

### FAYETTE COUNTY 26-000

LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND AND ACT 44 TAX FUND EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

### COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

### **EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL**

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL





### Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018 Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General Twitter: @PAAuditorGen

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE AUDITOR GENERAL

### Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Barry J. Schoch, P.E. Secretary
Department of Transportation
Harrisburg, PA 17120

We examined the accompanying Forms MS-991 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund With Adjustments of Fayette County for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012. The county's management is responsible for the Forms MS-991 and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Forms MS-991 With Adjustments and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund With Adjustments based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. An examination includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting Fayette County's Forms MS-991 and Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012 and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are mandated by Section 403 of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 403, to audit each county's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to ensure that funds received are expended in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States include attestation engagements as a separate type of audit. An attestation engagement performed pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards* involves additional standards that exceed the standards provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, this attestation engagement complies with both *Government Auditing Standards* and Section 403 of *The Fiscal Code*.

As described in Finding No. 1, the adjustments included on the Forms MS-991 With Adjustments are made by the Department of the Auditor General. Additionally, as described in Finding No. 5, the adjustments included on the Report of Act 44 Tax Fund with adjustments are made by the Department of the Auditor General.

### <u>Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)</u>

As discussed in the Finding and Recommendations and Comments sections of this report:

- The county deposited its Act 44 Tax Fund allocations of \$43,186.43 for 2009, \$42,942.78 for 2010, \$42,839.42 for 2011, and \$42,713.49 for 2012 into its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on March 19, 2010, December 8, 2010, December 6, 2011, and December 10, 2012, respectively. On November 1, 2012, the county transferred its 2011 Act 44 Tax Fund allocation of \$42,839.42 from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to its Act 44 Tax Fund, leaving \$128,842.70 due the Act 44 Tax Fund (Finding No. 2).
- The county expended \$2,821.22 during 2010 and \$322.78 during 2011 for electricity for the Fayette County Fire School, and \$15,376.00 during 2011 and \$6,037.76 during 2012 from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for insurance for hull coverage, third party pollution coverage, and general liability coverage from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, which are nonpermissible expenditures (Finding No. 3).
- The county expended \$28,093.68 in 2011 and \$6,695.80 in 2012 in excess of the 10 percent limit on indirect/administrative costs. On November 21, 2012 and December 5, 2012, the county reimbursed \$20,000.00 and \$5,375.00, respectively, to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, leaving \$9,414.48 due the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund (Finding No. 4).
- During the 2008 and 2009 examination period the county expended \$11,692.75 for expenditures in excess of the 10 percent limit on administrative/indirect costs and \$2,202.28 for nonpermissible expenditures. As of the date of this report, these amounts had not been reimbursed to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund (Comment No. 2).

In our opinion, except for the matters discussed in the preceding paragraphs, the Forms MS-991 With Adjustments and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund With Adjustments present, in all material respects, the information required by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund and Act 44 Tax Fund of Fayette County for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012, in conformity with the criteria set forth in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report findings of significant deficiencies in internal control, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that are material to the Forms MS-991 and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund and any fraud and illegal acts that are more than inconsequential that come to our attention during our examination. We are also required to obtain the views of management on those matters. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Forms MS-991 and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the internal control over reporting on

### <u>Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)</u>

the Forms MS-991 and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

A control deficiency 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 misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects Fayette County's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report data reliably in accordance with the applicable criteria such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of Fayette County's Forms MS-991 and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by Fayette County's internal control. We consider the deficiency described in the finding below to be a significant deficiency in internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-991 and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund:

• Failure To Properly Prepare Forms MS-991 - Recurring.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency or combination of significant deficiencies that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the Forms MS-991 and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund will not be prevented or detected by Fayette County's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-991 and the Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. We consider the significant deficiency described above to be a material weakness.

The results of our tests disclosed the following instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*:

- Act 44 Tax Fund Allocations Deposited Into The Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.
- Nonpermissible Expenditures Recurring.
- Expenditures In Excess Of 10 Percent Limit On Indirect/Administrative Costs Recurring.
- Failure To File 2010, 2011, And 2012 Reports Of Act 44 Tax Fund.

We are concerned in light of the county's failure to correct previously reported findings regarding the preparation of the Forms MS-991, nonpermissible expenditures, and expenditures in excess of the 10 percent limit on indirect/administrative costs. During our current examination the county failed to properly prepare its MS-991, deposited its Act 44 Tax Fund allocations into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, had nonpermissible expenditures, expended money

### <u>Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)</u>

in excess of the 10 percent limit on indirect/administrative costs, and failed to file its 2010, 2011, and 2012 Reports of Act 44 Tax Funds. The county should strive to implement the recommendations and corrective actions noted in this report.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the management of Fayette County and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

December 17, 2013

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE

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**Auditor General** 

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# FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND AND ACT 44 TAX FUND BACKGROUND FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

### Background

The Vehicle Code makes provisions and provides funding for County Liquid Fuels and Act 44 Programs. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has regulatory administration and oversight of the funds supporting these county programs. Counties are required to comply with those provisions and to report annually.

