



August 29, 2016

Board of Trustees  
Green Island Power Authority  
69 Hudson Avenue  
Green Island, New York 12183

Dear Members of the Board:

We are pleased to present this report related to our audit of the financial statements of the Green Island Power Authority (Authority) for the year ended May 31, 2016. This report summarizes certain matters required by professional standards to be communicated to you in your oversight responsibility for the Authority's financial reporting process.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees and management, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. It will be our pleasure to respond to any questions you have regarding this report. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Authority.

Very truly yours,

BST & Co. CPAs, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Freitag". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William C. Freitag, Partner

WCF/dmc



## **Green Island Power Authority**

### **Communication With Those Charged With Governance Year Ended May 31, 2016**

Generally accepted auditing standards (AU-C 260, *The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance*) require the auditor to promote effective two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance. Consistent with this requirement, the following summarizes our responsibilities regarding the financial statement audit as well as observations arising from our audit that are significant and relevant to your responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process.

#### **Our Responsibilities With Regard to the Financial Statement Audit**

Our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States have been described to you in our arrangement letter dated May 22, 2013. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities, which are also described in that letter.

#### **Overview of the Planned Scope and Timing of the Financial Statement Audit**

We have issued a separate communication regarding the planned scope and timing of our audit and have discussed with you our identification of and planned audit response to significant risks of material misstatement. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities which are also described in that letter.

#### **Accounting Policies and Practices**

##### **Preferability of Accounting Policies and Practices**

Under generally accepted principles, in certain circumstances, management may select among alternative accounting practices. In our view, in such circumstances, management has selected the preferable accounting practice.

##### **Adoption of, or Change in, Accounting Policies**

Management has the ultimate responsibility for the appropriateness of the accounting policies used by the Authority. The Authority did not adopt any significant new accounting policies nor have there been any changes in existing significant accounting policies during the current period, except as noted herein:

GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*. The primary objective of this statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for pensions. It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for pensions that is provided by other entities. This statement replaces the requirements for Statements No. 25, *Financial Reporting for Defined Benefit Pension Plans and Note Disclosures for Defined Contributions Plans*, and No. 50, *Pension Disclosures*, as they relate to pension plans that are administered through trusts or equivalent arrangements (hereafter jointly referred to as trusts) that meet certain criteria. The requirements of Statements No. 25 and No. 50 remain applicable to pension plans that are not administered through trusts covered by the scope of this statement.

# Green Island Power Authority

## Communication With Those Charged With Governance Year Ended May 31, 2016

### Accounting Policies and Practices - Continued

#### Adoption of, or Change in, Accounting Policies - Continued

The scope of this statement also addresses accounting and financial reporting for pensions that are provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers through pension plans that are administered through trusts that have certain characteristics as defined in the statement. It establishes standards for measuring and recognizing liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. For defined benefit pensions, this statement identifies the methods and assumptions that should be used to project benefit payments, discount projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service. Note disclosure and required supplementary information requirements about pensions also are addressed.

GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date*. The objective of this statement is to address an issue regarding application of the transition provisions of Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*. This statement amends paragraph 137 of Statement No. 68 to require that, at transition, a government recognize a beginning deferred outflow of resources for its pension contributions, if any, made subsequent to the measurement date of the beginning net pension liability. The provisions of this statement are required to be applied simultaneously with the provisions of statement No. 68.

The Authority adopted these accounting standards effective June 1, 2015. As a result of adopting these accounting standards and guidance, the Authority now reports its proportionate share of the net pension liability, along with related deferred outflows of resources, the related deferred inflows of resources, and pension expense, as determined by the State and Local Employees' Retirement System. The adoption of GASB No. 68 is retroactive. Accordingly, the Authority has restated its opening net position resulting in a reduction of \$107,636.

#### Significant or Unusual Transactions

We did not identify any significant or unusual transactions or significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

#### Management's Judgments and Accounting Estimates

Summary information about the process used by management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and about our conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates is in the attached Exhibit A, Summary of Significant Accounting Estimates.

#### Audit Adjustments

Audit adjustments proposed by us and recorded by the Authority are shown on the attached Exhibit B, Summary of Recorded Audit Adjustments.



# **Green Island Power Authority**

## **Communication With Those Charged With Governance Year Ended May 31, 2016**

### **Uncorrected Misstatements**

We are not aware of any uncorrected misstatements other than misstatements that are clearly trivial.

### **Disagreements with Management**

We encountered no disagreements with management over the application of significant accounting principles, the basis for management's judgments on any significant matters, the scope of the audit, or significant disclosures to be included in the financial statements.

### **Consultations with Other Accountants**

We are not aware of any consultations management had with other accountants about accounting or auditing matters.

### **Significant Issues Discussed with Management**

No significant issues arising from the audit were discussed with or the subject of correspondence with management.

### **Significant Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

We did not encounter any significant difficulties in dealing with management during the audit.

### **Significant Written Communications Between Management and Our Firm**

Copies of material written communications between our firm and the management of the Authority, including the representation letter provided to us by management, are attached as Exhibit C.



## Green Island Power Authority

### Summary of Significant Accounting Estimates Year Ended May 31, 2016

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the preparation of financial statements and are based upon management's current judgment. The process used by management encompasses their knowledge and experience about past and current events and certain assumptions about future events. You may wish to monitor throughout the year the process used to determine and record these accounting estimates. The following describes the significant accounting estimates reflected in the Authority's May 31, 2016 financial statements:

<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Accounting Policy</u>	<u>Estimation Process</u>
<b>Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts</b>	Allowance is based on a review of outstanding amounts on a monthly basis.	Management determines the allowance for uncollectible accounts by identifying troubled accounts and by using historical experience applied to an aging of accounts.
<b>Depreciation</b>	Depreciation is provided for in amounts to relate the cost of depreciable assets to operations.	Depreciation is provided for in amounts to relate the cost of depreciable assets to operations.
<b>Postemployment Benefits</b>	Postemployment benefits are reported under the accrual basis, where the expected value of the benefit is actuarially calculated and recognized as a cost over the working lifetime of employees.	Actuarial computations and the resulting postemployment liability as of May 31, 2015, were provided by Armory Associates, LLC, the Authority's independent actuary. These computations were prepared using various assumptions related to retirement age, marital status, mortality, termination rates, healthcare cost trends, and amortization methods.
<b>Net Pension Liability</b>	The Authority recognizes its proportionate share of the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System net pension liability, the related deferred inflows of resources, and the related deferred outflows of resources.	The Authority's net pension liability is estimated by the New York State Office of the State Comptroller using census data supplied by participating employers and various actuarial assumptions, including but not limited to, rate of return, mortality, and inflation. The Authority's proportionate percentage of the liability is determined on an annual basis.

We have evaluated management's significant accounting estimates noted above as part of our audit, and concluded that management's estimates and the estimation process appear reasonable in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole.



## Green Island Power Authority

### Summary of Recorded Audit Adjustments Year Ended May 31, 2016

Description	Effect - Increase (Decrease)				
	Assets	Liabilities	Net Assets	Revenue	Expense
To post prior year unrecorded entry and reconcile net position	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (5,104)	\$ -	\$ (5,104)
To accrue transmission and purchased power costs	-	62,259	-	-	62,259
To implement GASB 68 and 71	264,698	400,781	(107,636)	-	28,447
To adjust postretirement benefit estimate	-	51,687	-	-	51,687
To accrue rebate on transmission costs due to rate payers	-	25,846	-	-	25,846
Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Changes in Net Position Effect	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(163,135)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 163,135</u>
Statement of Net Position Effect	<u>\$ 264,698</u>	<u>\$ 540,573</u>	<u>\$ (275,875)</u>		

## Green Island Power Authority

Significant Written Communications  
Between Management and our Firm  
Year Ended May 31, 2016

Representation Letter



# GREEN ISLAND POWER AUTHORITY

## BILLING OFFICE

20 Clinton Street  
Green Island, New York 12183  
(518) 272-4790 (Office)  
(518) 271-1924 (Fax)

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES

69 Hudson Avenue  
Green Island, New York 12183  
(518) 271-9397 (Office)  
(518) 689-9700 (Fax)

## ELECTRICAL FACILITIES CENTER

50 Cohoes Avenue  
Green Island, New York 12183  
(518) 274-5125 (Office)  
(518) 274-9040 (Fax)

August 29, 2016

BST & Co. CPAs, LLP  
26 Computer Drive West  
Albany, New York 12205

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audits of the financial statements of the Green Island Power Authority (Authority), which comprise the statements of net position as of May 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related statements of revenues and expenses and changes in net position, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, that as of August 29, 2016:

### *Financial Statements*

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit arrangement letter dated May 22, 2013, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements referred to above in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
2. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
4. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable and reflect our judgment based on our knowledge and experience about past and current events and our assumptions about conditions we expect to exist and courses of action we expect to take. In that regard, adequate provisions have been made:
  - a. To reduce receivables to their estimated net collectible amounts.
  - b. To reduce obsolete, damaged, or excess inventories to their estimated net realizable values.
  - c. For postretirement benefits other than pensions attributable to employee services rendered through May 31, 2016. As of May 31, 2016, the postretirement obligation was actuarially determined with the assistance of Armory Associates, LLC, the Authority's independent actuary.
5. Related-party transactions, including those with other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the Authority are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete, have been recorded in accordance with the economic substance of the transaction and appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.





6. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which U.S. GAAP requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
7. The effects of all known actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
8. Arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances have been properly disclosed.
9. We believe that the actuarial assumptions and methods used to measure postretirement benefits and costs for financial accounting purposes are appropriate in the circumstances.
10. We have no direct or indirect, legal or moral, obligation for any debt of any organization, public or private, that is not disclosed in the financial statements.
11. We have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance. In connection therewith, we specifically represent that we are responsible for determining that we are not subject to the requirements of the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-133 because we have not received, expended, or otherwise been the beneficiary of the required amount of federal awards during the period of these audits.
12. We have no knowledge of any uncorrected misstatements in the financial statements.
13. Effective June 1, 2015, the Authority adopted GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*. The primary objective of this statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for pensions. It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for pensions that is provided by other entities. This statement replaces the requirements of Statements No. 25, *Financial Reporting for Defined Benefit Pension Plans and Note Disclosures for Defined Contribution Plans*, and No. 50, *Pension Disclosures*, as they relate to pension plans that are administered through trusts or equivalent arrangements (hereafter jointly referred to as trusts) that meet certain criteria. The requirements of Statements No. 25 and No. 50 remain applicable to pension plans that are not administered through trusts covered by the scope of this statement.

Effective January 1, 2015, the Authority adopted GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date, an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*. This statement addresses an issue regarding the application of the transition provisions of Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Reporting for Pensions*. The issue relates to amounts associated with contributions, if any, made by a state or local government employer or non-employer contributing entity to a defined benefit pension plan after the measurement date of the government's beginning net pension liability. The provisions of the statement are to be adopted simultaneously with Statement No. 68.

As a result of adopting these accounting standards and guidance, the Authority now reports its proportionate share of the net pension liability as determined by the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System. This liability, along with deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and pension expense have been allocated using covered payroll of the Authority. The adoption of GASB 68 is retroactive. Accordingly, the Authority has restated its opening net position resulting in a reduction of \$107,636.

14. The net pension liability under GASB No. 68 as of May 31, 2016 and 2015, was actuarially determined by the New York State & Local Retirement System, and subject to audit by KPMG LLP for the verification of employer allocations as of and for the years ended March 31, 2015 and 2014. Management believes that the actuarial methods and assumptions used in the 2015 and 2014 calculation of net pension liability were reasonable, and the related calculations were accurate, in accordance with GASB No. 68.
15. We have not completed the process of evaluating the effect that will result from adopting the guidance in GASB Statements No. 72 and No. 75, as discussed on Note 9. The Authority is, therefore, unable to disclose the effect that adopting the guidance in GASB Statements No. 72 and No. 75 will have on its net position and the changes in net position when such guidance is adopted.

*Information Provided*

16. We have provided you with:
  - a. Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audits;
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence; and
  - d. Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
17. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
18. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
19. We have no knowledge of allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority's financial statements involving:
  - a. Management.
  - b. Employees who have significant roles in the internal control.
  - c. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
20. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority's financial statements received in communications from employees, former employees, analysts, regulators, or others.
21. We have no knowledge of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
22. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
23. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Authority's related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

24. We are aware of no significant deficiencies, including material weaknesses, in the design or operation of internal controls that could adversely affect the Authority's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data.
25. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
26. During the course of your audits, you may have accumulated records containing data that should be reflected in our books and records. All such data have been so reflected. Accordingly, copies of such records in your possession are no longer needed by us.
27. We agree with the findings of specialists in evaluating our other postemployment benefit cost and the pension liability and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.
28. During the course of your audits, you may have accumulated records containing data that should be reflected in our books and records. All such data have been so reflected. Accordingly, copies of such records in your possession are no longer needed by us.

*Compliance Considerations*

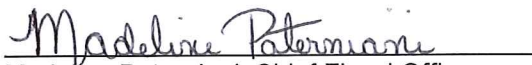
29. In connection with your audits conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we confirm that management:
  - a. Is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
  - b. Is responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to the Authority.
  - c. Has identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws and regulations that have a material effect on the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance.
  - d. Has identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, of noncompliance with provisions of contracts and grant agreements that have a material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts.
  - e. Has identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, of abuse that could be quantitatively or qualitatively material to the financial statements.
  - f. Is responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
  - g. Acknowledges its responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.
  - h. Has taken timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud; noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements; or abuse that you report.
  - i. Has a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.

- j. Has identified for you previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- k. Has provided views on your reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as management's planned corrective actions, for the report.
- l. Acknowledges its responsibilities as they relate to non-audit services performed by you, including a statement that it assumes all management responsibilities; that it oversees the services by designating Madeline Paterniani, CFO, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; that it evaluates the adequacy and results of the services performed; that it evaluates the non-attest services of drafting of financial statements and related notes to the financial statements; and that it accepts responsibility for the results of the services.

Very truly yours,

GREEN ISLAND POWER AUTHORITY

  
Ellen M. McNulty-Ryan, Member Chairperson

  
Madeline Paterniani, Chief Fiscal Officer