



Washington State Auditor's Office Performance Audit Description

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Troy Kelley
Washington State Auditor

Director of State and
Performance Audit
Chuck Pfeil, CPA
(360) 902-0366

Chuck.Pfeil@sao.wa.gov

Principal Performance Auditor

Chris Cortines
(206) 355-1546

Christopher.Cortines@sao.wa.gov

Senior Performance Auditor

Deborah Stephens
(360) 725-5565

Deborah.Stephens@sao.wa.gov

Washington State Auditor
State Auditor's Office
P.O. Box 40021
Olympia, WA
98504-0021
www.sao.wa.gov

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Regulatory Reform – Expanding Regulatory Agency Coordination

Program background

Washington's businesses are regulated by 26 state agencies, as well as by multiple federal agencies and local jurisdictions. In some cases, a single project can require more than a dozen regulatory approvals from state agencies alone. Businesses must navigate each of those approvals from the individual relevant agencies. When regulatory agencies work together on project approvals, such as leveraging resources, sharing information, or coordinating the timing of some portions of the regulatory processes, the result can be reduced time and cost for both businesses and government.

In focus groups conducted around the state during the previous regulatory reform audit on permit timeliness, business representatives often identified increased agency coordination of regulatory processes as one of their priorities to improve permitting.

Audit overview

This audit will focus on the coordination among agencies aimed at ensuring regulatory approvals for businesses are as efficient as possible. The audit is the third in a series of State Auditor's Office performance audits that looks at how the state could improve the way it interacts with businesses.

Scope and objectives

This audit will seek to examine regulatory agencies' coordination of processes for approving or denying business project applications. It will seek to answer these questions:

- Are state agencies currently coordinating to minimize resources needed for businesses' regulatory approvals?
- Do opportunities exist for expanded coordination among Washington's regulatory agencies?

Timing

We estimate audit results will be released in summer 2015.

For more information

Our first two regulatory reform audits titled "Regulatory Reform: Communicating Regulatory Information and Streamlining Business Rules" and "Regulatory Reform: Improving Permit Timeliness" are available online at <http://www.sao.wa.gov/state/Pages/RegReform.aspx>.

Our Inventory of Regulations that provides detailed information about the state's business permits, licenses, and inspections is also available on the same webpage.