The Vehicle Code imposes a state tax on liquid fuels and fuels used or sold and delivered by distributors within the Commonwealth (75 Pa. C.S. § 9004(a)). One-half cent of the tax collected on each gallon of liquid fuels is deposited in the Commonwealth's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. The Vehicle Code further provides for the disposition and use of this tax, including the allocations to counties in June and December of each year to fund construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of county roads, streets and bridges. The allocation to the respective counties is made in the ratio that the average amount returned to each county during the three preceding years bears to the average amount returned to all counties during the three preceding years (75 Pa C.S. § 9010).

The Vehicle Code, as recently amended by Act 44 of 2007 (July 18, 2007, P.L.169), requires the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to make annual contributions for the benefit of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Motor License Fund, and further requires the Department of Transportation to distribute \$5,000,000 of the annual contribution to counties (75 Pa. C.S. § 8915.6). The annual distribution to counties is determined based upon the ratio of square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges to the total square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges is required as part of the National Bridge Inspection Standards Program.

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2010 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported	djustments nding No. 1)	Adjusted Amount
Balance, January 1, 2010	\$ 157,268.68	\$ 75,529.21	\$ 232,797.89
Receipts:			
State allocations	542,641.64	-	542,641.64
Interest (Note 3)	960.97	22.72	983.69
Reimbursable agreements (Note 4)	106,855.32	-	106,855.32
Miscellaneous (Note 5)	8,989.58	91,096.83	100,086.41
Total receipts	659,447.51	91,119.55	 750,567.06
Total funds available	816,716.19	166,648.76	983,364.95
Expenditures:			
Construction	53,981.83	_	53,981.83
Maintenance and repair	500,859.87	35,160.11	536,019.98
Administrative	49,918.68	(2.90)	49,915.78
Grants to political	,	,	,
subdivisions	20,600.00	(3,500.00)	17,100.00
Miscellaneous (Note 6)	_	66,987.75	66,987.75
Total expenditures	625,360.38	98,644.96	724,005.34
Balance, December 31, 2010	191,355.81	68,003.80	259,359.61
Unpaid encumbrances		 3,500.00	3,500.00
Unencumbered balance,			
December 31, 2010	\$ 191,355.81	\$ 64,503.80	\$ 255,859.61

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2011 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported	djustments nding No. 1)	 Adjusted Amount
Balance, January 1, 2011	\$ 193,650.09	\$ 65,709.52	\$ 259,359.61
Receipts:			
State allocations	543,567.68	-	543,567.68
Interest (Note 3)	765.53	6.46	771.99
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous (Note 5)	4,125.00	 49,516.50	53,641.50
Total receipts	548,458.21	49,522.96	 597,981.17
Total funds available	742,108.30	115,232.48	857,340.78
Expenditures:			
Construction	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair	448,791.83	37,872.11	486,663.94
Administrative	54,408.92	28,041.53	82,450.45
Grants to political			
subdivisions	-	-	-
Miscellaneous (Note 6)		 15,317.62	 15,317.62
Total expenditures	503,200.75	81,231.26	584,432.01
Balance, December 31, 2011	238,907.55	34,001.22	272,908.77
Unpaid encumbrances		3,500.00	3,500.00
Unencumbered balance,			
December 31, 2011	\$ 238,907.55	\$ 30,501.22	\$ 269,408.77

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2012 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported		Reported		Reported		Adjustments (Finding No. 1)		Adjusted Amount	
Balance, January 1, 2012	\$	238,907.55	\$	34,001.22	\$	272,908.77				
Receipts:										
State allocations		573,456.83		-		573,456.83				
Interest (Note 3)		3,814.29		(2,711.16)		1,103.13				
Reimbursable agreements (Note 4)		82,523.23		6,437.28		88,960.51				
Miscellaneous (Note 5)		15,877.52		103,318.11		119,195.63				
Total receipts		675,671.87		107,044.23		782,716.10				
Total funds available		914,579.42		141,045.45		1,055,624.87				
Expenditures:										
Construction		-		20,031.19		20,031.19				
Maintenance and repair		533,607.04		21,643.92		555,250.96				
Administrative		62,273.82		1,767.66		64,041.48				
Grants to political										
subdivisions		-		-		-				
Miscellaneous (Note 6)				42,839.42		42,839.42				
Total expenditures		595,880.86		86,282.19		682,163.05				
Balance, December 31, 2012		318,698.56		54,763.26		373,461.82				
Unpaid encumbrances (Note 7)				3,500.00		3,500.00				
Unencumbered balance, December 31, 2012	\$	318,698.56	\$	51,263.26	\$	369,961.82				

