

# OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE STATE OF IOWA

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David A. Vaudt, CPA Auditor of State

#### NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

March 27, 2003

Contact: Andy Nielsen 515/281-5515

The Office of Auditor of State today released an audit report on the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission for the years ended June 30, 2002 and 2001.

The Commission had total General Fund receipts of \$462,884 for the year ended June 30, 2002, which included county and city allocations of \$157,530 and landfill gate receipts of \$231,379. The Commission had total General Fund receipts of \$457,884 for the year ended June 30, 2001, which included county and city allocations of \$157,562 and landfill gate receipts of \$217,834.

General Fund disbursements totaled \$212,396 for the year ended June 30, 2002, which included \$31,695 for solid waste disposal fees and \$95,905 for salaries and benefits. General Fund disbursements totaled \$252,949 for the year ended June 30, 2001, which included \$27,050 for solid waste disposal fees and \$94,066 for salaries and benefits.

A copy of the audit report is available for review in the office of the Auditor of State and the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission.

# # #

#### WAYNE-RINGGOLD-DECATUR COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORTS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

JUNE 30, 2002 AND 2001

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#### Officials

<u>Name</u>

<u>Title</u>

Representing

Larry Eastin

Jerry O'Dell

Royce Dredge Bill Carlton Keith Hinds Eldon Still Gus Dittman Mary Davis David Clayton Pam Schreck Roger Potts

Yvonne Andrew Sue Ruble Vice Chair

Chair

Member Member Member Member Member Member Member

Treasurer Secretary Wayne County

**Decatur County** 

Ringgold County City of Humeston City of Leon City of Mount Ayr City of Tingley City of Grand River City of Corydon Wayne County City of Lamoni



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#### Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements, listed as exhibits in the table of contents of this report, of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission for the years ended June 30, 2002 and 2001. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, Chapter 11 of the Code of Iowa, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards and provisions require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in note 1, these financial statements are prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the results of the cash transactions of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission for the years ended June 30, 2002 and 2001, on the basis of accounting described in note 1.

In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued our report dated February 21, 2003 on our consideration of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audits.

February 21, 2003

WARREN G. JENKINS, CPA Chief Deputy Auditor of State

David A. Vaudt, CPA Auditor of State

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**Financial Statements** 

#### **General Fund**

#### Statement of Cash Transactions

# Years ended June 30, 2002 and 2001

		2002	2001
Receipts:			
Allocations from cities and counties	Ş	157,530	157,562
Landfill gate receipts		231,379	217,834
Interest on investments		72,986	78,173
Miscellaneous		989	4,315
Total receipts		462,884	457,884
Disbursements:			
Salaries and benefits		95,905	94,066
Engineering services		20,977	27,545
Iowa Department of Natural Resources tonnage fee		31,695	27,050
Scale expense		84	588
Insurance		20,504	17,487
Diesel fuel and supplies		6,085	8,467
Equipment		-	51,151
Equipment repair, rent and supplies		16,708	11,868
Travel		2,246	2,019
Road rock		898	1,359
Utilities		2,250	1,880
Office operation		6,449	6,202
Ground maintenance		2,519	348
Miscellaneous		6,076	2,919
Total disbursements		212,396	252,949
Excess of receipts over disbursements		250,488	204,935
Other financing uses:			
Operating transfers out:			
Retainage Fund		(10,566)	(9,944)
Closure/Postclosure Fund		(95,480)	(49,495)
Total other financing uses		(106,046)	(59,439)
Excess of receipts over			
disbursements and other financing uses		144,442	145,496
Balance beginning of year		1,351,515	1,206,019
Balance end of year	\$	1,495,957	1,351,515

See notes to financial statements.

**Retainage Fund** 

Statement of Cash Transactions

Years ended June 30, 2002 and 2001

 2002	2001
\$ 1,076	1,453
 -	300
1,076	1,153
 10,566	9,944
11,642	11,097
 68,696	57,599
\$ 80,338	68,696
	\$ 1,076 

See notes to financial statements.

Closure/Postclosure Fund

# Statement of Cash Transactions

Years ended June 30, 2002 and 2001

 2002	2001
\$ 1,604	-
 -	-
1,604	-
 95,480	49,495
97,084	49,495
 286,982	237,487
\$ 384,066	286,982
	\$ 1,604 

See notes to financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2002

# (1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission was formed in 1988 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 28E of the Code of Iowa. The purpose of the Commission is to develop, operate, and maintain solid waste and recycling facilities for member units of government.

