

**COLUMBUS REGIONAL ENERGY  
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
IPARepor@ohioauditor.gov  
(800) 282-0370

Board of Directors  
Columbus Regional Energy Special Improvement District  
300 Spruce Street, Suite 220  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of the Columbus Regional Energy Special Improvement District, Franklin County, prepared by Julian & Grube, Inc., for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Columbus Regional Energy Special Improvement District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

August 09, 2022

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

Columbus Regional Energy Special Improvement District  
Franklin County  
300 Spruce Street, Suite 220  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Columbus Regional Energy Special Improvement District's (the District) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the District. The District is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the District.

The Board of Directors and the district officers, district members and directors and their designees or proxies, herein governing of the District have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the District's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

For the purposes of performing these procedures, this report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

**Cash**

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2020 beginning fund balance recorded in the General Ledger Report to the December 31, 2019 balances in the prior year documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2021 beginning fund balance recorded in the Statement of Financial Position Report to the December 31, 2020 balance in the General Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2021 and 2020 bank reconciliation balances and bank balances as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Statement of Financial Position Report and General Ledger Report, respectively, and the financial statements filed by the District in the Hinkle System. The amounts agreed.

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4. We observed the 2021 year-end bank balance on the financial institution's website. The balance agreed. We also agreed the observed balance to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2021 bank reconciliation without exception.

**Confirmable Cash Receipts**

We agreed individual amounts paid from various entities for closing fees to the District during 2021 and 2020 with supporting documentation. We found no exceptions.

- a. We inspected the Statement of Financial Position Report and General Ledger Report to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
- b. We inspected the Statement of Financial Position Report and General Ledger Report to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

**Debt**

1. From the prior agreed-upon procedures documentation, we observed the following note and loan were outstanding as of December 31, 2019. These amounts agreed to the District's January 1, 2020 balances on the summary we used in procedure 3.

Issue	Principal outstanding as of December 31, 2019:
NC Plaza LLC Loan	\$351,867
NC Plaza LLC Note	\$2,420,000

2. We inquired of management, and inspected the General Ledger Reports for evidence of debt issued during 2021 or 2020 or debt payment activity during 2021 or 2020. There was no debt activity during 2021. All debt agreed to the summary we used in procedure 3.
3. We obtained a summary of loan and note debt activity for 2020 and agreed principal and interest payments from the related debt amortization schedule to payments made by the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority on behalf of the District. The District does not directly make payments on the loan and note; however, payments are made to the trustee on the District's behalf. We also compared the date the debt service payments were due to the date the Authority made the payments. The loan and note were both paid off early in November of 2020. We found no exceptions.

**Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements**

We selected 10 disbursements from the Statement of Financial Position Report for the year ended December 31, 2021 and 10 disbursements from the General Ledger Report for the year ended December 31, 2020 and determined whether:

- a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
- b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check or other evidence if EFT/ACH agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the Statement of Financial Position Report/General Ledger Report and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
- c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the restricted purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.

### Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the District's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7)(c) and did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any public records requests (received, completed, denied or redacted) during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the District had a records retention schedule, and observed that it was readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2). We found no exceptions.
4. We inspected written evidence that the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
5. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have a policy manual during the engagement period therefore the public records policy could not be included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
6. We inquired with District Management and determined that the District does not maintain a physical office and therefore the Public Records Policy could not be displayed during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
7. We did not select any applications submitted to the Records Commission for one-time disposal of obsolete records, and management's review of the schedules of records retention and dispositions for the engagement period. The District is not subject to the Ohio Rev. Code records authority. Therefore this step is not applicable and applications were not inspected or inquired about.
8. We inquired with District management and determined that the District did not have any elected officials subject to the Public Records Training requirements during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(1) and 109.43(B).
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the District notified the general public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(C) and determined whether they were:
  - a. Prepared – a file is created following the date of the meeting
  - b. Filed – placed with similar documents in an organized manner
  - c. Maintained - retained, at a minimum, for the engagement period
  - d. Open to public inspection – available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G) and determined the following:
  - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
  - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session (when applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G).
  - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.



### Other Compliance

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires these districts to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 150 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. Auditor of State established policies, regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the District filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and Auditor of State established policy within the allotted timeframe for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.

We were engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with the attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the District's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.



Julian and Grube, Inc.  
June 24, 2022

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**COLUMBUS REGIONAL ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

**AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



**Certified for Release 8/23/2022**

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)