



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Chairman

Patrick Henderson, Executive Director

Room 168 • State Capitol Building
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September 26, 2007

The Honorable Jack Wagner
Auditor General of Pennsylvania
229 Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear General Wagner:

I am writing to follow up on our recent discussion and request your Department perform an audit of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

As you know, the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund is overseen by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). There has been significant discussion in the General Assembly in recent months on how best to provide funding for this critical program. During these discussions, members have sought to gain a better understanding of the function of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund and expenditures from the Fund.

On September 24th, DEP Secretary McGinty appeared before the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to discuss the Hazardous Sites Cleanup program. Secretary McGinty commented during the hearing that she could not recall the last time the Fund was audited, and that she would not object to such an audit. I believe an audit would be very helpful. Expenditures from the fund have ranged from \$30-\$60 million annually, depending on the amount of revenue available, and the program could no doubt benefit from an outside review of its operations.

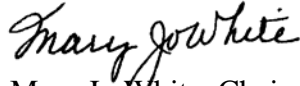
Based on our discussion, I would offer the following suggestions for examination under an audit by your Department:

- Amount of funding necessary to meet federal obligations, such as Superfund.
- Use by the Department of funds held in reserve to meet basic obligations of the fund.
- Carryover of funds from one fiscal year to the next.
- Examining personnel and other programs costs which are "charged" by one DEP program to the HSCA fund.
- Collection and deposit of fees authorized under the HSCA Act.
- Ensuring uses of fund are generally consistent with those authorized under section 902 of the HSCA Act.

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I appreciate your consideration of this request, and would be happy to discuss this matter in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jo White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "J".

Mary Jo White, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
& Energy Committee

cc: DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty