

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



*INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
STADIUM AT RENTSCHLER FIELD
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008*

AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
KEVIN P. JOHNSTON ❖ ROBERT G. JAEKLE

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
STADIUM AT RENTSCHLER FIELD
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008**

Secretary Benjamin Barnes
State of Connecticut
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Stadium at Rentschler Field (the "Stadium"), as of June 30, 2008, and the fiscal year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *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 financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Stadium are intended to present the financial position, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, that are attributable to the transactions of the Stadium. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State as of June 30, 2008, the changes in its

financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in conformance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Stadium as of June 30, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 18, 2011 on our consideration of the Stadium's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audits.

Kevin P. Johnston
Auditor of Public Accounts

Robert G. Jaekle
Auditor of Public Accounts

January 4, 2011
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut

RENTSCHLER STADIUM
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED June 30, 2008
(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

	Stadium Enterprise Fund	Operating Accounts	Total
	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and equivalents	2,022,995	92,256	2,115,251
Restricted cash		98,658	98,658
Accounts receivable	11,842	183,722	195,564
Miscellaneous event receivables		8,132	8,132
Intercompany receivables (net)		4,814	4,814
Prepaid expenses		10,940	10,940
Total Current Assets	<u>2,034,837</u>	<u>398,522</u>	<u>2,433,359</u>
Capital Assets			
Building additions and improvements	74,433,354		74,433,354
Stadium equipment	2,610,527		2,610,527
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(10,864,006)</u>		<u>(10,864,006)</u>
Total Capital Assets	<u>66,179,875</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>66,179,875</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 68,214,712</u>	<u>\$ 398,522</u>	<u>\$ 68,613,234</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accrued expenses		485,160	485,160
Due to operations manager	1,125,942	65,802	1,191,744
Deposits payable		5,708	5,708
Deferred revenues		101,526	101,526
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,125,942</u>	<u>658,196</u>	<u>1,784,138</u>
NET ASSETS			
Invested in capital assets	66,179,875		66,179,875
Capital contributions		(320,900)	(320,900)
Unrestricted	908,895	61,226	970,121
Total Net Assets	<u>67,088,770</u>	<u>(259,674)</u>	<u>66,829,096</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 68,214,712</u>	<u>\$ 398,522</u>	<u>\$ 68,613,234</u>

RENTSCHLER STADIUM
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

	Stadium Enterprise Fund	Operating Accounts	Total
OPERATING REVENUES:	\$	\$	\$
Event operations		1,347,482	1,347,482
Food operations		1,025,564	1,025,564
Parking		26,426	26,426
Suites and club		35,717	35,717
Signage and sponsorship		106,457	106,457
Other revenue		65,993	65,993
Total Operating Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>2,607,639</u>	<u>2,607,639</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Event operations		921,499	921,499
Facility		663,700	663,700
Parking		24,999	24,999
Administrative		460,154	460,154
Management fee		210,547	210,547
Depreciation expense	2,135,095	-	2,135,095
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,135,095</u>	<u>2,280,899</u>	<u>4,415,994</u>
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	<u>(2,135,095)</u>	<u>326,740</u>	<u>(1,808,355)</u>
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)			
Interest income	42,436	571	43,007
Other income (expense)	105,727	9,473	115,200
Net Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>148,163</u>	<u>10,044</u>	<u>158,207</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers in	1,270,000	25,000	1,295,000
Transfers out	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>(1,270,000)</u>	<u>(1,295,000)</u>
Net Other Financing Sources (Uses)	1,245,000	(1,245,000)	0
OTHER NONFINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Record liability of previous period	(1,125,942)	1,125,942	0
Addition of fixed assets	68,318,250	<u>(497,509)</u>	67,820,741
	<u>67,192,308</u>	<u>628,433</u>	<u>67,820,741</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	66,450,376	(279,783)	66,170,593
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	<u>638,394</u>	<u>20,109</u>	<u>658,503</u>
NET ASSETS, End of year	<u>\$67,088,770</u>	<u>\$ (259,674)</u>	<u>\$ 66,829,096</u>

RENTSCHLER STADIUM
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED June 30, 2008
(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

	Stadium Enterprise Fund	Operating Accounts	Total
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$	\$	\$
Received from customers and concessionaires	-	2,607,639	2,607,639
Payments to vendors and suppliers	-	2,221,673	2,221,673
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>-</u>	<u>385,966</u>	<u>385,966</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property and equipment		(46,749)	(46,749)
Other income	97,165	9,473	106,638
Interest income	42,436	571	43,007
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	<u>139,601</u>	<u>(36,705)</u>	<u>102,896</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Transfers in	1,270,000	25,000	1,295,000
Transfers out	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>1,270,000</u>	<u>(1,295,000)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>1,245,000</u>	<u>1,245,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,384,601	(895,739)	488,862
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning	<u>638,394</u>	<u>987,995</u>	<u>1,626,389</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Ending	<u>\$2,022,995</u>	<u>\$ 92,256</u>	<u>\$2,115,251</u>
RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO: NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating income	(2,135,095)	326,740	(1,808,355)
Depreciation expense	2,135,095		2,135,095
Changes in assets and liabilities			
Accounts receivable		(89,388)	(89,388)
Prepaid expenses		(10,940)	(10,940)
Accounts payable		317,349	317,349
Deposits payable		5,708	5,708
Deferred revenue		2,868	2,868
Net transfer liability and equipment		(166,371)	(166,371)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 385,966</u>	<u>\$ 385,966</u>