The governing body of the Commission is composed of one representative from each of the member units of government. The member counties are Wayne, Ringgold and Decatur; and the member cities are the Iowa cities of Lamoni, Leon, Davis City, Garden Grove, Van Wert, Grand River, Decatur, Weldon, Pleasanton, Le Roy, Mount Ayr, Diagonal, Kellerton, Tingley, Redding, Ellston, Delphos, Maloy, Beaconsfield, Benton, Humeston, Lineville, Clio, Corydon, and Allerton. The commissioners are appointed by the participating political subdivisions and each has one vote for each one thousand population or fraction thereof, which the member represents.

#### A. <u>Reporting Entity</u>

For financial reporting purposes, the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission has included all funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities. The Commission has also considered all potential component units for which it is financially accountable, and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the Commission are such that exclusion would cause the Commission's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. These criteria include appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and (1) the ability of the Commission to impose its will on that organization or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the Commission. The Commission has no component units which meet the Governmental Accounting Standards Board criteria.

#### B. <u>Fund Accounting</u>

The accounts of the Commission are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts which comprise its receipts, disbursements, and fund balances. The various funds and their designated purposes are as follows:

<u>General Fund</u> – This is the general operating fund of the Commission. All receipts that are not related to retainage or closure/postclosure are accounted for in this fund. From the fund are paid the general operating disbursements, the fixed charges and the capital improvement costs that are not paid through other funds.

 $\frac{Retainage Fund}{Pretained} - This fund is utilized to account for the solid waste fees retained by the Commission in accordance with Chapter 455E.11 of the Code of Iowa.$ 

<u>Closure/Postclosure Fund</u> – This fund is utilized to account for all monies held by the Commission to meet the closure and postclosure care requirements for municipal solid waste landfills established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### C. Basis of Accounting

The Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission maintains its financial records on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements and the financial statements of the Commission are prepared on that basis. The cash basis of accounting does not give effect to accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued items including the estimated payables for closure and post-closure care costs. Accordingly, the financial statements do not present the financial position and results of operations of the Commission in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

# (2) Cash and Investments

The Commission's deposits in banks at June 30, 2002 were entirely covered by federal depository insurance or by the State Sinking Fund in accordance with Chapter 12C of the Code of Iowa. This chapter provides for additional assessments against the depositories to insure there will be no loss of public funds.

The Commission is authorized by statute to invest public funds in obligations of the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities; certificates of deposit or other evidences of deposit at federally insured depository institutions approved by the Commission; prime eligible bankers acceptances; certain high rated commercial paper; perfected repurchase agreements; certain registered open-end management investment companies; certain joint investment trusts; and warrants or improvement certificates of a drainage district.

The Commission's investments are categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Commission at year end. The Commission's investments are all category 1, which means that the investments are insured or registered or the securities are held by the Commission or its agent in the Commission's name.

The Commission's investments at June 30, 2002 are as follows:

Туре	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury Bonds	<u>\$ 320,985</u>	328,454

#### (3) **Pension and Retirement Benefits**

The Commission contributes to the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) which is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of Iowa. IPERS provides retirement and death benefits which are established by state statute to plan members and beneficiaries. IPERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. The report may be obtained by writing to IPERS, P.O. Box 9117, Des Moines, Iowa, 50306-9117.

Plan members are required to contribute 3.70% of their annual salary and the Commission is required to contribute 5.75% of annual payroll. Contribution requirements are established by state statute. The Commission's contribution to IPERS for the years ended June 30, 2002, 2001, and 2000 were \$4,793, \$4,797, and \$4,299, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

# (4) Compensated Absences

Commission employees accumulate a limited amount of earned but unused vacation hours for subsequent use or for payment upon resignation or termination. However, sick leave hours are lost upon resignation, retirement, or death. These accumulations are not recognized as disbursements by the Commission until used or paid. The Commission's approximate liability for earned vacation payments to employees at June 30, 2002, primarily relating to the General Fund, is as follows:

Type of Benefit	Amount
Vacation	<u>\$ 1,800</u>

This liability has been computed based on rates of pay in effect at June 30, 2002.

# (5) Closure and Postclosure Care Cost

To comply with federal and state regulations, the Commission is required to complete a monitoring system plan and a closure/postclosure plan and to provide funding necessary to effect closure and postclosure, including the proper monitoring and care of the landfill after closure. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements have established closure and thirty-year care requirements for all municipal solid waste landfills that receive waste after October 9, 1993. State governments are primarily responsible for implementation and enforcement of those requirements and have been given flexibility to tailor requirements to accommodate local conditions that exist. The effect of the EPA requirement is to commit landfill owners to perform certain closing functions and postclosure monitoring functions as a condition for the right to operate the landfill in the current period. The EPA requirements provide that when a landfill stops accepting waste, it must be covered with a minimum of twenty-four inches of earth to keep liquid away from the buried waste. Once the landfill is closed, the owner is responsible for maintaining the final cover, monitoring ground water and methane gas, and collecting and treating leachate (the liquid that drains out of waste) for thirty years.

- Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 18 requires landfill owners to estimate total landfill closure and postclosure care costs and recognize a portion of these costs each year based on the percentage of estimated total landfill capacity used that period. Estimated total costs would consist of four components: (1) the cost of equipment and facilities used in postclosure monitoring and care, (2) the cost of final cover (material and labor), (3) the cost of monitoring the landfill during the postclosure period and (4) the cost of any environmental cleanup required after closure. Estimated total cost would be based on the cost to purchase those services and equipment currently and would be required to be updated annually for changes due to inflation or deflation, technology, or applicable laws or regulations.
- These costs for the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission have been estimated at \$584,037. The Commission has established a closure/postclosure fund to accumulate resources to fund these costs. At June 30, 2002, the balance in this fund was \$384,066.

# (6) Solid Waste Tonnage Fees Retained

The Commission has established an account for restricting and using those portions of solid waste tonnage fees retained by the Commission in accordance with Chapter 455B.310 of the Code of Iowa. As required by the Code of Iowa, fifty cents per ton of the solid waste fee must be used for the following: (1) development and implementation of an approved comprehensive plan, (2) development of a closure or postclosure cost plan, (3) development of a plan for the control and treatment of leachate which may include a facility plan or detailed plans and specifications, and (4) preparation of a financial plan. Forty-five cents per ton of the tonnage fee shall be disbursed to a city, county, or public agency using the sanitary disposal project for the purpose of implementation of waste volume reduction and recycling required by the Commission's approved comprehensive plan. The fees retained may also be used for other environmental protection and environmental compliance activities. An updated comprehensive plan was approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources allowing the Commission to retain an additional twenty-five cents per ton of the tonnage fee. The twenty-five cents per ton of the tonnage fee shall be used for waste reduction, recycling, or small business pollution prevention purposes.

At June 30, 2002, the unspent amounts retained by the Commission and restricted for the required specific purposes totaled \$80,338.

# (7) Risk Management

- The Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission is a member of the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool, as allowed by Chapter 331.301 of the Code of Iowa. The Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (Pool) is a local government risk-sharing pool with over 400 members from various governmental entities throughout the State of Iowa. The Pool was formed in August 1986 for the purpose of managing and funding third-party liability claims against its members. The Pool provides coverage and protection in the following categories: general liability, automobile liability, automobile physical damage, public officials liability, police professional liability, property, inland marine and boiler/machinery. There have been no reductions in insurance coverage from prior years.
- Each member's annual casualty contributions to the Pool fund current operations and provide capital. Annual operating contributions are those amounts necessary to fund, on a cash basis, the Pool's general and administrative expenses, claims, claims expenses and reinsurance expenses due and payable in the current year, plus all or any portion of any deficiency in capital. Capital contributions are made during the first six years of membership and are maintained to equal 300 percent of the total current member's basis rates or to comply with the requirements of any applicable regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the Pool.
- The Pool also provides property coverage. Members who elect such coverage make annual operating contributions which are necessary to fund, on a cash basis, the Pool's general and administrative expenses and reinsurance premiums, all of which are due and payable in the current year, plus all or any portion of any deficiency in capital. Any year-end operating surplus is transferred to capital. Deficiencies in operations are offset by transfers from capital and, if insufficient, by the subsequent year's member contributions.
- The Commission's casualty contributions to the risk pool are recorded as disbursements from its operating fund at the time of payment to the risk pool. The Commission's annual contributions to the Pool for the year ended June 30, 2002 were \$7,080.

- The Pool uses reinsurance and excess risk-sharing agreements to reduce its exposure to large losses. The Pool retains general, automobile, police professional, and public officials' liability risks up to \$250,000 per claim. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in aggregate per year. For members requiring specific coverage from \$2,000,000 to \$15,000,000, such excess coverage is also reinsured. All property risks, including automobile physical damage, are also reinsured on an individual-member basis.
- The Pool's intergovernmental contract with its members provides that in the event a casualty claim or series of claims exceeds the amount of risk-sharing protection provided by the member's risk-sharing certificate, or in the event that a series of casualty claims exhausts total members' equity plus any reinsurance and any excess risk sharing-recoveries, then payment of such claims shall be the obligation of the respective individual member. At June 30, 2002, settled claims have not exceeded the risk pool or reinsurance company coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.
- Members agree to continue membership in the Pool for a period of not less than one full year. After such period, a member who has given 60 days prior written notice may withdraw from the Pool. Upon withdrawal, payments for all claims and claims expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim was incurred or reported prior to the member's withdrawal. Members withdrawing within the first six years of membership may receive a partial refund of their capital contributions. If a member withdraws after the sixth year, the member is refunded 100 percent of its capital contributions. However, the refund is reduced by an amount equal to the annual operating contribution which the withdrawing member would have made for the one-year period following withdrawal.
- The Commission also carries commercial insurance purchased from other insurers for coverages associated with workers compensation, auto, commercial property, commercial inland marine, and employee blanket bond. The Commission assumes liability for any deductibles and claims in excess of coverage limitations. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance and on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

#### Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance and on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

To the Members of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission:

We have audited the financial statements of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission as of and for the year ended June 30, 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated February 21, 2003. Our report expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements, which were prepared in conformity with an other comprehensive basis of accounting. We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, Chapter 11 of the Code of Iowa, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

#### **Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, non-compliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of non-compliance that are required to be reported under <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>.

