

Office of the State Auditor

Audit Report

State of New Jersey

Pinelands Commission

July 1, 1994 to May 31, 1996

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Pinelands Commission
Audit Report
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The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Governor of New Jersey

The Honorable Donald T. DiFrancesco
President of the Senate

The Honorable Jack Collins
Speaker of the General Assembly

Mr. Albert Porroni
Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services

We have completed an audit of the Pinelands Commission for the period July 1, 1994 through May 31, 1996.

We found that the financial transactions included in our testing were related to the agency's programs, were reasonable, and were recorded properly in the accounting system.

This audit was conducted pursuant to the State Auditor's responsibilities as set forth in Article VII, Section 1, Paragraph 6 of the State Constitution and Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes.

Richard L. Fair
State Auditor
October 8, 1996

State of New Jersey Pinelands Commission

Scope

We have completed an audit of the Pinelands Commission for the period July 1, 1994 through May 31, 1996.

Total expenditures of the agency during the 23 month audit period were \$5.6 million. The prime responsibility of Pinelands Commission is to protect and preserve the region's natural resources, including the 17 trillion gallon aquifer known as the Cohansey, from the pressures of development. Revenues of the agency totaled \$5.9 million during our audit period and the major component of revenue was the annual state appropriation.

Objectives

The objectives of our audit were to determine whether financial transactions were related to the agency's programs, were reasonable, and were recorded properly in the accounting system. We also tested for resolution of significant issues noted in our prior report.

This audit was conducted pursuant to the State Auditor's responsibilities as set forth in Article VII, Section 1, Paragraph 6 of the State Constitution and Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes.

Methodology

Our audit was conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

In preparation for our testing, we studied legislation, administrative code, and policies of the agency. Provisions that we considered significant were documented and compliance with those requirements was verified by interview and observation and through our samples of financial transactions. We also read the budget message, reviewed financial trends, and interviewed agency personnel to obtain an understanding of the programs and the internal control structure.

A nonstatistical sampling approach was used. Our samples of financial transactions were designed to provide conclusions about the validity of transactions as well as internal control and compliance attributes. Sample transactions were selected judgmentally and certain accounts were selected for further review and analysis.

To ascertain the status of findings included in our prior report, we identified corrective action, if any, taken by the agency and walked through the system to determine if the corrective action was effective.

Conclusions

We found that the financial transactions included in our testing were related to the agency's programs, were reasonable, and were properly recorded in the accounting system. We also found that the agency has taken steps to resolve the significant issues noted in our prior report.