



Office of Inspector General

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 10, 2024

TO: Michelle A. Smith
Assistant to the Board, Chief of Staff, and Director, Division of Board Members
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Jeff Riedel
Chief Information Officer
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

FROM: Khalid Hasan 
Assistant Inspector General for Information Technology

SUBJECT: OIG Memorandum Report 2024-IT-B-011R: *Results of Security Control Testing of the Board's Embargo Application*

Executive Summary

The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) requires agencies to develop, document, and implement an information security program. FISMA also requires that inspectors general conduct an annual independent evaluation to determine the effectiveness of their respective agency's information security program, including testing controls for selected systems. To meet FISMA requirements, we reviewed selected information security controls for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's embargo application. The embargo application is a web application that allows authorized members of the media to access documents that are not yet but will be posted to the Board's public website.

Overall, we found that the security controls we tested for the embargo application were effective. For example, we found that the Board ensured that privileged access to the embargo application was provisioned on a need-to-know basis. In addition, required embargo application events were logged and retained in accordance with Board requirements. However, the Board can strengthen access and configuration management controls for the embargo application.

Our report includes one recommendation and one matter for management consideration. In its response to our draft memorandum report, the Board concurs with our recommendation and outlines actions that

will be taken to address the recommendation. We will follow up to ensure that the recommendation is fully addressed.

Given the sensitivity of the information in our review, our full memorandum report is restricted.