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2010 REPORT OF ACT 44 TAX FUND WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported		Reported (Fine		Adjusted Amount	
Balance, January 1, 2010	\$	-	\$	36.00	\$	36.00
Receipts:						
Act 44 Funds		-		-		-
Interest (Note 3)		-		75.96		75.96
Reimburseable Agreement Receipts		-		-		-
Miscellaneous Receipts (Note 5)		-		587,629.39		587,629.39
Total receipts		-		587,705.35		587,705.35
Total funds available		_		587,741.35		587,741.35
Expenditures: Construction				_		_
Maintenance and repair		_		_		_
Miscellaneous (Note 8)		-		542,641.64		542,641.64
Total expenditures		-		542,641.64		542,641.64
Balance, December 31, 2010	\$		\$	45,099.71	\$	45,099.71

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2011 REPORT OF ACT 44 TAX FUND WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported		Adjustments oorted (Finding No. 5)		Adjusted Amount	
Balance, January 1, 2011	\$ -		\$	45,099.71	\$	45,099.71
Receipts:						
Act 44 Funds		_		-		_
Interest (Note 3)		-		342.83		342.83
Reimburseable Agreement Receipts		-		-		-
Miscellaneous Receipts (Note 5)		-		558,885.30		558,885.30
Total receipts				559,228.13		559,228.13
Total funds available		-		604,327.84		604,327.84
Expenditures: Construction Maintenance and repair Miscellaneous (Note 8)		- - -		543,567.68		- - 543,567.68
Total expenditures				543,567.68		543,567.68
Balance, December 31, 2011	\$		\$	60,760.16	\$	60,760.16

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2012 REPORT OF ACT 44 TAX FUND WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	Reported		djustments  nding No. 5)	Adjusted Amount		
•			 <u>B</u>			
Balance, January 1, 2012	\$	-	\$ 60,760.16	\$	60,760.16	
Receipts:						
Act 44 Funds		-	42,839.42		42,839.42	
Interest (Note 3)		-	337.01		337.01	
Reimburseable Agreement Receipts		_	-		_	
Miscellaneous Receipts (Note 5)		_	 573,456.83		573,456.83	
Total receipts			 616,633.26		616,633.26	
Total funds available		-	677,393.42		677,393.42	
Expenditures:						
Construction		_	_		_	
Maintenance and repair		_	34,172.37		34,172.37	
Miscellaneous (Note 8)		-	 573,456.83		573,456.83	
Total expenditures			 607,629.20		607,629.20	
Balance, December 31, 2012	\$		\$ 69,764.22	\$	69,764.22	

### 1. Criteria

- A. *The Vehicle Code* prescribes criteria for liquid fuels program funds (75 Pa C.S. § 9010). The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* provides more specific policies and procedures to counties for the administration and reporting of the liquid fuels program funds. In the event of any discrepancies between the two, the legislation governs.
  - (1) Funds received by the counties must be deposited in a special fund designated as the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund and no other money may be deposited and commingled. Money should be invested to earn interest until expended.
    - For purposes of payments under (2), below, the county may borrow and place in the special fund money not in excess of the liquid fuels tax funds to be received during the current calendar year.
  - (2) Payments from the special fund may be used for:
    - construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of roads, highways, bridges and curb ramps from a road or highway to provide for access by individuals with disabilities consistent with Federal and State law;
    - property damages and compensation of viewers for services in eminent domain proceedings involving roads, highways, and bridges;
    - construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of publicly owned ferryboat operations;
    - interest and principal payments on road, bridge, or publicly owned ferryboat operation bonds or sinking fund charges;
    - acquisition, maintenance, repair and operation of traffic signs and signals;
    - erection and maintenance of stop and go signal lights, blinkers and other like traffic control devices;
    - indirect costs, including benefit costs, overhead and other administrative charges for those county employees directly engaged in eligible projects, not to exceed 10 percent of the yearly allocation to the county; and

### 1. Criteria (continued)

- individual vehicle liability insurance for equipment purchased under the fund, not to exceed 10 percent of the yearly allocation to the county.
- (3) Counties may not make expenditures from the special fund for new construction on roads, bridges, curb ramps, or publicly owned ferryboat operations without the approval of the plans for construction by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. And, counties may not allocate money from the special fund to political subdivisions within the county until the application and the contracts or plans for the proposed expenditures have been made on a form prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
- (4) Counties may encumber current funds for future road and bridge construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects including viable municipal projects. Counties must redistribute any unencumbered balance in the special fund to political subdivisions if the unencumbered balance is more than the county's receipts during the preceding twelve month period.
- (5) Counties must submit a report to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation by January 15 for the period ending December 31 on prescribed Form MS-991, The Report of County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, showing the receipts and expenditures of the money received by the county from the Commonwealth. Upon failure to file the report or instances of any non-compliant payments, allocations, or expenditures, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will withhold further funding until the delinquent report is filed, the money is allocated, or the expenditures for the prior 12 months are approved.
- B. *The Vehicle Code*, as recently amended by Act 44 of 2007 (July 18, 2007, P.L. 169), prescribes the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with oversight authority of the Act 44 funds distributed to the counties from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's annual contribution of \$5,000,000 to the Commonwealth's Motor License Fund. The County's Act 44 Tax Fund is used to account for the distribution made to the county from the Department of Transportation and the payments made for construction and maintenance of county-owned bridges.

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND AND ACT 44 TAX FUND

### NOTES TO FORMS MS-991 AND

### REPORTS OF ACT 44 TAX FUND WITH ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE PERIOD

### JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

### 1. <u>Criteria (continued)</u>

### **Basis Of Presentation**

In accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Report of County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund With Adjustments and the Report of Act 44 Tax Fund With Adjustments do not constitute complete financial presentations of the county's assets, liabilities, expenses, and fund balance but include the receipts, expenditures, and fund balances of the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund and the County Act 44 Tax Fund, respectively.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation prescribes that the county report the following on the MS-991 form, *Report of County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund*:

- A. The balance in the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund at the beginning of the report calendar year.
- B. Receipts which must be itemized and include interest, reimbursable agreements, and miscellaneous items such as loans, sale of salvageable material, and damage claims to road or bridge property.

Refer to the related Notes: Note 3, Interest Earnings; Note 4, Reimbursable Agreements; and Note 5, Miscellaneous Receipts.

- C. Accounts receivable (to be realized within 60 days of the year end).
- D. Total Liquid Fuels Tax funds available for expenditure and encumbrances.
- E. Expenditures for county-owned roads, highways, and bridges.

Refer to related Note: Note 6, Miscellaneous Expenditures.

- F. Accounts payable (accrued wages, accrued payroll taxes, and accounts payable vendors to be realized within 60 days of the year end).
- G. The balance in the fund at the close of the report calendar year.
- H. Encumbered and unencumbered balances on hand at the close of the report calendar year.

Refer to related Note: Note 7, Encumbrances.

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND AND ACT 44 TAX FUND NOTES TO FORMS MS-991 AND REPORTS OF ACT 44 TAX FUND WITH ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE PERIOD

### JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

### 2. <u>Deposits</u>

The County Code, Title 16 P.S § 17067, authorizes the county to deposit its funds in the following:

- Deposits in savings accounts or time deposits, other than certificates of deposit or share accounts of institutions having their principal place of business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or other like insurance. For any amount above the insured maximum, the depository shall pledge approved collateral.
- Certificates of deposit from institutions having their principal place of business in
  or outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that are insured by the FDIC or
  other like insurance. For any amounts in excess of the insured maximum, such
  deposits shall be collateralized by a pledge or assignment of assets. Certificates
  of deposit may not exceed 20 percent of a bank's total capital surplus or 20
  percent of a savings and loan's or savings bank's assets minus liabilities.

Deposits consist of receipts and deposits in a financial institution. Pennsylvania statutes require all deposits to be insured and, for any amount above the insured maximum, to be secured with approved collateral as defined.

There were no deposits exposed to custodial credit risk as of December 31, 2012. Custodial credit risk, as defined by GASB No. 40, includes deposits that are not covered by depository insurance and the deposits are uncollateralized, collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent but not in the county's name.

### Fund Balance

The fund balance for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund as of December 31, 2012 consists of the following:

	Cash			-					\$373,461.82						
The fund following:		for	the	Act	44	Tax	Fund	as	of	December	31,	2012	consists	of	the

Cash 69,764.22

### 3. <u>Interest Earnings</u>

Our examination disclosed that the county deposited idle liquid fuels tax money in an interest-bearing account which earned \$983.69 during 2010, \$771.99 during 2011, and \$1,103.13 during 2012, thus providing additional funds for road maintenance and repairs.

Additionally, the county deposited idle Act 44 tax money in an interest-bearing account which earned \$75.96 during 2010, \$342.83 during 2011, and \$337.01 during 2012, thus providing additional funds for bridge maintenance and repairs.

### 4. Reimbursable Agreements

During our examination, we noted that the county entered into reimbursable agreements with the Department of Transportation for bridge construction and inspections. During our current examination period, the county received and deposited \$106,855.32 during 2010 and \$88,960.51 during 2012 into its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund as a result of these agreements. As of December 31, 2012, \$4,447.09 is due the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

### 5. <u>Miscellaneous Receipts</u>

The following miscellaneous receipts were deposited into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund during the examination period:

Source	Description	2010	2011	2012
MH/MR	Reimbursement for	Φ 2.550.00	Φ 2.500.00	d.
C1 '1 1 1	snow removal	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
Children and Youth Services	Reimbursement for	2 200 00	1 275 00	550.00
General Fund	snow removal Reimbursement for	2,200.00	1,375.00	330.00
General Fund	snow removal	200.00	250.00	1,100.00
Commonwealth	Act 44 allocations	200.00	230.00	1,100.00
of Pennsylvania	(Finding No. 2)	86,129.21	42,839.42	42,713.49
Vendor	Refund for	00,123.21	12,033112	12,713.19
	overpayments	5,431.20	_	_
General Fund	Grant	3,376.00	-	1,057.25
General Fund	Reimbursement for			
	road salt	100.00	-	-
General Fund	Reimbursement			
	(Comment No. 1)	-	6,677.08	-
General Fund	Reimbursement for			
~	indirect costs	-	-	25,375.00
German	Reimbursement for			1 4 227 52
Township	road salt	-	-	14,227.52
Act 44 Tax Fund	Reimbursement for			24 172 27
	bridge work			34,172.37
Totals		\$100,086.41	\$53,641.50	\$119,195.63

### 5. Miscellaneous Receipts (Continued)

The following miscellaneous receipts were deposited into the Act 44 Tax Fund during the examination period:

Source	Description	2010	2011	2012
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Liquid Fuels Tax	Deposit in error (Note 8) Reimbursement	\$542,641.64	\$543,567.68	\$573,456.83
Fund	(Comment No. 2)	44,987.75	15,317.62	
Totals		\$587,629.39	\$558,885.30	\$573,456.83

### 6. <u>Miscellaneous Expenditures</u>

The following miscellaneous expenditures were paid from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund during the examination period:

Payee	Description	2010	2011	2012
General Fund	Correction of transfer in error (Note 9)	\$22,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Act 44 Tax Fund	Reimbursement			
	(Comment No. 2)	44,987.75	15,317.62	-
Act 44 Tax Fund	Correction of deposit in			
	error (Finding No. 2)			42,839.42
Totals		\$66,987.75	\$15,317.62	\$42,839.42

### 7. Encumbrances

As of December 31, 2012, \$3,500.00 of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money was encumbered for a grant to a political subdivision.

### 8. <u>Deposits In Error</u>

On June 1, 2010 and December 1, 2010, the county deposited its 2010 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations of \$272,452.49 and \$270,189.15, respectively, into the Act 44 Tax Fund in error. On June 8, 2010 and December 14, 2010 the county transferred \$272,452.49 and \$270,189.15, respectively, from the Act 44 Tax Fund into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to correct the deposits in error.

On June 1, 2011 and December 1, 2011, the county deposited its 2011 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations of \$268,692.13 and \$274,875.55, respectively, into the Act 44 Tax Fund in error. On June 9, 2011 and December 9, 2011, the county transferred \$268,692.13 and \$274,875.55, respectively, from the Act 44 Tax Fund into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to correct the deposits in error.

On June 1, 2012 and December 3, 2012, the county deposited its 2012 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations of \$301,652.58 and \$271,804.25, respectively, into the Act 44 Tax Fund in error. On June 6, 2012 and December 4, 2012, the county transferred \$301,652.58 and \$271,804.25, respectively, from the Act 44 Tax Fund into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to correct the deposits in error.

### 9. Transfer In Error

On December 28, 2009, the county transferred \$22,000.00 from its Act 70 Fund into its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in error. On April 23, 2010, the county transferred \$22,000.00 from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to its Act 70 Fund to correct the transfer in error.

### Finding No. 1 - Failure To Properly Prepare Forms MS-991 - Recurring

We cited the county for failure to properly prepare Forms MS-991 in our prior report for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. Our current examination disclosed that there were numerous errors made in the preparation of the county's 2010, 2011, and 2012 Forms MS-991. These adjustments are as follows:

### 2010 Form MS-991

- An adjustment of \$75,529.21 was made to "Balance, January 1, 2010" because an incorrect fund balance was reported.
- An adjustment of \$22.72 was made to "Interest" because interest earned was understated.
- An adjustment of \$91,096.83 was made to "Miscellaneous" because these receipts were understated.
- An adjustment of \$35,160.11 was made to "Maintenance and repair" because these expenditures were understated.
- An adjustment of \$(2.90) was made to "Administrative" because check No. 10527 was reported as \$68.85 but was issued for \$65.85 and check No. 10620 was reported as \$39.85 but was issued for \$39.95.
- An adjustment of \$(3,500.00) was made to "Grants to political subdivisions" because check No. 10676 was voided but was included as an expenditure.
- An adjustment of \$66,987.75 was made to "Miscellaneous" because these expenditures were not reported.
- An adjustment of \$3,500.00 was made to "Unpaid encumbrances" because the balance for encumbrance No. 07-26411-31CA was not reported.

