letters containing information and/or guidance to states or other grantees. |
| HHS02.07 | HHS should selectively initiate regulatory development work even before a statute is enacted, using the version of legislation most likely to be enacted as a template. | 6 | HHS has other measures in place that fulfill this action item. HHS begins regulatory work before enactment when a new or revised program is likely to be needed in an unusually short time frame. HHS program components are responsible for drafting regulations and for monitoring the status of legislation. The program components decide when to devote limited staff resources to drafting regulations in anticipation of enactment. |
| HHS12 Strengthen Departmentwide Management | | | |
| HHS12.01 | HHS should conduct a comprehensive review of organization structure and management systems to determine what the appropriate balance should be between centralized and decentralized functions. | 1 | |
| HHS12.02 | HHS should identify opportunities for delegating appropriate authority and responsibility to the lowest possible level. | 1 | |

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**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| HHS13 Review the Field and Regional Office Structure of HHS and Develop a Plan for Shifting Resources to Match Workload Demands | | | |
| HHS13.01 | HHS should conduct a comprehensive review of all HHS regional and field office structures, functions, and resource allocations to determine their appropriateness. | 1 | |
| HHS13.02 | HHS should clarify the mission for each regional office and for field stations in terms of program intent and client needs, eliminate redundant operations, and empower local staff with decisionmaking authority. | 1 | |
| HRM06 Clearly Define the Objective of Training as the Improvement of Individual and Organizational Performance; Make Training More Market-Driven | | | |
| HRM06.01 | Deregulate training and make it more responsive to market sources. | 2 | On March 30, 1994, Congress passed P.L. 103-226, the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994, which significantly loosened statutory restrictions on training. OPM plans to issue implementing regulations, but these regulations have not yet been proposed. |
| HRM07 Enhance Programs to Provide Family Friendly Workplaces | | | |
| HRM07.01 | Implement family friendly workplace practices while continuing to ensure accountability for quality customer service. | 2 | Although a presidential memorandum was issued on July 11, 1994, directing agencies to encourage and support the expansion of family friendly work arrangements, it has not yet been demonstrated that family friendly workplace practices are fully implemented. NPR reports that 35 agencies have some form of family friendly work place arrangements. It says that these run the gamut from minimal efforts, such as making family friendly activities the collateral duty of an individual staff member, to more comprehensive efforts to implement alternative work schedules and other family friendly policies. |
| HRM07.04 | Allow employees to use sick leave to care for dependents. | 1 | |
| HRM07.05 | Give returning employees credit for previously accrued unused federal sick leave. | 1 | |
| HRM07.07 | Reauthorize voluntary leave transfer/bank programs. | 1 | |

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Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|--|--|-----------------|--|
| HRM12 Eliminate Excessive Red Tape and Automate Functions and Information | | | |
| HRM12.01 | Phase out the entire Federal Personnel Manual (FPM) and all agency implementing directives. | 2 | This action item has two parts, one of which has been fully implemented, and another that has been partially implemented. FPM was abolished in January 1994; however, the action item calls for all agency implementing directives to be abolished as well. According to NPR, 23 agencies had initiatives under way to reduce their implementing directives. |
| HRM13 Form Labor-Management Partnerships for Success | | | |
| HRM13.01 | The President should issue an executive order that identifies labor-management partnership as a goal of the executive branch and establishes the National Partnership Council. | 1 | |
| HRM14 Provide Incentives to Encourage Voluntary Separations | | | |
| HRM14.01 | Provide departments and agencies with the authority to offer separation pay. | 1 | |
| HRM14.02 | Decentralize the authority to approve early retirement. | 2 | While OPM has increased agency prerogatives on how early retirement can be administered, it has retained the responsibility for approving agency early retirement authorization requests. |
| HRM14.04 | Expand outplacement services. | 1 | |
| HRM14.05 | Limit annual leave accumulation by senior executives to 240 hours. | 2 | The Government Management Reform Act, enacted on October 13, 1994, limited senior executives' annual leave accumulation to 720 hours, rather than the 240-hour limitation recommended by NPR. |
| HUD01 Reinvent Public Housing | | | |
