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# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

# EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**





BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY 40-406

LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

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## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND BACKGROUND FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

#### **Background**

The Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law, Title 72 P.S. § 2615.5, provides municipalities other than counties (townships, boroughs, cities, towns, home rule, and optional plan governments) with an annual allocation of liquid fuels taxes from the state's Motor License Fund to be used for the maintenance and repair of streets, roads, and bridges for which the municipality is responsible. The allocation of these funds to municipalities is based: (1) 50 percent on the municipality's proportion of local road mileage to the total local road mileage in the state, and (2) 50 percent on the proportion of a municipality's population to the total population in the state.

*The Vehicle Code*, Title 75 P.S. § 9511, provides municipalities with annual maintenance payments to be received from the Motor License Fund for functionally local highways that were transferred to a municipality from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Each municipality must deposit the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money and annual maintenance payments that it receives into a special fund called the Municipal Liquid Fuels Tax Fund or State Fund. A municipality may not deposit any other monies into this fund except when the municipality does not have enough money in the special fund to meet the payments called for by its current annual budget for road and bridge purposes. In this case, the municipality may borrow money or transfer money from its General Fund to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

The Department of Transportation has been given the regulatory authority for the administration of these funds. To qualify for its annual allocation, each municipality shall submit the following documents and information to the Department of Transportation:

- 1. Evidence that the treasurer is bonded in accordance with the law, or that its treasurer is a bank requiring no bond by January 31 of each year.
- 2. A report indicating the manner in which its liquid fuels tax allocation was expended in the previous year (Form MS-965) by January 31 of each year.
- 3. A report of elected and appointed officials by January 31 of each year.
- 4. A Survey of Financial Condition by March 15 of each year.

Department of Transportation *Publication 9* contains the policies and procedures that govern the use of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money. However, if there is a difference between *Publication 9* and any legislation, the legislation shall govern.





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-965 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Borough of Dupont, Luzerne County, for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011. The municipality's management is responsible for the Forms MS-965. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Forms MS-965 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 the Borough of Dupont, Luzerne County's Forms MS-965 for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011 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 municipality'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 Note 4, the adjustments included on the Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are made by the Department of the Auditor General.

## Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

In our opinion, the Forms MS-965 With Adjustments present, in all material respects, the information required by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Borough of Dupont, Luzerne County, for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011, 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-965 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-965 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 the Forms MS-965 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 the Borough of Dupont, Luzerne 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 the Borough of Dupont, Luzerne County's Forms MS-965 that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the Borough of Dupont, Luzerne County's internal control.

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-965 will not be prevented or detected by the Borough of Dupont, Luzerne County's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-965 was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, as defined above, in internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-965.

## Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we did note an other matter that, while not required to be included in this report by *Government Auditing Standards*, has been included in the finding below:

• Overexpenditure Of Street Lighting Costs.

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

Eugent: O-Purger

June 20, 2012

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE Auditor General



## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2010 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	Reported		Adjustments (Note 4)		Adjusted Amount	
Major equipment purchases	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Minor equipment purchases		1,965.83		-		1,965.83
Computer/Computer related training		-		-		-
Agility projects		-		-		-
Cleaning streets and gutters		-		-		-
Winter maintenance services		5,861.28		-		5,861.28
Traffic control devices		2,354.75		-		2,354.75
Street lighting		42,162.53		-		42,162.53
Storm sewers and drains		-		-		-
Repairs of tools and machinery		6,378.27		(56.95)		6,321.32
Maintenance and repair of						
roads and bridges		18,949.51		-		18,949.51
Highway construction and						
rebuilding projects		-		23,832.94		23,832.94
Miscellaneous		23,832.94		(23,832.94)		-
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	\$	101,505.11	\$	(56.95)	\$	101,448.16

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2010 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Fund Balance	Reported		Reported Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
1. Balance, January 1, 2010	\$ 20,894.19		\$ -	\$	20,894.19	
Receipts: 2. State allocation		64,778.05	-		64,778.05	
<ul><li>2a. Turnback allocation</li><li>2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)</li></ul>		- 38.81	-		- 38.81	
<ul><li>2c. Miscellaneous (Note 5)</li><li>2. Total receipta</li></ul>		43,904.82	 		43,904.82	
<ol> <li>3. Total receipts</li> <li>4. Total funds available</li> </ol>		108,721.68	 		108,721.68	
5. Expenditures (Section 1)		101,505.11	 (56.95)		101,448.16	
6. Balance, December 31, 2010	\$	28,110.76	\$ 56.95	\$	28,167.71	

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2010 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Equipment Balance	]	Reported	Adju	stments		Adjusted Amount
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$	20,894.19	\$	-	\$	20,894.19
<ol> <li>Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)</li> </ol>	1	12,955.61		-		12,955.61
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments		-				_
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition		33,849.80		-		33,849.80
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures		-		-		
6. Remainder		33,849.80		_		33,849.80
<ol> <li>Function For Section 2 Balance, but not less than zero)</li> </ol>	\$	28,110.76	\$	56.95	\$	28,167.71
out not less than zero)	φ	20,110.70	Φ	30.93	φ	20,107.71

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2011 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	Reported		Adjustments (Note 4)		Adjusted Amount	
Major equipment purchases	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Minor equipment purchases		1,071.77		-		1,071.77
Computer/Computer related training		-		-		-
Agility projects		-		-		-
Cleaning streets and gutters		-		-		-
Winter maintenance services		11,848.88		-		11,848.88
Traffic control devices		4,081.18		-		4,081.18
Street lighting		20,927.23		-		20,927.23
Storm sewers and drains		-		-		-
Repairs of tools and machinery		5,034.62		-		5,034.62
Maintenance and repair of						
roads and bridges		28,232.14		(13,385.80)		14,846.34
Highway construction and						
rebuilding projects		24,676.25		13,385.80		38,062.05
Miscellaneous		-				
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	\$	95,872.07	\$	-	\$	95,872.07

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2011 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Fund Balance	Reported		Adjustments oorted (Note 4)		Adjusted Amount		
1. Balance, January 1, 2011	\$	28,110.76	\$	56.95	\$	28,167.71	
Receipts: 2. State allocation 2a. Turnback allocation 2b. Interest on investments (Note 3) 2c. Miscellaneous (Note 5)		66,319.41 		- - (56.95)		66,319.41 23.17 1,903.56	
3. Total receipts		68,303.09		(56.95)		68,246.14	
4. Total funds available		96,413.85				96,413.85	
5. Expenditures (Section 1)		95,872.07				95,872.07	
6. Balance, December 31, 2011	\$	541.78	\$	-	\$	541.78	

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2011 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Equipment Balance		Reported	Adjustments (Note 4)		Adjusted Amount	
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$	-	\$	28,167.71	\$	28,167.71
<ol> <li>Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)</li> </ol>	1	13,263.88		-		13,263.88
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments						
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition		13,263.88		28,167.71		41,431.59
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures		-		_		_
6. Remainder		13,263.88		28,167.71		41,431.59
<ol> <li>Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)</li> </ol>	\$	541.78	\$		\$	541.78

### 1. <u>Criteria</u>

## Section 1

This section of Form MS-965 With Adjustments provides a summary of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund expenditures by category. Categories requiring explanation include:

- Major equipment purchases are purchases of road machinery and road equipment that cost in excess of \$4,000.00.
- Minor equipment purchases are purchases of road machinery and road equipment that cost \$4,000.00 or less.
- Agility projects are exchanges of services with the Department of Transportation.

## Section 2

This section of Form MS-965 With Adjustments provides information on the fund balance. Categories requiring explanation include:

- The state allocation is generally received from the Department of Transportation during the first week in April of each year. The amount the municipality receives is based half on its population and half on its road mileage.
- The turnback allocation is generally received from the Department of Transportation during the first week in April of each year. A municipality receives a yearly turnback allocation based on road mileage for all roads that were transferred to the municipality from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Highway Transfer Program.
- Expenditures include the total transferred from Section 1.

