



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Energy

AUDIT REPORT

DOE-OIG-20-08

November 2019

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY
COMMISSION'S FISCAL YEAR 2019
FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT**



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 13, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Sarah B. Nelson

FROM: Sarah B. Nelson
Assistant Inspector General
for Technology, Financial, and Analytics
Office of Inspector General

SUBJECT: INFORMATION: Audit Report on the “Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission’s Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Statement Audit”

The attached report presents the results of the independent certified public accountants’ audit of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) balance sheets, as of September 30, 2019, and 2018, and the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, custodial activity, and budgetary resources for the years then ended.

To fulfill the Office of Inspector General’s audit responsibilities, we contracted with the independent public accounting firm of KPMG LLP to conduct the audit, subject to our review. KPMG LLP is responsible for expressing an opinion on FERC’s financial statements and reporting on applicable internal controls and compliance with laws and regulations. The Office of Inspector General monitored audit progress and reviewed the audit report and related documentation. This review disclosed no instances where KPMG LLP did not comply, in all material respects, with generally accepted government auditing standards. The Office of Inspector General did not express an independent opinion on FERC’s financial statements.

KPMG LLP concluded that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of FERC as of September 30, 2019, and 2018, and its net costs, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the years then ended, in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

As part of this review, auditors also considered FERC’s internal controls over financial reporting and tested for compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. The audit did not identify any deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that is considered a material weakness.

The results of the auditors' review of FERC's compliance with certain laws and regulations disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards or applicable Office of Management and Budget guidance.

We appreciate the cooperation of your staff during the audit.

Attachment

cc: Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC
Chief Financial Officer, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC
Deputy Chief Financial Officer, CF-2
Director, Office of Finance and Accounting, CF-10
Director, Office of Financial Policy and Audit Resolution, CF-20
Audit Resolution Specialist, Office of Financial Policy and Audit Resolution, CF-20
Audit Liaison, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC

Audit Report: DOE-OIG-20-08

Department financial reports are available for download on the Office of the Chief Financial Officer website: <http://www.energy.gov//cfo/reports/agency-financial-reports>.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT



KPMG LLP
Suite 12000
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Washington, DC 20006

Independent Auditors' Report

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and
Inspector General, United States Department of Energy

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the Commission), which comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2019 and 2018 and the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, custodial activity, and statements of budgetary resources for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, in accordance with the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and in accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 19-03, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*. Those standards and OMB Bulletin No. 19-03 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as of September 30, 2019 and 2018, and its net costs, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the years then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.



Other Matters

Interactive Data

Management has elected to reference to information on websites or other forms of interactive data outside the Agency Financial Report to provide additional information for the users of its financial statements. Such information is not a required part of the basic financial statements or supplementary information required by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. The information on these websites or the other interactive data has not been subjected to any of our auditing procedures, and accordingly we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Required Supplementary Information

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require that the information in the Management's Discussion and Analysis and Required Supplementary Information sections be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audits of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements as a whole. The Letter from Chairman Chatterjee, Strategic Plan Summary, Message from the Chief Financial Officer, Other Information – (including the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) Reporting, Fraud Reduction Report, and Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustment for Inflation), Appendix A: Statutory Authority, and Appendix B: Acronym Listing of the Agency Financial Report are presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. We did not test all internal controls relevant to operating objectives as broadly defined by the *Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982*.



A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019 are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance 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 noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* or OMB Bulletin No. 19-03.

We also performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions referred to in Section 803(a) of the *Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996* (FFMIA). Providing an opinion on compliance with FFMIA was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances in which the Commission's financial management systems did not substantially comply with the (1) Federal financial management systems requirements, (2) applicable Federal accounting standards, and (3) the United States Government Standard General Ledger at the transaction level.

Purpose of the Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

The purpose of the communication described in the Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards* section is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control or compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

KPMG LLP

Washington, D.C.
November 6, 2019

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