| HUD01.02 | HUD should work closely with local public housing authorities, their national organizations, public housing tenant representatives, and state and local government officials to eliminate unnecessary HUD requirements and procedures. | 1 | |
| HUD01.04 | HUD should make a hard-hitting, targeted effort to resolve the severe difficulties of those few public housing agencies identified as problem public housing authorities. | 1 | |

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Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|---|-----------------|---|
| HUD02 Improve Multifamily Asset Management and Disposition | | | |
| HUD02.03 | Statutory restrictions on HUD disposition of multifamily properties held as a result of Federal Housing Administration (FHA) insurance programs should be relaxed; HUD should be authorized to assist affected tenants with portable subsidies (as opposed to assistance tied to the project or unit) when appropriate. | 1 | |
| HUD03 Improve Single-Family Asset Management and Disposition | | | |
| HUD03.01 | HUD should be authorized to use the Mutual Insurance Fund for any cost-effective expenditure needed to maximize the value of the fund, including all expenditures recommended through other HUD03 action items. | 1 | |
| HUD05 Establish a New Housing Production Program | | | |
| HUD05.01 | HUD should stimulate multifamily housing development through risk-sharing with housing finance agencies. | 1 | |
| HUD05.02 | HUD should stimulate multifamily housing production by helping to develop a secondary market for loans on multifamily properties. | 2 | Four financial institutions were selected to help further develop a secondary market for loans on multifamily properties through a risk-sharing demonstration program with FHA. As of January 30, 1996, only one of these institutions had actually closed loans under the program, and that institution had closed only two loans. Moreover, the other three institutions had at least temporarily suspended their participation. Consequently, there has been little stimulus to the secondary market as a result of the demonstration program to date. |

(continued)

**Appendix II
Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| HUD05.05 | HUD should make cost-effective investments in professional financial management. | 2 | While HUD has taken actions to address this action item, these actions are not sufficient to fully implement the action item. The narrative description supporting this action item in NPR's report, <u>Creating a Government That Works Better and Costs Less: Department of Housing and Urban Development</u> (Sept. 1993), states that HUD should be given the resources to make cost-effective investments to improve FHA's automated systems and internal controls, develop the financial and technical skills of FHA employees and attract private sector expertise, and take advantage of new workplace technology. To address this item, HUD has taken actions such as providing financial training to asset managers; however, actions in other areas, such as developing improved automated systems to support multifamily housing operations, are still in the formative stages. Furthermore, Congress has not yet acted on HUD's legislative proposal to "reinvent" FHA—a key purpose of which is enhancing FHA's ability to obtain the resources it needs to carry out its operations effectively. |
| HUD06 Streamline HUD Field Operations | | | |
| HUD06.01 | HUD should participate in the multiple agency field office restructuring effort. | 1 | |
| HUD06.02 | Program field staff should report more directly to responsible program assistant secretaries. | 1 | |
| HUD06.04 | HUD should continue to delegate specific grant award decisionmaking to the states and localities, as is the case with the Community Development Block Grant Program and the new HOME Investment Partnerships Program. | 1 | |
| HUD06.05 | No one should be laid off as a result of this office consolidation. A full attrition program should apply in the field until an appropriate level of staffing is achieved. | 1 | |
| HUD08 Reduce Section 8 Contract Rent Payments | | | |
| HUD08.03 | HUD should be given legislative authority to require owners to document and justify all operating costs, so that requested increases to cover certain costs (e.g., taxes and fuel) can be offset, if appropriate, against known reductions in other costs, such as debt service or maintenance. | 3 | Draft legislation would have given HUD the authority to base rent increases on the actual operating costs of the rental properties. However, this legislation was part of a legislative proposal not enacted in 1995 that offset, if appropriate, against known reductions in other costs, included significant reforms throughout HUD. Similar comprehensive reforms, including the proposed rent revision, are likely to be reintroduced in 1996. |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| HUD10 Reduce Operating Subsidies for Vacancies | | | |
| HUD10.01 | HUD should establish an agency goal of achieving an average 97-percent occupancy rate in units owned and managed by public and Indian housing authorities by the end of fiscal year 1999. | 1 | |
| ICS01 Create Customer-Driven Programs in all Departments and Agencies that Provide Services Directly to the Public | | | |
| ICS01.01 | Establish an overall policy for the quality of federal services delivered to the public and initiate customer service programs in all agencies that provide services directly to the public. | 2 | Executive Order 12862, dated September 11, 1993, established an overall policy for the quality of federal services delivered to the public. In 1994, a total of 150 agencies that provide services directly to the public published customer service standards; in 1995, the number increased to 214. According to an NPR official, although agencies that have significant interaction with the public have published customer service standards, not all agencies that provide services directly to the public have initiated customer service programs. |
| ICS02 Customer Service Performance Standards—Internal Revenue Service (IRS) | | | |
| ICS02.01 | As part of its participation in NPR, IRS should publish customer service performance standards, to include the following examples: (1) A refund due on your paper return will be mailed within 40 days; a refund due on your electronic return will be mailed within 21 days when you request a check, or sent within 14 days when you specify direct deposit. (2) Our goal is to resolve your account inquiries in a single contact; if you have a repeat problem you can contact the Problem Resolution Office, which will resolve the problem in an average of 21 days. (3) When you provide sufficient and correct information to an IRS tax assistor and get an incorrect answer, we will cancel related penalties. (4) Let us know where our tax forms or instructions are confusing or difficult—by 1995, we plan to boost the clarity of tax forms and instructions so that 90 percent of individual returns are error-free. | 1 | |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| ICS03 Customer Service Performance Standards—Social Security Administration (SSA) | | | |
| ICS03.01 | As part of its participation in NPR, SSA should publish nationally and post in each of its offices the following performance standards for customer service: (1) You will be treated with courtesy every time you contact us. (2) We will provide you with all the information you need in order to understand SSA programs, including your own potential for benefits. (3) We will also provide you with information about other social service programs that may help you. (4) When you call our 1-800 service for information or help, you will reach us on the first call. | 1 | |
| ICS05 Streamline Ways to Collect Customer Satisfaction and Other Information from the Public | | | |
| ICS05.01 | For voluntary customer surveys, OMB will delegate its survey approval authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act to departments that are able to comply with the act. | 1 | |
| ICS05.02 | The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) should issue guidance on focus groups, specifically establishing under what circumstances group discussion activities would be excluded from OIRA review. | 1 | |
| INTEL01 Enhance Intelligence Community Integration | | | |
| INTEL01.01 | The Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) and the Deputy Secretary of Defense should hold a visioning conference to determine the intelligence community's mission in the post-Cold War world. | 5 | In January 1996, we contacted the NPR point of contact for the Director of Central Intelligence to verify the implementation of the NPR action items for intelligence. In response to that request, CIA's Office of Congressional Affairs declined to provide us with access to the implementation documents, citing CIA's view that intelligence oversight is generally limited to specific congressional committees. CIA's Office of Congressional Affairs did note that status information regarding all intelligence community actions has been provided directly to the administration's NPR staff. |
| INTEL01.02 | The DCI and the Deputy Secretary of Defense should strengthen the intelligence community's Executive Committee by holding periodic principals-only meetings to address fundamental policy issues and strategic direction. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL01.03 | The DCI should review the contribution of Intelligence Centers to the goal of better community integration and execution processes. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| INTEL02 Enhance Community Responsiveness to Customers | | | |
| INTEL02.01 | The DCI should appoint a customer advocate, or ombudsman. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL02.02 | The DCI should establish a process that continuously tracks the needs of the intelligence community customer. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL02.04 | The Community Public Affairs Office should jointly develop programs to inform the general public about the value of the services provided by the intelligence community. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL02.05 | The DCI should establish an integrated community congressional liaison office. The newly established office should develop a communitywide congressional strategy by January 1994. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL02.06 | The new Intelligence Community Intelligence Systems Board should create a multimedia information handling architecture for the intelligence community and its customers. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL02.08 | Production managers should encourage the use of the lowest practical level of classification for intelligence community products. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL03 Reassess Information Collection to Meet New Analytical Challenges | | | |
| INTEL03.01 | The Foreign Broadcast Information Service and the Open Source Coordination Office should reexamine the mission of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL03.03 | The new Intelligence Community Systems Board should create a multimedia information handling architecture for the intelligence community to facilitate real-time communications between analysts and collectors here and abroad in the interest of pinpointing collection gaps and weaknesses. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL03.06 | The National Intelligence Council should strengthen its role in conceptualizing analytic issues facing the community, encouraging the development of alternative analyses, and improving the perception of it as a community body rather than CIA. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL04 Integrate Intelligence Community Information Management Systems | | | |
| INTEL04.01 | The Director of Central Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense should replace DOD's Intelligence Systems Council with an intelligence community organization chaired by the Executive Director for Intelligence Community Affairs and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence). | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| INTEL04.02 | The new Community Intelligence Systems Board (ISB) should impose an immediate moratorium on all new community information management initiatives or upgrades to current systems until a transition plan is developed and basic standards agreed upon. Waivers may be granted by the DCI/Deputy Secretary of Defense based on valid justification. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL04.03 | The new Community ISB should establish a Dissemination Working Group to act as the focal point for the receipt, review, and validation of all intelligence community dissemination needs. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL05 Develop Integrated Personnel and Training Systems | | | |
| INTEL05.03 | The Community Foreign Language Committee should set communitywide language proficiency standards, recognizing that individual agencies will continue to have unique operational requirements that mandate specialized training and testing. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL06 Merge the President's Intelligence Oversight Board With the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board | | | |
| INTEL06.01 | The President should issue an executive order to terminate the President's Intelligence Oversight Board and assign its functions to a standing subcommittee of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL07 Improve Support to Ground Troops During Combat Operations | | | |
| INTEL07.01 | The Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the DCI should establish a reinvention lab to address these issues. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL07.02 | The Secretary of Defense and the DCI should appoint a small group of neutral monitors to coach the process. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| INTEL07.03 | The reinvention lab will report its findings to the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Director of Central Intelligence in September 1994. | 5 | See comments to INTEL01.01. |
| IT02 Implement Nationwide, Integrated Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) | | | |
| IT02.01 | Design an integrated EBT implementation plan. | 1 | |
| IT04 Establish a National Law Enforcement/Public Safety Network | | | |
| IT04.01 | Formalize the Federal Law Enforcement Wireless Users Group. | 1 | |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| IT12 Provide Incentives for Innovation | | | |
| IT12.01 | Retain a portion of agency information technology savings for reinvestment. | 3 | While OMB has asked agencies to identify restructuring or process reengineering activities resulting from information technology investments that yield budgetary savings, there is currently no formal process for recognizing information technology-derived monetary savings. An earlier legislative proposal by the administration to establish an innovation fund to carry out this action item was not enacted. |
| IT13 Provide Training and Technical Assistance in Information Technology to Federal Employees | | | |
| IT13.02 | Require minimum competency in information technology for Senior Executive Service (SES) candidates. | 1 | |