### Finding No. 1 - Failure To Properly Prepare Forms MS-991 - Recurring (Continued)

### 2011 Form MS-991

- An adjustment of \$65,709.52 was made to "Balance, January 1, 2011" because an incorrect fund balance was reported.
- An adjustment of \$6.46 was made to "Interest" because interest earned was understated.
- An adjustment of \$49,516.50 was made to "Miscellaneous" because these receipts were understated.
- An adjustment of \$37,872.11 was made to "Maintenance and repair" because these expenditures were understated by \$40,594.04 and administrative expenditures of \$2,721.93 were misclassified.
- An adjustment of \$28,041.53 was made to "Administrative" because these expenditures were understated by \$25,319.60 and expenditures of \$2,721.93 were misclassified as maintenance and repair.
- An adjustment of \$15,317.62 was made to "Miscellaneous" because these expenditures were not reported.
- An adjustment for \$3,500.00 was made to "Unpaid encumbrances" because the balance for encumbrance No. 07-26411-31CA was not reported.

### 2012 Form MS-991

- An adjustment of \$34,001.22 was made to "Balance, January 1, 2012" to reflect the adjustment made to the fund balance on the 2011 Form MS-991.
- An adjustment of \$(2,711.16) was made to "Interest" because interest earned was overstated.
- An adjustment of \$6,437.28 was made to "Reimbursable agreements" because bridge construction and inspection reimbursements were understated.

### Finding No. 1 - Failure To Properly Prepare Forms MS-991 - Recurring (Continued)

### 2012 Form MS-991 (Continued)

- An adjustment of \$103,318.11 was made to "Miscellaneous" because these receipts were understated.
- An adjustment of \$20,031.19 was made to "Construction" because expenditures relating to check Nos. 11365 for \$7,576.78, 11429 for \$9,362.29, and 11473 for \$3,092.12 were not reported.
- An adjustment of \$21,643.92 was made to "Maintenance and repair" because these expenditures were understated by \$23,411.58 and administrative expenditures of \$1,767.66 were misclassified.
- An adjustment of \$1,767.66 was made to "Administrative" because these expenditures were misclassified as maintenance and repair.
- An adjustment of \$42,839.42 was made to "Miscellaneous" because a correction of a deposit in error was not reported.
- An adjustment of \$3,500.00 was made to "Unpaid encumbrances" because the balance for encumbrance No. 07-26411-31CA was not reported.

Good internal controls ensure that the county completes its Forms MS-991 accurately and completely. The failure to properly complete Forms MS-991 increases the risk that errors or misappropriations may occur and remain undetected.

This condition occurred because the county failed to comply with our prior examination recommendation to ensure that its Forms MS-991 are accurate and complete.

### Recommendation

We again recommend that the municipality ensure that its Forms MS-991 and Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund are complete and accurate.

### Finding No. 1 - Failure To Properly Prepare Forms MS-991 - Recurring (Continued)

### Management's Response

The chief deputy controller stated:

We had prepared the 2012 report but it was not submitted. With a change in personnel, the report was unfortunately forgotten. We have since filed the 2012 MS-991.

### Auditor's Conclusion

This is a recurring finding. We strongly recommend that the county comply with our recommendation. During our next examination we will determine if the county complied with our recommendation.

### Finding No. 2 - Act 44 Tax Fund Allocations Deposited Into The Liquid Fuels Tax Fund

Our examination disclosed that the county deposited its Act 44 Tax Fund allocations of \$43,186.43 for 2009, \$42,942.78 for 2010, \$42,839.42 for 2011, and \$42,713.49 for 2012 into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on March 19, 2010, December 8, 2010, December 6, 2011, and December 10, 2012, respectively, which is in noncompliance with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*.

The Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*, Chapter Four, Section 4.5, states:

Each county must deposit the Act 44 funds it receives into a special fund called the County Act 44 Fund, which may be used only for those purposes permitted by the Act.

When Act 44 Tax Fund money is commingled with the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund or other funds, the potential for Act 44 Tax Fund money to be used for unauthorized purposes increases significantly.

On November 1, 2012 the county transferred its 2011 Act 44 Tax Fund allocation of \$42,839.42 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund into the Act 44 Tax Fund.

The failure to comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* could result in the county having to reimburse the remaining \$128,842.70 of Act 44 Tax Fund allocations to its Act 44 Tax Fund.

### Recommendations

We recommend that the county reimburse \$128,842.70 to its Act 44 Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that, in the future, the county deposit all Act 44 tax money promptly into the Act 44 Tax Fund.

### Finding No. 2 - Act 44 Tax Fund Allocations Deposited Into The Liquid Fuels Tax Fund (Continued)

### Management's Response

The chief deputy controller stated:

We separated the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund from the Act 44 Tax Fund after our last audit in 2010. The Treasurer's office was posting the deposits to the wrong account but since both accounts were combined to do the reconciliation, the account always balanced. We have since made the corrections with our Treasurer's office so that they are being deposited in the correct account.

