



BRIEFLY...

DOL MADE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING GEOSPATIAL DATA ACT REQUIREMENTS, BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

September 30, 2022

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) was signed into law on October 5, 2018, to foster efficient management of geospatial data, technologies, and infrastructure through enhanced coordination among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, along with the private sector and academia. According to the GDA, the Inspectors General must complete an audit every two years regarding their agencies' progress toward implementing GDA requirements, such as devising a strategy and enforcing standards for agency geospatial data.

WHAT OIG DID

To address this mandatory audit requirement, we focused on the Department of Labor's (DOL) progress toward compliance with the GDA. Specifically, we performed an audit to answer the following question:

To what extent has DOL fulfilled the requirements of the GDA to date?

We assessed the status of DOL's implementation efforts as of August 2022 by conducting interviews with DOL management officials and analyzing evidence provided.

READ THE FULL REPORT

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2022/23-22-003-01-001.pdf>

WHAT OIG FOUND

DOL took steps to address the 13 specific requirements of the GDA, but more remains to be done to meet the requirements. Of the 13 requirements, we determined DOL met 3 requirements, and made some progress on implementing the remaining 10 requirements.

At the departmental level, DOL began implementing GDA requirements for the geospatial data it tracked and monitored. However, individual DOL agencies had expanded their systems and data without considering GDA requirements.

DOL's progress to date has been hindered by multiple factors, one being inconsistent data collection by DOL's Chief Data Officer (CDO). For example, geospatial data regarding MSHA mines, OSHA injury reports, and drones was not identified through the data collection process. Each agency then submitted its own geospatial data independently within Data.gov, which caused inconsistent data submissions. Finally, the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have not yet issued regulations to provide guidance on how GDA requirements are to be implemented.

While DOL's Geospatial Data Strategy was issued in June 2022, updates are needed for DOL's emerging types of data inventory. Without creating policy and procedures to cover all of DOL's geospatial data, DOL may not achieve GDA compliance.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommend the CDO ensures DOL includes all types of agency geospatial data in its geospatial data management processes, and update policy and procedures to cover all geospatial data covered in the GDA's 13 requirements.

We also recommend that the CDO plan for obtaining sufficient funding to properly implement and oversee data quality standards throughout DOL and for its contracts. The CDO generally agreed with our recommendations.