| IT13.03 | Require information resource management (IRM) managers to meet certification standards. | 3 | There is currently no requirement for federal IRM managers to meet certification standards. OMB, which has responsibility under the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 for overseeing IRM training development, should (1) ensure that the requirement is established, (2) set goals and time frames for meeting this requirement, and (3) establish the means to measure progress toward fulfilling the requirement. GSA has established a certification process for federal IRM managers in cooperation with 13 universities and colleges. |
| IT13.05 | Include training as part of all information technology contracts and acquisitions. | 3 | GSA has taken the lead on this action item and has published guidance on how information technology training can be provided to federal agency employees. However, the guidance contains no requirement for the inclusion of training as part of information technology contracts and acquisitions. GSA maintains that it does not have the authority to mandate that agencies include technical training in their information technology contracts and acquisitions. |
| NASA01 Improve NASA Contracting Practices | | | |
| NASA01.01 | NASA regulations should be modified to provide for greater emphasis on the selection of appropriate contract type, to make better use of positive and negative incentives to contractors through award fee contracts, and to consider increasing contractor liability for correction of defects in materials and workmanship or other failures to conform to contract requirements. | 1 | |

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Status of NPR's Completed Action Items**

| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| NASA01.02 | NASA and other government agencies should consider contracting out for data instead of hardware. | 1 | |
| NASA01.03 | NASA should extend the use of its Cooperative Research Agreement solicitation instrument to for-profit, as well as nonprofit and educational, organizations to exploit new high-performance computing technology more quickly. | 1 | |
| NASA02 Increase NASA Technology Transfer Efforts and Eliminate Barriers to Technology Development | | | |
| NASA02.02 | The State Department should publish a notice in the <u>Federal Register</u> to establish its goals for expediting the processing of export license applications. | 1 | |
| NASA02.04 | NASA should implement its New Technology Investments Program through the use of industry-led efforts that will create and apply new technology to NASA programs as well as to the commercial marketplace. | 1 | |
| NASA03 Increase NASA Coordination of Programs With the U.S. Civil Aviation Industry | | | |
| NASA03.01 | NASA should develop a closer relationship with the U.S. civil aviation industry and government partners to ensure that industry needs are addressed early and throughout the technology development process and to maximize investment through fast and efficient technology transfer activities. In pursuing this objective, NASA should: (1) ensure that promising technologies are fully developed, through validation where necessary, to reduce the risk to industry of commercialization efforts; (2) increase industry participation and involvement in all phases of the R&D process, from planning to implementation as well as in the evaluation of results; and (3) improve its responsiveness to specific industry needs through increased flexibility of services and resources (facilities and people) and programmatic objectives. | 1 | |
| NASA04 Strengthen and Restructure NASA Management | | | |
| NASA04.01 | NASA should aggressively complete its overhaul of the space station program management, reducing the number of total contractor and civil service staff by approximately 30 percent and reducing the number of government employees working on the space station program to approximately 1,000 (a reduction of 1,300 employees over the current program). | 1 | |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| NASA04.03 | NASA should aggressively reposition its staff to meet the agency's new challenges. | 1 | |
| NASA04.04 | NASA should restructure its internal management processes for program formulation and implementation by formally instituting its Program Management Council to be chaired by the deputy administrator. | 1 | |
| NASA04.05 | NASA should work aggressively with its interagency counterparts to complete a summary report to the administration, by June 1994, identifying federal aerospace facility shortfalls, new facility requirements, consolidation opportunities, and recommendations for closing. | 1 | |
| NASA05 Clarify the Objectives of the Mission to Planet Earth Program | | | |
| NASA05.01 | NASA should use innovative management and streamlined procurement mechanisms to ensure that the Mission to Planet Earth (MTPE) program development costs are contained within existing estimates and that life-cycle costs are minimized. | 1 | |
| NASA05.02 | NASA should ensure that the development of MTPE is consistent with high-priority national and international science objectives relating to global change research. | 1 | |