### Auditor's Conclusion

During our next examination we will determine if the county complied with our recommendations.

### Finding No. 3 - Nonpermissible Expenditures - Recurring

We cited the county for making nonpermissible expenditures from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in our prior report for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. However, our current examination again disclosed that the county expended \$2,821.22 during 2010 and \$322.78 during 2011 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for electricity for the Fayette County Fire School, which is a nonpermissible expenditure. In addition, the county expended \$15,376.00 during 2011 and \$6,037.76 during 2012 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for insurance for hull coverage, third party pollution coverage, and general liability coverage, which are nonpermissible expenditures.

The Liquid Fuels and Fuels Tax Act of April 17, 1997, P.L. 6, § 12, 75 Pa. C.S.A. § 9010(b)(2)(i)(A-H), provides, in part, that Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money can only be used "for the purposes of construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of roads, highways, and bridges. . . ."

The Department of Transportation has been statutorily authorized to promulgate regulations concerning the administration of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money and has determined that certain items, including electricity for a fire school and insurance, are outside the scope of permissible expenditures.

The failure to comply with the Liquid Fuels and Fuels Tax Act and the Department of Transportation's Regulations could result in the county having to reimburse \$24,557.76 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

This condition occurred because the county failed to comply with our prior examination recommendation to comply with the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Act and the Department of Transportation's Regulations regarding permissible expenditures.

### Recommendations

We recommend that the county reimburse \$24,557.76 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We again recommend that, in the future, the county comply with the Liquid Fuels and Fuels Tax Act and the Department of Transportation's Regulations regarding permissible expenditures.

### Finding No. 3 - Nonpermissible Expenditures - Recurring (Continued)

### Management's Response

The chief deputy controller stated:

This was the result of utility bills for our County Fire School being paid by the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. This was discovered in the audit performed in 2010 for previous years. We changed the payment process in 2011. There were no more expenditures for the County Fire School by the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in 2012. We corrected this issue after the 2010 audit and wish to delete it from this audit report. As for the insurance, we felt that the Ferry Fund was low at the time and were instructed to pay the insurance from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. The expenses were overlooked when expenses were compiled to send to Washington County for reimbursement.

### **Auditor's Conclusion**

The expenditures for the utility bills for the County Fire School are nonpermissible and were paid from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund during 2010 and 2011. Therefore, they will remain in the finding. The Department of Transportation will determine if the county is required to reimburse these amounts to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. During our next examination we will determine if the county complied with our recommendations.

### Finding No. 4 - Expenditures In Excess Of 10 Percent Limit on Indirect/Administrative Costs - Recurring

We cited the county for expending Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money in excess of the 10 percent limit for indirect/administrative costs in our prior report for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. During the current examination period the county again expended Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money in excess of the 10 percent limit for indirect/administrative costs. Our current examination disclosed that the county expended a total of \$82,450.45 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in the 2011 calendar year and \$64,041.48 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in the 2012 calendar year for indirect/administrative costs. These amounts are greater than 10 percent of the yearly Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation to the county of \$543,567.68 for 2011 and \$573,456.83 for 2012. This resulted in excess administrative costs of \$28,093.68 during 2011 and \$6,695.80 during 2012 as follows:

<u>Description</u>	2011 Amount	2012 Amount
Total indirect/administrative costs	\$82,450.45	\$64,041.48
Less 10% permissible amount	54,356.77	57,345.68
Excess expenditures for indirect/administrative costs	\$28,093.68	\$ 6,695.80

The Liquid Fuels and Fuels Tax Act of 75 Pa. C.S.A. § 9010(b)(2)(i)(G) permits the use of county liquid fuels tax funds for "Indirect costs, including benefit costs, overhead and other administrative charges for those county employees directly engaged in eligible projects. . ." However, the use of liquid fuels tax funds for indirect costs ". . . may not exceed 10% of the yearly allocation to the county." By way of correspondence to county liquid fuels tax fund administrators dated October 28, 1994, and other correspondence, the Department of Transportation explained the use of county Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money for documented, permissible indirect costs.

On November 21, 2012 and December 5, 2012 the county reimbursed \$20,000.00 and \$5,375.00, respectively, to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

The failure to comply with the Liquid Fuels and Fuels Tax Act could result in the county having to reimburse \$9,414.48 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

This condition occurred because the county failed to comply with our prior examination recommendation to limit all indirect/administrative costs charged to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to the 10 percent maximum permitted by the Liquid Fuels and Fuels Tax Act.

### Finding No. 4 - Expenditures In Excess Of 10 Percent Limit on Indirect/Administrative Costs - Recurring (Continued)

### Recommendations

We recommend that the county reimburse \$9,414.48 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We again recommend that, in the future, the county limit all indirect/administrative costs charged to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to the 10 percent maximum permitted by the Liquid Fuels and Fuels Tax Act.

### Management's Response

The chief deputy controller stated:

The Controller's office has made the County Commissioners aware that there will always be expenditures in excess of the allowable 10 percent administrative costs while certain conditions exist at the Bridge Department, and that the General Fund will be responsible for refunding the overage to the Liquid Fuels Fund.

### Auditor's Conclusion

The county should only expend up to the 10 percent limit for indirect/administrative costs during a calendar year. During our next examination we will determine if the county complied with our recommendations.

### Finding No. 5 - Failure To File 2010, 2011, And 2012 Reports Of Act 44 Tax Fund

Our examination disclosed that the county failed to file its 2010, 2011, and 2012 Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund with the Department of Transportation, which is in noncompliance with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*.

The Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*, Chapter Four, Section 4.4 states:

In order to receive Act 44 funds as scheduled, each county must submit an annual report showing the receipts and expenditures for the preceding 12 months. . .

Additionally, the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*, Chapter Four, Section 4.8, requires the Report of Act 44 Tax Fund to be filed with the Department of Transportation by January 31 of each year.

The failure to file reports with the Department of Transportation could result in the county not receiving its Act 44 Tax Fund allocations. Additionally, the Department of the Auditor General was required to make all of the adjustments on the Report of Act 44 Tax Fund because the reports were not filed.

### Recommendation

We recommend that the municipality ensure that its Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund are complete and accurate and are filed by January 31 each year.

### Management's Response

The chief deputy controller stated:

We feel this is a duplicate of Finding No. 1 in which we were cited for not preparing the Forms MS-991 and wish to delete it from this audit report.

### Finding No. 5 - Failure To File 2010, 2011, And 2012 Reports Of Act 44 Tax Fund (Continued)

### Auditor's Conclusion

The county is responsible to annually file two reports with the Department of Transportation: Form MS-991 and Report of Act 44 Tax Fund. Finding No. 1 pertains to the county's failure to properly prepare Forms MS-991. This finding pertains to the county's failure to file its Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund. The county should ensure that its Reports of Act 44 Tax Fund are filed in a timely manner. During our next examination we will determine if the county complied with our recommendation.

### Comment No. 1 - Summary Of 2006 Examination Recommendations

In our 2006 examination we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the county should reimburse \$6,677.08 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for expenditures in excess of the 10 percent limit on indirect/administrative costs.

During our 2007 examination we reviewed a letter dated February 22, 2008, from the Department of Transportation informing the county to reimburse \$6,677.08 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. On March 14, 2011, the county reimbursed this amount to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

### Comment No. 2 - Summary Of 2008-2009 Examination Recommendations

In our 2008-2009 report we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the county should reimburse \$51,889.60 to the Act 44 Tax Fund from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for duplicate and excess transfers from the Act 44 Tax Fund to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. We noted that on December 29, 2010, December 30, 2010, and March 4, 2011, the county transferred \$17,979.70, \$27,008.05, and \$15,317.62, respectively, from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to its Act 44 Tax Fund, which was \$8,415.77 more than the required amount.

In our 2008-2009 report, we also recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the county should reimburse \$13,895.03 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. This amount consists of \$2,202.28 for nonpermissible expenditures and \$11,692.75 for expenditures in excess of the 10 percent limit on indirect/administrative costs. Findings for nonpermissible expenditures and expenditures in excess of the 10 percent limit for indirect/administrative costs were also written in our current report (see Finding Nos. 3 and 4).

During our current examination we reviewed a letter dated November 29, 2013, from the Department of Transportation informing the county to reimburse \$13,895.03 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, which was subsequent to our examination period. As of the date of this report, \$13,895.03 had not been reimbursed to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

In our 2008-2009 report we also recommended that the county establish and implement internal controls to ensure interfund transfers are reviewed timely to avoid duplicate and excess transfers.

During our current examination we noted that the county complied with our recommendations.

### FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND AND ACT 44 TAX FUND SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

An exit conference was held December 17, 2013. Those participating were:

### FAYETTE COUNTY

Mrs. Jeanine Wrona, Deputy Controller Mrs. Joyce Barnett, Accounting and Audit Manager Ms. Carol Guman, Account Clerk

### **DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

Erica DeStefano, MBA, Auditor

The results of the examination were presented and discussed in their entirety.

# FAYETTE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND AND ACT 44 TAX FUND REPORT DISTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable Barry J. Schoch, P.E. Secretary
Department of Transportation

Fayette County 61 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401

The Honorable Alfred Ambrosini Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Sean Lally Controller

The Honorable Robert F. Danko Treasurer

Mrs. Jeanine Wrona Deputy Controller

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