IT Continuity Planning in Government

Released: April 2010

1st Follow-up: October 2011

Discussed by the Public Accounts Committee: February 2011 Transcript

Self-assessment conducted by Emergency Management BC

EMBC & SSBC continue to address the recommendations of the Office of the Auditor General and are pleased to report on our status.

- Substantial progress has been made since OAG released "IT Continuity Planning in Government".

- Of the 9 recommendations, 6 have been fully or substantially implemented while 3 are still underway.

- Current progress on the remaining 3 recommendations are discussed in detail below.

- EMBC and SSBC remain fully committed to the implementation of all 9 recommendations and thanks The Office of the Auditor General for its ongoing support.

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED IN PREVIOUS FOLLOW-UP REPORT(S)	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
Recommendation 1: Preparation of a business impact analysis and risk assessments annually, as outlined in government policy	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 4: Assessment of risk associated with alternate arrangements being in the same geographical area as the primary operations and data centre facility, and feasibility of relocation	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 5: Finalization of business continuity plans for all mission-critical business functions	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 6: Preparation of disaster recovery plans to support the availability of significant operating environments and network infrastructures within the timelines required	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 7: Inclusion, in contracts with third-party providers of critical services, of provisions regarding both the preparation and testing of business and IT continuity plans and	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 9: Updating of business continuity plans for all mission-critical business functions annually	**Fully or substantially implemented**

Recommendations (Cont.)

RECOMMENDATION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
Recommendation 2: Prioritization of the recovery of mission-critical applications at the ministry level and across government	**No action taken**

Actions taken, results and/or actions planned

EMBC & SSBC have determined that recommendation 3, the establishment of recovery timelines, must complete before recommendation 2 can occur because prioritization requires accurate and agreed upon recovery timelines in order to be effective. Work on this recommendation will begin once the cross government information sessions referenced below have been delivered.

Recommendation 3: Establishment of realistic and achievable recovery timelines for shared systems and program applications	**Partially implemented**

Actions taken, results and/or actions planned

SSBC and EMBC are preparing materials for the cross government launch of Service Bulletin 178 Information Sessions. These sessions will be held for Ministry Executives, Advisors and IT professionals and are designed to assist ministries develop appropriate recovery timelines and strategies.

Recommendation 8: Regular testing of continuity plans and restoration procedures for all mission-critical applications and supporting systems	**Partially implemented**

Actions taken, results and/or actions planned

TSD completed a business continuity recovery exercise for mission-critical applications and supporting systems on June 23rd.

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Auditor General of British Columbia | October 2011
Follow-up Report: Updates on the implementation of recommendations from recent reports