| NASA05.03 | NASA should give emphasis to policymakers in the implementation of the MTPE program. | 1 | |
| NASA05.04 | NASA should employ innovative development approaches to the Earth Observation System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) program that emphasize evolutionary growth, technology infusion, and direct customer participation. | 1 | |
| NASA05.05 | NASA should encourage the educational benefits of EOSDIS. | 1 | |
| NASA05.06 | NASA should assist in ongoing efforts to converge U.S. operational weather satellites, given the benefits of streamlining the collection of weather data across the government. | 2 | NASA is actively involved in the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) and is considering flying some MTPE instruments on NPOESS satellites. However, this is a continuing effort. NASA is participating with DOD and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the area of satellite convergence. However, there are signs that NASA's role may change from assisting in technology development to participating in the program. We believe that NASA's ultimate role should be clarified before the action item is considered fully implemented. |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| NSF01 Strengthen Coordination of Science Policy | | | |
| NSF01.01 | Modify the current Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology structure and reconstitute the organization as the National Science and Technology Council to coordinate the development and implementation of science and technology policy. | 1 | |
| NSF01.02 | The proposed policy council should be created immediately by presidential directive. | 1 | |
| PROC01 Reframe Acquisition Policy | | | |
| PROC01.01 | Convert the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) from rigid rules to guiding principles. | 3 | An Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) official told us that although a plan to rewrite FAR was developed in 1994, the FAR rewrite has not advanced as planned. Federal agencies' actions do not constitute "full implementation" because conversion of FAR "from rigid rules to guiding principles" has not occurred. Moreover, there is no consensus on how extensively FAR should be rewritten. However, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council published a final rule on July 3, 1995, that amended FAR by adding a Statement of Guiding Principles. |
| PROC02 Build an Innovative Procurement Workforce | | | |
| PROC02.02 | Provide civilian agencies with authority similar to DOD's for improving the acquisition workforce. | 1 | |
| PROC03 Encourage More Procurement Innovation | | | |
| PROC03.01 | Provide new legislative authority to test innovative procurement methods. | 1 | |
| PROC04 Establish New Simplified Acquisition Threshold and Procedures | | | |
| PROC04.01 | Enact legislation simplifying procurement. | 1 | |
| PROC04.02 | Enact legislation simplifying DOD unique procurement requirements. | 1 | |

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| PROC04.03 | Establish a single electronic bulletin board capability to provide access to information on contracting opportunities. | 3 | Many agency initiatives are under way to provide electronic notice of federal contracting opportunities. However, these initiatives have not resulted in a single electronic bulletin board capability. Interim rules implementing the (1) simplified acquisition and the Federal Acquisition Computer Network (FACNET) requirements of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, title IV and title IX; and (2) use of electronic commerce/electronic data interchange in government contracting were published on July 3, 1995, which took affect that same date. However, officials responsible for designing, developing, and implementing FACNET have not yet determined how a single electronic bulletin board capability for government contracting opportunities will be provided. A number of private companies make available on the Internet, and other electronic mail services, government contracting opportunities exceeding \$25,000 that are listed in Commerce Business Daily. |
| PROC05 Reform Labor Laws and Transform DOL Into an Efficient Partner for Meeting Public Policy Goals | | | |
| PROC05.02 | Amend Executive Order 11755 to incorporate convict labor provisions upon repeal of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act. | 3 | A measure to repeal the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act was considered but not included in the final version of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (FASA). |
| PROC05.03 | Provide on-line access to the Davis-Bacon Act wage schedules through an electronic system. | 1 | |
| PROC06 Amend Protest Rules | | | |
| PROC06.06 | Identify and eliminate causes of protests and improve agency processes. | 2 | GSA's Office of General Counsel identified the most common bases for protests of agency solicitations and contract awards; made suggestions to the Director, OMB, to avoid protests; and developed and publicized education and training materials designed to improve GSA's performance in reducing protests. However, GSA's actions do not constitute "full implementation" because it remains to be seen whether the actions will "eliminate causes of protests and improve agency processes." |

