

Debt Service Fund		
Twenty-four Months Ended December 31, 1996	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1996	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1995
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
-	-	-
283	151	132
-	-	-
283	151	132
-	-	-
-	-	-
6	-	6
-	-	-
-	-	-
6	-	6
16,000	8,000	8,000
8,500	4,050	4,450
24,500	12,050	12,450
24,506	12,050	12,456
(24,223)	(11,899)	(12,324)

Account Groups		
General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	Total (Memorandum Only)
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,123
-	-	88,500
-	-	29,322
-	-	563
249,239	-	249,239
-	12,145	12,145
-	64,855	64,855
<u>\$ 249,239</u>	<u>\$ 77,000</u>	<u>\$ 473,747</u>
	\$ -	\$ 2,120
	<u>77,000</u>	<u>77,000</u>
	<u>77,000</u>	<u>79,120</u>
\$ 249,239		249,239
-		12,145
-		<u>133,243</u>
249,239		<u>394,627</u>
<u>\$ 249,239</u>	<u>\$ 77,000</u>	<u>\$ 473,747</u>

**COMBINED BALANCE SHEET -  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS**

**Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission**

December 31, 1996

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>	
	<u>General</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 16,978	\$ 12,145
Investments	88,500	-
Due from other governmental units	29,322	-
Other assets	563	-
Fixed assets	-	-
Amounts available in Debt Service Fund	-	-
Amounts to be provided for retirement of general long-term debt	-	-
Totals	<u>\$ 135,363</u>	<u>\$ 12,145</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenditures	\$ 2,120	
Certificate of Indebtedness	-	
Total liabilities	<u>2,120</u>	
<b>Fund Equity And Other Credits</b>		
Investment in general fixed assets		
Fund balances:		
Reserved for debt service	-	\$ 12,145
Unreserved	133,243	-
Total fund equity and other credits	<u>133,243</u>	<u>12,145</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 135,363</u>	<u>\$ 12,145</u>

See notes to financial statements.



Bourgeois Bennett

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Commissioners,  
Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission,  
Raceland, Louisiana.

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission (the Commission), a component unit of the Lafourche Parish Council, as of December 31, 1996, and for the twenty-four month period ended December 31, 1996, and for the twelve month periods ended December 31, 1996 and 1995, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission as of December 31, 1996, and the results of its operations for the twenty-four month period then ended and for the twelve month periods ended December 31, 1996 and 1995 in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated January 31, 1997 on our consideration of the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission's internal control structure and a report dated January 31, 1997 on its compliance with laws and regulations.

*Bourgeois Bennett, L.L.C.*

Certified Public Accountants.

Thibodaux, La.,  
January 31, 1997.

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*Financial Report*

*Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission*

*Raceland, Louisiana*

*December 31, 1996*

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date APR 16 1997

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	General Fund		
	Twenty-four Months Ended December 31, 1996	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1996	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1995
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures (brought forward)	<u>86,422</u>	<u>83,042</u>	<u>3,380</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>			
Operating transfers in	-	-	-
Operating transfers out	<u>(26,280)</u>	<u>(13,140)</u>	<u>(13,140)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(26,280)</u>	<u>(13,140)</u>	<u>(13,140)</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues And Other Sources Over Expenditures and Other Uses</b>	60,142	69,902	(9,760)
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Beginning of period	<u>73,101</u>	<u>63,341</u>	<u>73,101</u>
End of period	<u>\$ 133,243</u>	<u>\$ 133,243</u>	<u>\$ 63,341</u>

See notes to financial statements.

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December 31, 1996

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<u>Twelve months ended December 31, 1995</u>		
<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
\$ 75,000	\$ 80,442	\$ 5,442
7,000	26,445	19,445
1,900	2,577	677
-	1,129	1,129
83,900	110,593	26,693
28,400	29,804	(1,404)
4,200	4,835	(635)
29,960	23,869	6,091
2,500	-	2,500
43,800	48,705	(4,905)
108,860	107,213	1,647
(24,960)	3,380	28,340
(13,140)	(13,140)	-
(38,100)	(9,760)	28,340
73,101	73,101	-
<u>\$ 35,001</u>	<u>\$ 63,341</u>	<u>\$ 28,340</u>



**COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES**

**Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission**

For the twenty-four month period ended December 31, 1996

	<u>General Fund</u>		
	<u>Twenty-four Months Ended December 31, 1996</u>	<u>Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1996</u>	<u>Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1995</u>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Taxes - hotel/motel:			
Parish	\$ 169,791	\$ 89,349	\$ 80,442
State	110,617	84,172	26,445
Miscellaneous:			
Interest	4,857	2,280	2,577
Other	1,342	213	1,129
Total revenues	<u>286,607</u>	<u>176,014</u>	<u>110,593</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Current:			
Economic Development and Assistance:			
Personal services	63,808	34,004	29,804
Materials and supplies	8,955	4,120	4,835
Other services and charges	71,032	47,163	23,869
Repairs and maintenance	2,862	2,862	-
Capital expenditures	53,528	4,823	48,705
Total economic development and assistance	<u>200,185</u>	<u>92,972</u>	<u>107,213</u>
Debt service:			
Principal			
Interest			
Total debt service			
Total expenditures	<u>200,185</u>	<u>92,972</u>	<u>107,213</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures (carry forward)	<u>86,422</u>	<u>83,042</u>	<u>3,380</u>



Bourgeois Bennett

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE  
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Board of Commissioners,  
Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission,  
Raceland, Louisiana.

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission (the Commission), a component unit of the Lafourche Parish Council, State of Louisiana, as of December 31, 1996, and for the twelve month periods ended December 31, 1996 and 1995, and have issued our report thereon dated January 31, 1997.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to the Commission is the responsibility of the Commission's management. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the Commission's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. However, the objective of our audit of the general purpose financial statements was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with such provisions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported herein under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended for the information of the Commission, management, the State of Louisiana and the Legislative Auditor for the State of Louisiana. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

*Bourgeois Bennett, L.L.C.*

Certified Public Accountants.

Thibodaux, La.,  
January 31, 1997.

20

Debt Service Fund		
Twenty-four Months Ended December 31, 1996	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1996	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 1995
<u>(24,223)</u>	<u>(11,899)</u>	<u>(12,324)</u>
26,280	13,140	13,140
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>26,280</u>	<u>13,140</u>	<u>13,140</u>
2,057	1,241	816
<u>10,088</u>	<u>10,904</u>	<u>10,088</u>
<u>\$ 12,145</u>	<u>\$ 12,145</u>	<u>\$ 10,904</u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL -  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE - GENERAL FUND**

**Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission**

For the twelve month periods ended December 31, 1996 and 1995

	<u>Twelve months ended December 31, 1996</u>		
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Taxes - hotel/motel:			
Parish	\$ 94,000	\$ 89,349	\$ (4,651)
State	87,500	84,172	(3,328)
Miscellaneous:			
Interest	2,200	2,280	80
Other	200	213	13
Total revenues	<u>183,900</u>	<u>176,014</u>	<u>(7,886)</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Current:			
Economic Development and Assistance:			
Personal services	35,000	34,004	996
Materials and supplies	7,000	4,120	2,880
Other services and charges	58,700	47,163	11,537
Repairs and maintenance	3,200	2,862	338
Capital expenditures	66,860	4,823	62,037
Total economic development and assistance	<u>170,760</u>	<u>92,972</u>	<u>77,788</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	13,140	83,042	69,902
<b>Other Financing Uses</b>			
Operating transfers out	<u>(13,140)</u>	<u>(13,140)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Uses</b>	-	69,902	69,902
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Beginning of period	<u>63,341</u>	<u>63,341</u>	<u>-</u>
End of period	<u>\$ 63,341</u>	<u>\$ 133,243</u>	<u>\$ 69,902</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission**

December 31, 1996

**Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounting and reporting policies of the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission (the Commission) conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of certain significant accounting policies:

**a) Reporting Entity**

The Commission is a component unit of the Lafourche Parish Council.

The Commission has reviewed all of its activities and determined that there are no potential component units which should be included in its financial statements.

**b) Fund Accounting**

The government uses funds and account groups to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. An account group, on the other hand, is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities that are not recorded in the funds because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources.

