



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515**

October 14, 2022

The Honorable Jen Easterly  
Director  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Director Easterly:

I write to request information about how the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) carries out its role as a Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) for multiple sectors of critical infrastructure, in addition to leading Federal efforts to secure critical infrastructure across all sectors.

Presidential Policy Directive 21 designates the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the lead Federal coordinator for critical infrastructure protection across all 16 sectors, each of which has a designated SRMA. Most of this work is carried out by CISA, which serves as America's cyber defense agency and plays a central coordinating role in the cyber defense of both the Federal government and critical infrastructure.

While CISA's mission is most often described in terms of its cross-sector coordination role, it is important to note that DHS serves as the designated SRMA for ten sectors, and CISA executes the SMRA responsibilities for nearly all of them.<sup>1</sup> This responsibility is substantial – SRMAs are expected to provide specialized sector-specific expertise, support risk management efforts, and serve as a day-to-day Federal interface for owners and operators within a sector, among other duties. Last year, Congress passed legislation to codify and augment these responsibilities in Sec. 9002 of the *William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021*.

Whereas most SRMAs oversee a single sector of critical infrastructure, CISA oversees at least eight of them—far more than any other SRMA. Each of these sectors is complex, diverse, and unique in its security needs – from government facilities to nuclear reactors. Moreover, CISA has

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<sup>1</sup> DHS is the SRMA for the following sectors: Chemical; Commercial Facilities; Communications; Critical Manufacturing; Dams; Emergency Services; Government Facilities (with the General Services Administration); Information Technology; Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste; and Transportation Systems (with the Department of Transportation). CISA is not the only DHS component that serves as SRMA – the Federal Protective Service (FPS) and the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) lead the Government Facilities and Transportation sectors, respectively – but CISA is SRMA to 8 of those sectors, as well as the Election Infrastructure subsector of the Government Facilities sector.

multiple cross-sector initiatives underway, including a delayed update to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, which will help guide sector-specific SRMA activities. During a recent Committee on Homeland Security hearing, I pressed CISA's Executive Assistant Director for Cybersecurity Eric Goldstein on whether CISA is able to effectively manage SRMA responsibilities for eight sectors. His response projected supreme confidence: "CISA has unique capacity for both cyber and physical risk management. It is, of course, the calling admission of our agency, so we do work closely to support and enable further maturation of each sector for which we are the SRMA."<sup>2</sup>

I would like to understand what CISA's SRMA activities entail, how these lines of effort are organized, and whether CISA has the resources, relationships, and sector expertise to carry out both roles effectively. Please respond to the following questions by October 28, 2022:

1. For each of the following sectors, please elaborate on how CISA supports the sector as SRMA, including any unique activities, initiatives, or risk management efforts that are currently underway for that sector, recent engagements with sector coordinating councils and the number of entities in the sector enrolled in CISA programs and services.
  - a. Chemical.
  - b. Commercial Facilities.
  - c. Communications.
  - d. Critical Manufacturing.
  - e. Dams.
  - f. Emergency Services.
  - g. Government Facilities.
  - h. Information Technology.
  - i. Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste.
  - j. Transportation Systems.
2. For sectors CISA serves as SRMA, does CISA provide a dedicated sector liaison or point of contact to manage requests from sector owners and operators, maintain relationships within the sector, and otherwise track security and resilience for that sector?
3. For sectors that CISA serves as SRMA, how frequently does CISA request information or solicit feedback from the sector to understand and prioritize sector risks, identify security gaps, and track the effectiveness of various security measures for that sector? Does CISA provide a dedicated sector liaison or point of contact for its SRMA sectors?
4. Please provide an assessment of the greatest risk in each sector and your plan and timeline for addressing it.

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<sup>2</sup> Testimony of Eric Goldstein, CISA Executive Assistant Director for Cybersecurity, before the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation, Committee on Homeland Security, U.S. House of Representatives, hearing entitled "Building on our Baseline: Securing Industrial Control Systems from Cyberattacks," September 15, 2022.

5. What is the status of the update to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan? Once the National Plan is complete, how will CISA go about updating sector-specific plans for sectors it serves as SRMA? What is the timeline for both efforts?

There must be greater transparency and accountability around CISA's role as a SRMA, how it measures success, and whether it has the authorities and resources it needs to oversee multiple sectors of critical infrastructure effectively and exclusively.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ritchie Torres", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ritchie Torres  
Vice Chairman