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| PROC07 Enhance Programs for Small Business and Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns | | | |
| PROC07.02 | Authorize civilian agencies to conduct small disadvantaged business set-asides. | 1 | Section 7102 of FASA authorizes civilian agencies to conduct small disadvantaged business set-aside competitions. However, final implementing regulations remain under review in light of the Supreme Court's decision in <i>Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña</i> , 115 S. Ct. 2097 (1995), which set forth a new standard for evaluating the constitutionality of race-based affirmative action programs and the President's directive of July 19, 1995, that executive agencies review such programs under that standard. |
| PROC07.04 | Demonstrate the continued commitment to small and small disadvantaged businesses through issuance of a presidential directive. | 1 | |
| PROC08 Reform Information Technology Procurements | | | |
| PROC08.01 | Establish an interagency team to develop a plan for improving federal information technology acquisitions. | 1 | |
| PROC08.02 | Increase information technology delegation of authority to agencies. | 1 | |
| PROC08.05 | Identify and test innovative procurement strategies that reduce the costs for information technology items. | 2 | As of April 1994, GSA has required major software publishers to offer their complete line of software under both right-to-copy licensing arrangements and individual license buys through GSA's multiple award schedule program. Previously, only individual license buys could be procured. According to a GSA official, commercial businesses generally use right-to-copy licenses to acquire software because such licenses offer significant savings over individual license buys. According to GSA officials, although the GSA action constitutes identification, test, and implementation of one innovative procurement strategy for software, the agency will continue to look for other opportunities to reduce the cost to the government of information technology items. |
| PROC09 Lower Costs and Reduce Bureaucracy in Small Purchases Through the Use of Purchase Cards | | | |
| PROC09.02 | Encourage all government supply sources to accept the purchase card. | 1 | |
| PROC09.03 | Amend FAR to promote use of the purchase card. | 1 | Although the FAR provision on micropurchases has been amended to specifically encourage the use of purchase cards, similar encouragement is not reflected elsewhere in FAR for purchases exceeding \$2,500. |

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| Action item code | Action item text | GAO status code | GAO comments |
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| PROC10 Ensure Customer Focus in Procurement | | | |
| PROC10.01 | Revise Executive Order 12352 to conform to the new vision for federal procurement. | 1 | |
| PROC12 Allow for Expanded Choice and Cooperation in the Use of Supply Schedules | | | |
| PROC12.01 | Allow state and local governments, grantees, and certain nonprofit agencies to use federal supply contracts. | 2 | Section 1555 of FASA authorizes the GSA Administrator to provide for the use of federal supply schedules of GSA upon request by state, local, and Indian Tribal governments and by certain nonprofit agencies for the blind and severely disabled. GSA, on April 7, 1995, requested comments on a proposed implementation plan, which included consideration of a phased process to bring newly authorized governmental users on in stages. However, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, which the President signed on February 10, 1996, includes a provision that suspends authority of the GSA Administrator to allow state, local, and Indian Tribal governments to use the federal supply schedules until the later of two dates: (1) the period ending 18 months after the date of enactment of the act and (2) the period ending 30 days after the date the Administrator has considered a GAO report that assesses the effects of state and local governments' use of schedules and submits the report and comments to Congress. On August 16, 1995, a final rule was published that implements section 1555 provisions authorizing nonprofit agencies for the blind or severely disabled providing supplies or services under a Javitts-Wagner-O'Day Act contract to use government supply sources in performing the contract. |
| PROC13 Foster Reliance On the Commercial Marketplace | | | |
| PROC13.01 | Make it easier to buy commercial items. | 1 | |
| PROC14 Expand Electronic Commerce for Federal Acquisition | | | |
| PROC14.02 | Amend FAR to facilitate electronic commerce. | 1 | |
| PROC15 Encourage Best Value Procurement | | | |
| PROC15.03 | Train procurement officials on source selection techniques. | 1 | |
| PROC18 Authorize Multiyear Contracts | | | |
| PROC18.01 | Authorize multiyear contracts. | 1 | |

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