**Governmental Funds**

Governmental Funds are those through which most governmental functions of the Commission are financed. The acquisition, use and balances of the Commission's expendable financial resources and the related liabilities are accounted for through Governmental Funds. The measurement focus is upon determination of changes in financial position, rather than upon net income determination. The following are the Governmental Funds of the Commission:

Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

b) Fund Accounting (Continued)

**General Fund** - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Commission. It is used to account for all financial resources except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

**Debt Service Fund** - The Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal, interest and related costs.

**Account Groups**

The General Fixed Assets Account Group is used to account for fixed assets not accounted for in proprietary or trust funds. The General Long-Term Debt Account Group is used to account for general long-term debt and certain other liabilities that are not specific liabilities of proprietary or trust funds.

c) Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

All Governmental Funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Hotel/motel sales and use taxes are considered "measurable" when in the hands of the merchants and are recognized as revenue at that time. Interest income on investments is recorded as revenue when the investments have matured and the income is available. Miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenues when received in cash by the Commission because they are generally not measurable until actually received.

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. An exception to this general rule is principal and interest on general long-term debt which is recognized when due.

**Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**d) Operating Budgetary Data**

As required by Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1303, the Board of Commissioners (the Board) adopted a budget for the Commission's General Fund. The Board, as allowed by state law, does not obtain public participation in the budget process. Any amendment involving the transfer of monies from one function to another or increases in expenditures must be approved by the Board. The Commission amended its budget twice during the year. All budgeted amounts which are not expended, or obligated through contracts, lapse at year end.

The General Fund budget is adopted on a basis materially consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

**e) Bad Debts**

The general purpose financial statements for the Commission contain no allowance for bad debts. Uncollectible amounts due for taxes and other receivables are recognized as bad debts at the time information becomes available which would indicate the uncollectibility of the particular receivable. These amounts are not considered to be material in relation to the financial position or operations of the funds.

**f) Investments**

Investments are stated at cost, which approximates market.

**g) General Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations (general fixed assets) are accounted for in the General Fixed Assets Account Group, rather than in governmental funds. The Account Group is not a fund. It is concerned only with the measurement of financial position.

It is not involved with the measurement of results of operations. Public domain ("infrastructure") general fixed assets consisting of certain improvements other than buildings, including roads, bridges, curbs and gutters, streets and sidewalks, drainage systems and lighting systems, are not capitalized along with other general fixed assets. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets.

**Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**g) General Fixed Assets (Continued)**

All fixed assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated fixed assets are valued at their estimated fair market value on the date donated.

**h) Long-Term Debt**

The accounting and reporting treatment applied to the long-term debt associated with a fund are determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for on a spending or "financial flow" measurement focus. This means that only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on their balance sheets. Their reported fund balance (net current assets) is considered a measure of "available spendable resources". Governmental Fund operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they are said to present a summary of sources and uses of "available spendable resources" during a period.

Long-term debt expected to be financed from governmental funds are accounted for in the General Long-Term Debt Account Group, not in the governmental funds.

The Long-Term Debt Account Group is not a "fund". It is concerned only with the measurement of financial position. It is not involved with the measurement of results of operations.

**i) Vacation and Sick Leave**

The Commission has no written policy on vacation and sick leave in place.

**j) Encumbrances**

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments are recorded in the fund general ledgers, is not utilized by the Commission.

**k) Total Column on Combined Statements - Overview**

The total column on the combined statements - overview is captioned memorandum only to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column does not present financial position or results of operations, in conformity with generally



**Note 4 - CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS**

A summary of changes in general fixed assets follows:

	<u>Construction in Progress</u>	<u>Buildings</u>	<u>Office Furniture and Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance, January 1, 1995	\$ 4,523	\$172,784	\$20,604	\$197,911
Additions	42,097	-	6,108	48,205
Deletions/Transfers	<u>(46,620)</u>	<u>46,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, December 31, 1995	-	219,404	26,712	246,116
Additions	-	2,580	2,242	4,822
Deletions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,699</u>	<u>1,699</u>
Balance, December 31, 1996	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$221,984</u>	<u>\$27,255</u>	<u>\$249,239</u>

Construction in progress, which consisted of drainage improvements and a turnaround driveway for RV Campers, was completed during 1995 and included in the General Fixed Assets Account Group as Buildings.

**Note 5 - LONG-TERM DEBT**

During 1993, the Commission issued \$100,000 of Certificates of Indebtedness bearing interest at a rate of 5.00% which is payable through March 1, 2003 primarily from excess reserves accumulated in prior years.

The following is a summary of changes in long-term debt of the Commission:

	<u>Certificates of Indebtedness Series 1994</u>
Payable December 31, 1994	\$93,000
Principal Payment	<u>(8,000)</u>
Payable December 31, 1995	85,000
Principal Payment	<u>(8,000)</u>
Payable December 31, 1996	<u>\$77,000</u>

**Note 5 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)**

The annual requirements, including interest, of \$14,375 to amortize the long-term debt outstanding at December 31, 1996 are as follows:

<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Certificates of Indebtedness</u>
1997	\$ 12,625
1998	13,150
1999	12,650
2000	13,125
2001	13,550
Thereafter	<u>26,275</u>
Total	<u>\$91,375</u>

**Note 6 - COMPENSATION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

As set forth in the Commission's by-laws, the Board serves without compensation.

**Note 7 - COMMITMENT**

On December 16, 1996, the Commission entered into a contract agreement with architects for interior renovations to the visitors welcome center. Compensation for basic services to be provided were stated to be a fixed fee of \$6,547. This project was scheduled to begin in 1997. Therefore, there were no amounts related to this project payable at December 31, 1996.

**SPECIAL REPORTS OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

This report is intended for the information of the Commission, management, the State of Louisiana and the Legislative Auditor for the State of Louisiana. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

*Bourgeois Bennett, L.L.C.*

Certified Public Accountants.

Thibodaux, La.,  
January 31, 1997.

**Note 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**k) Total Column on Combined Statements - Overview (Continued)**

accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation. Interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

**Note 2 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Louisiana state law allows all political subdivisions to invest excess funds in obligations of the United States, certificates of deposit of state or national banks having their principal office in Louisiana or any other federally insured investment.

State law also requires that deposits of all political subdivisions be fully collateralized at all times. Acceptable collateralization includes the FDIC insurance and the market value of securities purchased and pledged to the political subdivision. Obligations of the United States, the State of Louisiana and certain political subdivisions are allowed as security for deposits. Obligations furnished as security must be held by the political subdivision or with an unaffiliated bank or trust company for the account of the political subdivision.

During 1996 and 1995, the Commission's investments consisted solely of certificates of deposit. At December 31, 1995 the Commission's cash and investments were not in excess of the FDIC insurance limit. At December 31, 1996, the Commission's cash and investments were not adequately secured by pledged securities for approximately \$18,259.

**Note 3 - DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UNITS**

Amounts due from other governmental units at December 31, 1996 for Hotel/Motel Taxes consisted of the following:

State of Louisiana	\$16,133
Lafourche Parish School Board	<u>13,189</u>
Total	<u>\$29,322</u>

operation, and we assessed control risk in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the general purpose financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

We noted a certain matter involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control structure that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the general purpose financial statements.

**Condition** - During our audit, we noted two checks that were not recorded on the Commission's internal financial statements and two checks that were written without proper original transaction documentation. Proper internal control requires that all transactions be properly documented. It was also noted that the Commission paid late charges, finance charges and sales tax on some of its invoices.

**Recommendation** - We recommend that the Commission develop procedures that would allow them to verify that all expenditures have been recorded in their financial statements and that cash disbursements be made only with the proper documentation, which should be maintained by the Commission. We also recommend that all invoices be paid in a timely manner in order to eliminate late charges and finance charges. As a political subdivision the Commission is exempt from sales taxes. Proper forms for the exemption should be filed with all vendors.

**Response** - The Commission will continue to verify all expenditures and cash disbursements will be made only with proper documentation. The Commission will make every attempt to handle payment of all invoices in a timely manner. All vendors will receive proper tax exempt forms.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses as defined above. However, we believe the reportable condition described above is not a material weakness.



Bourgeois Bennett

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE INTERNAL CONTROL  
STRUCTURE BASED ON AN AUDIT OF GENERAL PURPOSE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Board of Commissioners,  
Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission,  
Raceland, Louisiana.

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission (the Commission), a component unit of the Lafourche Parish Council, State of Louisiana, as of December 31, 1996 and for the twelve month periods ended December 31, 1996 and 1995, and have issued our report thereon dated January 31, 1997.

We have conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement.

The management of the Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of general purpose financial in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

In planning and performing our audit of the general purpose financial statements of the Commission for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 1996, we obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in