



Office of Inspector General

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OFFICE OF CYBER  
ASSESSMENTS AND DATA  
ANALYTICS

AUDIT REPORT

THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY  
COMMISSION'S FISCAL YEAR 2023 FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

DOE-OIG-24-03  
NOVEMBER 2023



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

November 14, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kshemendra Paul".

FROM: Kshemendra Paul  
Assistant Inspector General  
for Cyber Assessments and Data Analytics  
Office of Inspector General

SUBJECT: INFORMATION: Audit Report on The Federal Energy Regulatory  
Commission's Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Statements

The attached report presents the results of the independent certified public accountants' audit of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) balance sheets as of September 30, 2023, and 2022, and the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the years then ended.

To fulfill the Office of Inspector General's audit responsibilities, we contracted with the independent public accounting firm of KPMG LLP (KPMG) to conduct the audit, subject to our review. KPMG is responsible for expressing an opinion on FERC's financial statements and reporting on applicable internal controls and compliance with laws and regulations. The Office of Inspector General monitored audit progress and reviewed the audit report and related documentation. This review disclosed no instances where KPMG did not comply, in all material respects, with generally accepted government auditing standards. The Office of Inspector General did not express an independent opinion on FERC's financial statements.

KPMG concluded that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of FERC as of September 30, 2023, and 2022, and its net costs, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the years then ended, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As part of this review, auditors also considered FERC's internal controls over financial reporting and tested for compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. The audit did not identify any deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that is considered a material weakness.

The results of the auditors' review disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards or applicable Office of Management and Budget guidance.

We appreciated the cooperation of your staff during the audit.

Attachment

cc: Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC  
Chief Financial Officer, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC  
Director, Financial Management Division, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC

Audit Report: DOE-OIG-24-03

FERC Financial Reports are available for download on FERC's website:  
<https://ferc.gov/about/what-ferc/strategic-documents/agency-reports>



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### Independent Auditors' Report

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and  
Inspector General, United States Department of Energy:

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

##### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the Commission), which comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of net costs, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as of September 30, 2023 and 2022, and its net costs, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the years then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

##### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audits in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 24-01, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*. Our responsibilities under those standards and OMB Bulletin No. 24-01 are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Commission and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

##### *Other Matter – Interactive Data*

Management has elected to reference to information on websites or other forms of interactive data outside the Agency Financial Report to provide additional information for the users of its financial statements. Such information is not a required part of the financial statements or supplementary information required by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. The information on these websites or the other interactive data has not been subjected to any of our auditing procedures, and accordingly we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

##### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and 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.

##### *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Bulletin No. 24-01 will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material

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misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Bulletin No. 24-01, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

*Required Supplementary Information*

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require that the information in the Management's Discussion and Analysis section be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 audits of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

*Other Information*

Management is responsible for the other information included in the Agency Financial Report. The other information comprises the Letter from Chairman Phillips, Strategic Plan Summary, Message from the Chief Financial Officer, Other Information (including the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) Reporting and Civil Penalty Adjustment for Inflation), Appendix A: Statutory Authority, and Appendix B: Acronym Listing of the Agency Financial Report but does not include the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.



#### **Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. We did not test all internal controls relevant to operating objectives as broadly defined by the *Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982*.

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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, 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 a 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. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

#### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* or OMB Bulletin No. 24-01.

We also performed tests of the Commission's compliance with certain provisions referred to in Section 803(a) of the *Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996* (FFMIA). Providing an opinion on compliance with FFMIA was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances in which the Commission's financial management systems did not substantially comply with the (1) Federal financial management systems requirements, (2) applicable Federal accounting standards, and (3) the United States Government Standard General Ledger at the transaction level.

#### **Purpose of the Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

The purpose of the communication described in the Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and the Report on Compliance and Other Matters sections is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control or compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

KPMG LLP

Washington, D.C.  
November 8, 2023

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Office of Inspector General (IG-12)  
Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

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