Comments involving statutory and other legal matters about the Commission's operations for the year ended June 30, 2002 are based exclusively on knowledge obtained from procedures performed during our audit of the financial statements of the Commission. Since our audit was based on tests and samples, not all transactions that might have had an impact on the comments were necessarily audited. The comments involving statutory and other legal matters are not intended to constitute legal interpretations of those statutes. Prior year statutory comments have all been resolved except for item (1).

#### **Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings.

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be



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material weaknesses. However, we believe that the reportable condition (A) described above is a material weakness. Prior year reportable conditions have been resolved except for item (A).

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information of the members and customers of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission and other parties to whom the Commission may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission during the course of our audit. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience.

February 21, 2003

WARREN G. JENKINS, CPA Chief Deputy Auditor of State

Schedule of Findings

June 30, 2002

#### **<u>Findings Related to the Financial Statements</u>:**

#### **INSTANCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE:**

No matters were reported.

#### **REPORTABLE CONDITIONS:**

- (A) <u>Segregation of Duties</u> During our review of internal control, the existing control activities are evaluated in order to determine that incompatible duties, from a control standpoint, are not performed by the same employee. This segregation of duties helps to prevent losses from employee error or dishonesty and therefore maximizes the accuracy of the Commission's financial statements. Generally, one individual has control over investments, receipts, and accounts receivable.
  - <u>Recommendation</u> We realize that with a limited number of office employees, segregation of duties is difficult. However, the Commission should review its operating procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances.

<u>Response</u> – We will comply with the recommendation to the extent possible.

<u>Conclusion</u> – Response accepted.

#### **Other Findings Related to Required Statutory Reporting:**

- <u>Official Depositories</u> A resolution naming official depositories was adopted by the Commission. The maximum deposit amounts stated in the resolution for Corydon State Bank, American State Bank, and US Banks were exceeded during the year ended June 30, 2002.
  - <u>Recommendation</u> A new resolution in amounts sufficient to cover anticipated balances at the approved depositories should be adopted by the Commission.

<u>Response</u> – Will discuss adoption of new resolution at next Commission meeting.

<u>Conclusion</u> – Response accepted.

- (2) <u>Questionable Disbursements</u> No disbursements that may not meet the requirements of public purpose as defined in an Attorney General's opinion dated April 25, 1979 were noted.
- (3) <u>Travel Expense</u> No disbursements of Commission money for travel expenses of spouses of Commission officials or employees were noted.
- (4) <u>Commission Minutes</u> No transactions were found that we believe should have been approved in the Commission minutes but were not.
- (5) <u>Cash and Investments</u> Except as noted above, no instances of non-compliance with the deposit and investment provisions of Chapter 12B and Chapter 12C of the Code of Iowa and the Commission's investment policy were noted,

# Schedule of Findings

June 30, 2002

- (6) <u>Solid Waste Tonnage Fees Retained</u> During the year ended June 30, 2002, the Commission used or retained the solid waste tonnage fees in accordance with Chapter 455B.310(3) (4) of the Code of Iowa.
- (7) <u>Financial Assurance</u> The Commission has demonstrated financial assurance for closure and postclosure care costs as required by Chapter 111.6(9) of the Iowa Administrative Code. The calculation is made as follows:

Total estimated costs for closure and postclosure care costs at June 30, 2002	\$	584,037
Less: Balance of funds held in the local dedicated fund at June 30, 2001		(286,982) 297,055
Divided by the number of years remaining in the pay-in period	÷	6
Required payment into the local dedicated fund for the year ended June 30, 2002		49,509
Balance of funds held in the local dedicated fund at June 30, 2001		286,982
Required balance of funds held in the local dedicated fund at June 30, 2002	<u>\$</u>	336,491
Amount Commission has restricted and reserved for closure and postclosure care at June 30, 2002	\$	384,066

Schedule of Findings

June 30, 2002

Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur County Solid Waste Management Commission

Staff

This audit was performed by:

Steven M. Nottger, CPA, Manager Daniel L. Durbin, CPA, Staff Auditor Heather Templeton, Assistant Auditor

> Andrew E. Nielsen, CPA Deputy Auditor of State