

Washington State Auditor's Office

Report on Compliance with the Energy Independence Act

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

Report Date
November 25, 2013

Report No. 1010881

Issue Date
December 9, 2013



WASHINGTON
TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor
Troy Kelley**

December 9, 2013

Board of Commissioners
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
Wenatchee, Washington

Report on Compliance with the Energy Independence Act

In November 2006, Washington voters approved Initiative 937, also referred to as the Energy Independence Act. The Act requires electric utilities with more than 25,000 customers to meet renewable energy and energy conservation targets.

Our Office is required to examine municipal utilities' and public utility districts' compliance with these targets. As of this reporting period, 12 such utilities with more than 25,000 customers were operating in Washington State. Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County is one of those utilities.

Please note that our examination of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's renewable compliance did not include a complete examination of its incremental hydro methodology. We conducted sufficient procedures to conclude on compliance with its renewables target. During our examination, we expressed concerns to Utility management about their interpretation of the Act. Subsequent to our audit, the Utility will resolve those concerns through the Department of Commerce's Advisory Opinion process under RCW 19.285.045. The Department's Advisory Opinions are available to the public at <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/Programs/Energy/Office/Utilities/Pages/EIA-Advisory-Opinions.aspx>. We will include the conclusions of the Utility's Advisory Opinion in our next examination of the Utility.

Please find attached our report on the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's compliance with the Act.

Sincerely,

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR

Independent Auditor's Report

Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012

Board of Commissioners
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County
Wenatchee, Washington

We have examined the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County's compliance with the following requirements of the Energy Independence Act codified in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 19.285.040. Specifically, we examined whether the Utility:

- Complied with its renewable energy target in accordance with the Act's requirements. The target compliance period was January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.
- Complied with its energy conservation target in accordance with the Act's requirements. The target compliance period was January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

Management is responsible for the Utility's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Utility's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Accordingly, it included examining on a test basis, evidence about the Utility's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Utility's compliance.

In our opinion, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned statutory requirements as of the annual renewable compliance period ended December 31, 2012 and the two-year conservation compliance period ended December 31, 2011.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report significant deficiencies in internal control, identifying those considered to be material weaknesses, noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that could have a material effect on compliance with the aforementioned requirements of the Act and any fraud and illegal acts that are more than inconsequential that come to our attention during our examination. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Utility complied with the Energy Independence Act's requirements and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the internal control over compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

Our examination disclosed no issues that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. Additionally, we issued a letter to management dated November 25, 2013. The letter communicates other observations regarding the Utility's renewable energy calculation

methodology. These observations are not required to be included in our report because they did not result in recommendations for improvement.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy X. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "X" between the first and last names.

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR

November 25, 2013



ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver services effectively and efficiently.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. We provide training and technical assistance to governments and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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