## Section 3

This section of Form MS-965 With Adjustments determines if the municipality expended Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money in excess of the permissible amount for equipment and the balance that the municipality may carry forward for the purchase of equipment to the subsequent year.

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

#### Section 3 (Continued)

Department of Transportation *Publication 9* requires that the amount expended for equipment purchases in a given year not exceed the sum of the equipment balance carried forward from the previous year and 20 percent of the current year's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation and, if applicable, 20 percent of the turnback allocation plus other Department of Transportation approved adjustments.

If the municipality spent in excess of the amount listed on Line 4, the excess must be reimbursed to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

The equipment balance to be carried forward for the subsequent year is the lesser of the amount on Line 6 or the ending fund balance on Line 6 of Section 2, but not less than zero.

#### **Basis Of Presentation**

The financial activities of the municipality are accounted for in separate funds. The Liquid Fuels Tax Fund is used to account for state aid revenues from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation used primarily for building and improving local roads and bridges. The Forms MS-965 have been prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as a result of the Fuels Tax Act 655, dated 1956 and as amended, which does not constitute a complete presentation of the entity's assets, liabilities, expenses, and fund balance. Accordingly, the presentation of Forms MS-965 With Adjustments is restricted to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, which represents a segment of the entity.

#### Basis Of Accounting

The accompanying Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Under this method, revenues are recognized when received and expenditures are recorded when paid.

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

#### General Fixed Assets

General fixed assets are recognized as expenditures at the time of purchase. No depreciation has been provided on the heavy equipment used to maintain and repair roads and bridges.

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

*The Borough Code*, Title 53 P.S § 46316, authorizes the borough 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 purchased from institutions insured by the FDIC or other like insurance to the extent that such accounts are so insured. 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, 2011. 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 municipality's name.

#### 2. <u>Deposits (Continued)</u>

#### Fund Balance

The fund balance as of December 31, 2011 consists of the following:

Cash

<u>\$541.78</u>

#### 3. Interest On Investments

Our examination disclosed that the municipality deposited idle liquid fuels tax money in an interest-bearing account which earned \$38.81 during 2010, and \$23.17 during 2011, thus providing additional funds for road maintenance and repairs.

#### 4. Adjustments

#### <u>2010 - Section 1</u>

An adjustment of \$(56.95) was made to "Repairs of tools and machinery" because check No. 2850 was voided but was included as an expenditure.

Adjustments were made to "Highway construction and rebuilding projects" and "Miscellaneous" because expenditures of \$23,832.94 were misclassified.

#### 2011 - Section 1

Adjustments were made to "Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges" and "Highway construction and rebuilding projects" because expenditures of \$13,385.80 were misclassified.

#### 2011 - Section 2

An adjustment of \$56.95 was made to "Balance, January 1, 2011" to reflect the adjustment made in 2010 - Section 1.

An adjustment of \$(56.95) was made to "Miscellaneous" because these receipts were overstated.

#### 4. Adjustments (Continued)

#### 2011 - Section 3

An adjustment of \$28,167.71 was made to "Prior year equipment balance" because an incorrect equipment balance was carried forward.

#### 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
Commonwealth of			
Pennsylvania	Gas tax refund	\$ 163.41	\$1,833.47
Pittston Township	Winter maintenance agreement	1,833.47	70.09
General Fund	Grant for street lighting	18,075.00	-
General Fund	Reimbursement for paving project	23,832.94	
Total		<u>\$43,904.82</u>	<u>\$1,903.56</u>

#### 6. Bank Loan

On August 29, 2008, the municipality borrowed \$125,000.00 from PNC Bank for a paving project. The term of the loan was for five years at an interest rate of 3.49 percent. Principal and interest payments of \$27,389.34 are due annually. Prior years' principal and interest payments from the General Fund were \$24,493.12 and \$2,896.22, respectively.

During the current examination period the municipality paid principal of \$24,676.25 and interest of \$2,713.09 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. These amounts are reflected in highway construction and rebuilding projects on the 2011 Form MS-965 – Section 1. Additionally, the municipality paid principal of \$23,832.93 and interest of \$3,556.41 from the General Fund. The outstanding balance of the loan as of December 31, 2011 was \$51,997.70, plus interest.



## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

### Finding - Overexpenditure Of Street Lighting Costs

Our examination disclosed that the borough expended \$1,554.16 during 2010 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in excess of the approved amount for street lighting costs.

*The Borough Code*, 53 P.S. § 46302(a)(4), or § 1302 and § 1302(4) of *The Borough Code* as published by the Local Government Commission provide that:

The council of the borough shall have power, by ordinance, to levy and collect annually, a tax, not exceeding thirty mills for general borough purposes, unless the council by majority action shall, upon due cause shown by resolution, petition the court of common pleas, in which case the court may order a rate of not more than five mills additional to be levied and in addition thereto any of the following taxes:...

(4) For lighting and illuminating the streets, highways and other public places with electric light, gas light or other illuminant, not exceeding eight mills;...

We noted that the borough had levied a real estate tax assessment of 1.1384 mills, of which, .1366 mills was imposed for street lighting costs for the year 2010.

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

#### Finding - Overexpenditure Of Street Lighting Costs (Continued)

The Department of Transportation's Regulations permit only those street lighting expenditures in excess of the tax actually collected for street lighting to be expended from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

Our calculations are as follows:

2010 taxes assessed for street lighting Total real estate taxes assessed for 2010 .1366 mills divided by 1.11384 mills equals 12% 2010 street lighting costs	.1366 mills 1.1384 mills	\$ 42,162.53
Total real estate taxes collected for 2010 Street lighting percentage 2010 taxes collected for street lighting	\$163,576.31 <u>x 12%</u>	(19,629.16)
Street lighting bills in excess of taxes collected Grant from the General Fund		22,533.37 18,075.00
Permissible amount to be paid from liquid fuels		40,608.37
Amount expended from liquid fuels for street lighting		(42,162.53)
Overexpenditure - 2010		<u>\$ (1,554.16)</u>

The failure to follow *The Borough Code* and the Department of Transportation's Regulations as noted above could result in the borough having to reimburse \$1,554.16 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

A similar finding was also written in our prior report. However, the municipality did not overexpend street lighting cost during 2011.

#### Recommendations

We recommend that the borough reimburse \$1,554.16 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that the borough continue to follow *The Borough Code* and the Department of Transportation's Regulations by limiting their street lighting expenditures from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund only to lighting costs which exceed the tax amount collected for street lighting.

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

## Finding - Overexpenditure Of Street Lighting Costs (Continued)

## Management's Response

The borough officials offered no formal response at this time.

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND COMMENT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

#### Comment – Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations

In our prior report we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the municipality should reimburse \$1,078.60 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for overexpenditure of street lighting costs. A similar finding was also written in our current report (see Finding).

During our current examination we reviewed a letter dated January 6, 2012, from the Department of Transportation informing the municipality to reimburse \$1,078.60 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. We noted that the municipality reimbursed this amount to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on March 20, 2012, which was subsequent to our examination.

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

An exit conference was held June 20, 2012. Those participating were:

## BOROUGH OF DUPONT

Ms. Patricia A. McDonald, Borough Manager

## DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Raymond J. Insalaco, Auditor

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



## BOROUGH OF DUPONT LUZERNE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND REPORT DISTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

This report was initially distributed to:

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

> Borough of Dupont Luzerne County 600 Chestnut Street Dupont, PA 18641

The Honorable Stanley Knick, Jr.

President of Council

Ms. Patricia A. McDonald

Borough Manager

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 231 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. To view this report online or to contact the Department of the Auditor General, please access our web site at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us.