



Why This Matters

The National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) leads the national effort to protect and enhance the resilience of the Nation's physical and cyber infrastructure. The office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C), a sub-component of NPPD, manages the Enhanced Cybersecurity Services (ECS) program which is a voluntary information sharing program that assists critical infrastructure entities in improving the protection of their systems and networks from external cyber threats and attacks.

DHS Response

NPPD concurred with all three recommendations and is taking actions to address these recommendations.

Implementation Status of the Enhanced Cybersecurity Services Program

What We Determined

NPPD has made progress in expanding the ECS program to protect critical infrastructure assets by sharing and disseminating cyber threat and technical information with commercial service providers. For example, 22 companies have signed memorandums of agreement to join the program. Further, NPPD has established the procedures and guidance required to carry out key tasks and operational aspects of the program, including an in-depth security validation and accreditation process. NPPD has also addressed the privacy risk associated with the program by developing a Privacy Impact Assessment. Finally, NPPD has engaged sector-specific agencies and government furnished information providers to expand the program, and has developed reporting and metric capabilities to monitor the program.

NPPD needs to take actions to expand the program further to provide all 16 critical infrastructure sectors with cyber threat indicators. Specifically, NPPD must ensure sufficient resources are available for the timely completion of the security validation and accreditation process for all program participants. In addition, NPPD must improve outreach efforts across all 16 critical infrastructure sectors, including commercial service providers. Finally, NPPD must develop a system to manage and analyze both sensitive and classified cyber threat indicators for the ECS program.

What We Recommend

We are making three recommendations to the Assistant Secretary, CS&C to help ensure that the implementation of the ECS program further expand critical infrastructure entity enrollment and improve the quality of information shared.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov