



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

December 22, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Rick Lowe, Chief Internal Auditor  
Office of Internal Audit Services  
State Budget Office  
George W. Romney Building  
111 South Capitol, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Dear Mr. Lowe:

In accordance with the State of Michigan, Financial Management Guide, Part VII, enclosed is a summary identifying our responses and corrective action plan to address recommendations contained within the Office of the Auditor General's audit report of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Materials Management Division, Sustainability Section.

Please contact Ms. Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, at 517-242-7407, with any questions regarding the corrective action plan.

Sincerely,

Signature Redacted

Liesl Eichler Clark  
Director  
517-284-6700

Enclosure

Mr. Rick Lowe  
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cc/enc: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and  
Environmental Quality Members  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee Members  
Senate Natural Resources Committee Members  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and  
Environmental Quality Members  
House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee Members  
Mr. Chris Harkins, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Ms. Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency  
Mr. Doug Ringler, Office of the Auditor General  
Ms. JoAnne Huls, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office  
Ms. Tricia Foster, Chief Operating Officer, Governor's Office  
Mr. Josh Sefton, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Mr. Austin Scott, House Fiscal Agency  
Mr. Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE  
Ms. Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, EGLE  
Ms. Sarah M. Howes, Legislative Liaison, EGLE  
Ms. Elizabeth M. Browne, EGLE  
Mr. Brad Pagratis, EGLE  
Mr. Robert Jackson, EGLE  
Ms. Dale Shaw, EGLE

**Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)  
Performance Audit, Materials Management Division, Sustainability Section  
(761-0335-19)**

**Summary of Agency Responses to Recommendations  
Audit Period: October 1, 2016 through July 31, 2019**

- 1. Audit recommendations the agency complied with:**  
Not applicable.

- 2. Audit recommendations the agency agrees with and will comply:**

**Finding #1**

***EGLE should strengthen its data collection and reporting processes.***

OAG Recommendation

We recommend that EGLE strengthen its data collection and reporting process to assist with developing long-term plans for residential waste and to ensure the accuracy of information in its reports to legislators and the Department of Energy (DOE).

EGLE Response

EGLE agrees with the OAG's recommendation. While the DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have previously deemed EGLE's current data collection systems and reporting processes for the federally funded State Energy Program and Pollution Prevention State and Territorial Assistance Grant to be adequate, opportunities exist throughout the department to improve data quality and reporting. In addition to creating new metrics for the State Energy Program, EGLE will continue to develop and implement a department Information Technology (IT) Modernization Strategy focused on providing improved data and enhanced tools to the public.

Planned Corrective Action

EGLE will (1) put forth a strategy to expand collection of recyclable materials in underserved areas of the state; (2) adopt the federal DOE and EPA newly revised program metrics for energy and pollution prevention programs; and (3) fully integrate the collection of data into the department's IT data warehouse (Master Interests file). This will result in consistent and accurate data reported to federal agencies and Michigan's Legislature.

Anticipated Completion Dates

1. The department fully intends to complete the strategic planning by December 31, 2020.
2. The department will adopt the newly revised DOE and EPA program metrics by December 31, 2020, unless the EPA extends the adoption date past this calendar year.

3. The integration of data into the IT data warehouse (Master Interests file) will be completed by June 30, 2021.

- 3. Audit recommendations the agency disagrees with:**  
Not applicable.