



# Reporting and insights from 2022 audit:

## Stoughton Utilities

December 31, 2022

# Executive summary

May 8, 2023

Utilities Committee and City Council  
Stoughton Utilities  
600 South Fourth Street  
Stoughton, WI 53589

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of Stoughton Utilities (the Utilities) for the year ended December 31, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated May 8, 2023. This letter presents communications required by our professional standards.

Your audit should provide you with confidence in your financial statements. The audit was performed based on information obtained from meetings with management, data from your systems, knowledge of your Utilities' operating environment and our risk assessment procedures. We strive to provide you clear, concise communication throughout the audit process and of the final results of our audit.

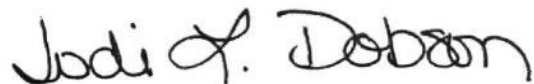
Additionally, we have included information on key risk areas Stoughton Utilities should be aware of in your strategic planning. We are available to discuss these risks as they relate to your organization's financial stability and future planning.

If you have questions at any point, please connect with us:

- Jodi Dobson, Partner: [jodi.dobson@bakertilly.com](mailto:jodi.dobson@bakertilly.com) or +1 (608) 240 2469

Sincerely,

Baker Tilly US, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi L. Dobson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jodi L. Dobson, Partner

THIS COMMUNICATION IS INTENDED SOLELY FOR THE INFORMATION AND USE OF THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE, AND, IF APPROPRIATE, MANAGEMENT, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE AND SHOULD NOT BE USED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THESE SPECIFIED PARTIES.

BAKER TILLY US, LLP, TRADING AS BAKER TILLY, IS A MEMBER OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF BAKER TILLY INTERNATIONAL LTD., THE MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT LEGAL ENTITIES.

# Responsibilities

## Our responsibilities

As your independent auditor, our responsibilities include:

- Planning and performing the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance.
- Assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Included in that assessment is a consideration of the Utilities' internal control over financial reporting.
- Performing appropriate procedures based upon our risk assessment.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management.
- Forming and expressing an opinion based on our audit about whether the financial statements prepared by management, with the oversight of the Utilities Committee:
  - Are free from material misstatement
  - Present fairly, in all material respects and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Our audit does not relieve management or the Utilities Committee of their responsibilities.

We are also required to communicate significant matters related to our audit that are relevant to the responsibilities of the Utilities Committee, including:

- Internal control matters
- Qualitative aspects of the Utilities' accounting practice including policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures
- Significant unusual transactions
- Significant difficulties encountered
- Disagreements with management
- Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditors' report
- Audit consultations outside the engagement team
- Corrected and uncorrected misstatements
- Other audit findings or issues

# Audit status

## Significant changes to the audit plan

There were no significant changes made to either our planned audit strategy or to the significant risks and other areas of emphasis identified during the performance of our risk assessment procedures.

# Audit approach and results

## Planned scope and timing

### Audit focus

Based on our understanding of the Utilities' and environment in which you operate, we focused our audit on the following key areas:

- Key transaction cycles
- Areas with significant estimates
- Implementation of new accounting standards

Our areas of audit focus were informed by, among other things, our assessment of materiality. Materiality in the context of our audit was determined based on specific qualitative and quantitative factors combined with our expectations about the Utilities' current year results.

## Key areas of focus and significant findings

### Significant risks of material misstatement

A significant risk is an identified and assessed risk of material misstatement that, in the auditor's professional judgment, requires special audit consideration. Within our audit, we focused on the following areas below.

Significant risk areas	Testing approach	Conclusion
Management override of controls	Incorporate unpredictability into audit procedures, emphasize professional skepticism and utilize audit team with industry expertise	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion
Improper revenue recognition due to fraud	Confirmation or validation of certain revenues supplemented with detailed predictive analytics based on non-financial data and substantive testing of related receivables	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion

### Other areas of emphasis

We also focused on other areas that did not meet the definition of a significant risk, but were determined to require specific awareness and a unique audit response.

Other areas of emphasis		
Cash and investments	Revenues and receivables	General disbursements
Payroll	Pension and OPEB liabilities	Long-term debt
Capital assets including infrastructure	Net position calculations	Financial reporting and required disclosures

## Internal control matters

We considered the Utilities' internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements. We are not expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Utilities' internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

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 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. We identified the following deficiencies as material weaknesses:

- **Financial statement close process**

Properly designed systems of internal control provide your organization with the ability to process and record accurate monthly and year-end transactions and annual financial reports.

Our audit includes a review and evaluation of the internal controls relating to financial reporting. Common attributes of a properly designed system of internal control for financial reporting are as follows:

- There is adequate staffing to prepare financial reports throughout the year and at year-end.
- Material misstatements are identified and corrected during the normal course of duties.
- Complete and accurate financial statements, including footnotes, are prepared.
- Financial reports are independently reviewed for completeness and accuracy.

Our evaluation of the internal controls over financial reporting has identified control deficiencies that are considered material weakness surrounding the preparation of financial statements and footnotes, adjusting journal entries identified by the auditors, and an independent review of financial reports.

Management has not prepared financial statements that are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

## Other comments and recommendations

- The Utilities should have a process to monitor routine and non-routine vendors such that they are able to record payables within a timely basis after year end. Due to no process currently being in place, late adjustments occur leading to additional work for utility staff and increasing audit and reporting efforts. This also increases the possibility that costs will not be recorded in the proper period resulting in reporting errors.

# Required communications

## Qualitative aspect of accounting practices

- Accounting policies: Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we have advised management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Utilities are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As described in Note 1, the Utilities changed accounting policies related to leases accounting by adopting GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases* effective January 1, 2022. We noted no transactions entered into by the Utilities during the year for which accounting policies are controversial or for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus or diversity in practice.
- Accounting estimates: Accounting estimates, including fair value estimates, are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements, the degree of subjectivity involved in their development and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The following estimates are of most significance to the financial statements:

Estimate	Management's process to determine	Baker Tilly's conclusions regarding reasonableness
Accrued compensated absences	Evaluation of hours earned and accumulated in accordance with employment policies and average wage per hour rates	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Net pension liability and related deferrals	Evaluation of information provided by the Wisconsin Retirement System	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Fair value of ATC investment	Information provided by and confirmed by ATC	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole

There have been no significant changes made by management to either the processes used to develop the particularly sensitive accounting estimates, or to the significant assumptions used to develop the estimates, noted above.

- Financial statement disclosures: The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear.

## Significant unusual transactions

There have been no significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the Utilities or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size or nature.

## Significant difficulties encountered during the audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management and completing our audit.

## **Disagreements with management**

Professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

## **Audit report**

There have been no departures from the auditors' standard report.

## **Audit consultations outside the engagement team**

We encountered no difficult or contentious matters for which we consulted outside of the engagement team.

## **Uncorrected misstatements and corrected misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial and to communicate accumulated misstatements to management. Management is in agreement with the misstatements we have identified, and they have been corrected in the financial statements.

## **Other audit findings or issues**

We encountered no other audit findings or issues that require communication at this time.

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Utilities' auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

## **Management's consultations with other accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing or accounting matters.

## **Written communications between management and Baker Tilly**

The attachments include copies of other material written communications, including a copy of the management representation letter.

## **Compliance with laws and regulations**

We did not identify any non-compliance with laws and regulations during our audit.

## **Fraud**

We did not identify any known or suspected fraud during our audit.



## Going concern

Pursuant to professional standards, we are required to communicate to you, when applicable, certain matters relating to our evaluation of the Utilities' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time but no less than 12 months from the date of the financial statements, including the effects on the financial statements and the adequacy of the related disclosures, and the effects on the auditor's report. No such matters or conditions have come to our attention during our engagement.

## Independence

We are not aware of any relationships between Baker Tilly and the Utilities' that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

## Related parties

We did not have any significant findings or issues arise during the audit in connection with the Utilities' related parties.

## Other matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to the supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

## Nonattest services

The following nonattest services were provided by Baker Tilly:

- Financial statement preparation
- Adjusting journal entries

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

# Audit committee resources

Visit our resource page for regulatory updates, trending challenges and opportunities in your industry and other timely updates.

Visit the resource page at <https://www.bakertilly.com/insights/audit-committee-resource-page>.

# Management representation letter



**Stoughton Utilities**

600 South Fourth Street  
P.O. Box 383  
Stoughton, WI 53589-0383

*Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Needs Since 1886*

May 8, 2023

Baker Tilly US, LLP  
4807 Innovate Ln, PO Box 7398  
Madison, WI 53707-7398

Dear Baker Tilly US, LLP:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Stoughton Utilities as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 and for the years then ended for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Stoughton Utilities results of operations, and cash flows of its proprietary funds in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the previously mentioned financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting, and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your audit.

### **Financial Statements**

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated November 17, 2022.
- 2) The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have engaged you to advise us in fulfilling that responsibility. The financial statements include all properly classified funds of the utility required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- 3) We acknowledge our responsibility for 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.



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- 4) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- 5) Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, if any, are reasonable.
- 6) All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. No other events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the aforementioned financial statements.
- 7) All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- 8) We are not aware of any known actual, possible, pending, or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments or unasserted claims or assessments that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
- 9) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the Utility is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

#### **Information Provided**

- 10) We have provided you with:
  - a) Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as financial records and related data, documentation, and other matters.
  - b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
  - c) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
  - d) Minutes of the meetings of Stoughton Utilities Committee or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- 11) We have disclosed to you results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- 12) We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
  - a) Management,
  - b) Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
  - c) Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 13) We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others.

- 14) We have no knowledge of known instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- 15) We have disclosed to you the names of our related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions, including side agreements, of which we are aware.

**Other**

- 16) There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
- 17) We have taken timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud, noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that you have reported to us.
- 18) We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
- 19) We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- 20) The Utility has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources or fund balance or net position.
- 21) We are responsible for compliance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits, debt contracts, and IRS arbitrage regulations; and we have identified and disclosed to you all federal, state, and local laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- 22) There are no:
  - a) Violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, federal, state, and local laws or regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance, except those already disclosed in the financial statement, if any.
  - b) Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
  - c) Rates being charged to customers other than the rates as authorized by the applicable authoritative body.
  - d) Violations of restrictions placed on revenues as a result of bond resolution covenants such as revenue distribution or debt service funding.

23) In regards to the nonattest services performed by you listed below, we acknowledge our responsibility related to these nonattest services and have 1) accepted all management responsibility; 2) designated an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee the services; 3) evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed, and 4) accepted responsibility for the results of the services.

a) Financial statement preparation

b) Adjusting journal entries

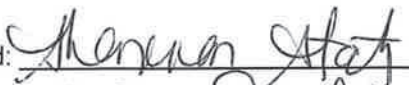
None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

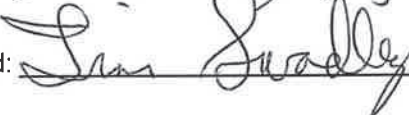
- 24) Stoughton Utilities has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
- 25) Stoughton Utilities has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statement in the event of noncompliance.
- 26) Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
- 27) Stoughton Utilities has no derivative financial instruments such as contracts that could be assigned to someone else or net settled, interest rate swaps, collars or caps.
- 28) Provisions for uncollectible receivables, if any, have been properly identified and recorded.
- 29) Deposits and investments are properly classified, valued, and disclosed (including risk disclosures, collateralization agreements, valuation methods, and key inputs, as applicable).
- 30) Provision, when material, has been made to reduce excess or obsolete inventories to their estimated net realizable value.
- 31) Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated/amortized. Any known impairments have been recorded and disclosed.
- 32) Tax-exempt bonds issued have retained their tax-exempt status.
- 33) We have appropriately disclosed Stoughton Utilities' policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available and have determined that net position were properly recognized under the policy.
- 34) We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
- 35) With respect to the supplementary information, (SI):

- a) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SI in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the SI, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the SI have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.
- b) If the SI is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
- 36) We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the information provided by the Wisconsin Retirement System as audited by the Legislative Audit Bureau relating to the net pension asset/liability and related deferred outflows and deferred inflows and have adequately considered the reasonableness of the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We also assume responsibility for the census data that has been reported to the plan.
- 37) We have implemented GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, and believe that all required disclosures and accounting considerations have been identified and properly classified in the financial statements in compliance with the Standard.
- 38) With regards to the Commitment to Community program, we do not participate in the state program, however our local program reporting requirements are being met through joint reporting by WPPI Energy. As such no report needs to be prepared or filed by the utility.
- 39) The auditing standards define an annual report as "a document, or combination of documents, typically prepared on an annual basis by management or those charged with governance in accordance with law, regulation, or custom, the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on the entity's operations and the financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements." Among other items, an annual report contains, accompanies, or incorporates by reference the financial statements and the auditors' report thereon. We confirm that we do not prepare and have no plans to prepare an annual report.
- 40) Any direct borrowings, direct placements, lines of credit or debt default clauses have been identified and properly disclosed.

Sincerely,

Stoughton Utilities

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_



# Client service team



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# Accounting changes relevant to Stoughton Utilities

## Future accounting standards update

GASB Statement Number	Description	Potentially Impacts you	Effective Date
94	Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements		12/31/23
96	Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements	✓	12/31/23
99	Omnibus 2022	✓	12/31/23
100	Accounting Changes and Error Corrections	✓	12/31/24
101	Compensated Absences	✓	12/31/24

Further information on upcoming [GASB pronouncements](#).

## Determining if GASB 94 applies for your organization

GASB 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements* provides guidance related to public-private and public-public partnerships (PPP) and availability payment arrangements (APA).

A PPP is an arrangement in which an entity contracts with an operator to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use infrastructure or other capital asset. A common example of PPP is a service concession arrangement.

An APA is an arrangement in which an entity compensates an operator for services that may include designing, constructing, financing, maintaining, or operating an asset.

The Utility should start to identify any contracts that could meet either definition to ensure they are reviewed for applicability and accounted for correctly when the standard is effective. Initial steps include reviewing contracts that did not meet the definition of a lease under GASB 87 and identifying any other agreements where the organization contracts with or partners with another entity to provide services.

## **Future accounting for subscription-based IT arrangements**

Subscription-based IT arrangements include contracts that convey control of the right to use another party's IT software. It would not include any licensing arrangements that provide a perpetual license, which would still be accounted for as an intangible asset. Subscription-based IT arrangements are becoming more and more popular with IT vendors. This standard mirrors the new lease standard. The Utility will be able to utilize the systems put into place to implement the lease standard to properly account for these contracts. Common examples of these contracts in the utility industry include:

- Leasing space in the cloud
- GIS systems
- SCADA systems
- Some work order or inventory systems as well as some general ledger or billing systems

The Utility should work with its IT department and department managers to determine a population listing of contracts that would fall under this standard to determine the potential future impact to financial reporting.

# Two-way audit communications

As part of our audit of your financial statements, we are providing communications to you throughout the audit process. Auditing requirements provide for two-way communication and are important in assisting the auditor and you with more information relevant to the audit.

As this past audit is concluded, we use what we have learned to begin the planning process for next year's audit. It is important that you understand the following points about the scope and timing of our next audit:

- a. We address the significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, through our detailed audit procedures.
- b. We will obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control sufficient to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. We will obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to evaluate the design of controls relevant to an audit of financial statements and to determine whether they have been implemented. We will use such knowledge to:
  - Identify types of potential misstatements.
  - Consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement.
  - Design tests of controls, when applicable, and substantive procedures.
- c. We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations and provisions of contracts or grant programs.
- d. The concept of materiality recognizes that some matters, either individually or in the aggregate, are important for fair presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles while other matters are not important. In performing the audit, we are concerned with matters that, either individually or in the aggregate, could be material to the financial statements. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material misstatements, whether caused by errors or fraud, are detected.

We are very interested in your views regarding certain matters. Those matters are listed here:

- a. We typically will communicate with your top level of management unless you tell us otherwise.
- b. We understand that the governing board has the responsibility to oversee the strategic direction of your organization, as well as the overall accountability of the entity. Management has the responsibility for achieving the objectives of the entity.
- c. We need to know your views about your organization's objectives and strategies, and the related business risks that may result in material misstatements.
- d. We anticipate that the Utilities will receive an unmodified opinion on its financial statements.
- e. Which matters do you consider warrant particular attention during the audit, and are there any areas where you request additional procedures to be undertaken?
- f. Have you had any significant communications with regulators or grantor agencies?
- g. Are there other matters that you believe are relevant to the audit of the financial statements?

Also, is there anything that we need to know about the attitudes, awareness and actions of the governing body concerning:

- a. The entity's internal control and its importance in the entity, including how those charged with governance oversee the effectiveness of internal control?
- b. The detection or the possibility of fraud?

We also need to know if you have taken actions in response to developments in financial reporting, laws, accounting standards, governance practices, or other related matters, or in response to previous communications with us.

With regard to the timing of our audit, here is some general information. If necessary, we may do preliminary financial audit work during the months of October-December, and sometimes early in January. Our final financial fieldwork is scheduled during the spring to best coincide with your readiness and report deadlines. After fieldwork, we wrap up our financial audit procedures at our office and may issue drafts of our report for your review. Final copies of our report and other communications are issued after approval by your staff. This is typically 6-12 weeks after final fieldwork but may vary depending on a number of factors.

Keep in mind that while this communication may assist us with planning the scope and timing of the audit, it does not change the auditor's sole responsibility to determine the overall audit strategy and the audit plan, including the nature, timing, and extent of procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

We realize that you may have questions on what this all means or wish to provide other feedback. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you.