



Washington State Auditor's Office

Troy Kelley

Integrity • Respect • Independence

Report on Compliance with the Energy Independence Act

Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County

For the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013

Published August 21, 2014

Report No. 1012401





Washington State Auditor Troy Kelley

August 21, 2014

Board of Commissioners
Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County
Longview, 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 Cowlitz County is one of those utilities.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy X. Kelley".

TROY KELLEY

STATE AUDITOR

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Commissioners
Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County
Longview, Washington

We have examined Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County's compliance with the 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, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
- Complied with its energy conservation target in accordance with the Act's requirements. The target compliance period was January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

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, Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned statutory requirements as of the annual renewable compliance and two-year conservation compliance periods ended December 31, 2013.

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 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*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy X. Kelley". The "X" is likely a initials or a mark.

TROY KELLEY

STATE AUDITOR

August 15, 2014

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 to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

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.

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 as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

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

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