**STADIUM AT RENTSCHLER FIELD
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Stadium at Rentschler Field (the "Stadium") conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to governmental units. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies:

Reporting Entity - The Rentschler Field Stadium accounts are owned by the State of Connecticut (the "State") and are operated by the Office of Policy and Management of the State of Connecticut ("OPM"). Under Chapter 588z, Sections 32-650 through 32-669 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the purpose of operating a facility known as the Rentschler Field Stadium in East Hartford, Connecticut, the State Legislature authorized OPM to (1) acquire the necessary real property for the Stadium Facility site, (2) contract for professional services related to the design and construction of the Stadium, (3) coordinate the project with other State agencies and (4) provide for most facets of the Stadium's operations. The State Legislature established the Stadium Facility Enterprise Fund as an enterprise fund and authorized OPM to establish revenue, operating, box office, and specific event escrow accounts as needed, thus maintaining separate accounting records for Stadium operations in accordance with the General Statutes.

OPM has entered into various contractual agreements for the management and operation of the Stadium facility. For purposes of these agreements, OPM represents the State as the "owner" of the Stadium. These agreements are summarized below as follows:

- The lease agreement with the University of Connecticut ("UCONN") grants UCONN the right to use the facility for home football games or any other events, with a minimum of ten events per year. The lease agreement provides that UCONN pay OPM a base rent and any other incremental operating expenses.
- The Stadium management agreement with Northland AEG, LLC ("NAEG"), dated May 25, 2007, provides that NAEG will manage operations of the Stadium until June 30, 2012, provided termination of the agreement is not given by either party. NAEG will receive a base management fee of \$150,000 in the initial year of the contract, increasing annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index. NAEG is also entitled to an incentive fee of 40% of event gross revenues, excluding ticket surcharges, for each non-UCONN event and an incentive fee of 30% of ticket surcharge revenue for each non-UCONN event. In order to comply with Internal Revenue Service provisions, such incentive fee is capped on an annual basis at an amount equal to the base management fee, so the incentive fee will in no event exceed 50% of NAEG's total fee in any contract year.

- The concessions agreement with NAEG, LLC, dated May 25, 2007, provides that NAEG will manage concessions operations until June 30, 2012, provided that termination of the agreement is not given by either party. As part of this concession management agreement, NAEG is entitled to 50% of total concession commissions, net non-UCONN parking revenues, certain advertising revenues, and the sale of luxury suites and the stadium club for non-UCONN events.

In addition, OPM has authorized NAEG to act as agent in various management agreements with third party providers for parking facilities, concessions and catering, etc.

The financial statements of the Stadium are intended to present the financial position, and the respective changes in the financial position and cash flows that are attributable to the transactions of the Stadium. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State as of June 30, 2008, the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in conformance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Stadium has not presented a management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") in accordance with GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments* and GASB Statement No. 37, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments: Omnibus* because the focus of an MD&A is on a primary government. The State of Connecticut, the primary government, will provide an MD&A in its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that could include analysis of the Stadium.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting -The fund of the Stadium is an enterprise fund type. The Stadium's operations and balances are accounted for using a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, net assets, revenues, and expenses.

Enterprise funds are established to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent is that the costs of providing goods or services on a continuing basis are financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

The Stadium's financial statements are reported using the flow of financial resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred. Debt incurred for the acquisition of the Stadium is not reflected on the balance sheet because the State of Connecticut had not intended for the Stadium's operations to support the repayment of that debt.

The Stadium distinguishes operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services in connection with the operation of the Stadium. The principal operating revenues of the Stadium are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses include the cost of sales and services,

administrative expenses and management fees. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

Revenues - Revenue recognition policies are as follows:

- Event Operations - Event operations charges are principally generated from ticket sales and advertising signage. Event revenue is recognized when an event takes place. Advance ticket sales are held in deferred revenue until the time of an event.
- Facility Rent - Facility rent charges are generated from agreements with UCONN and other event organizers for the use of the facility. Facility rent is recognized when an event takes place. Advance ticket sales are held in deferred revenue until the time of an event.
- Food Operations - Food operation fees are generated from various food and beverage concession agreements with third parties. Revenue is recognized based on reported concessionaire revenue.
- Parking Fees - Parking fees are generated from an agreement with a third party to operate event parking at the Stadium. Revenue is recognized at the time of an event.
- Other - All other types of revenues are recognized when earned.

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 20, the Stadium applies all GASB pronouncements and all Financial Accounting Standards Board Statements, interpretations, Accounting Principles Board Opinions and Accounting Research Bulletins issued on or before November 30, 1989, except those that conflict with GASB pronouncements.

The Stadium's major fund consists of the Stadium Facility Enterprise Fund, which is comprised of a civil list fund of the same name, as well as other accounts described below and aggregated in the financial statements under the heading "Operating Accounts":

Stadium Facility Enterprise Fund - The Stadium Enterprise Fund (an enterprise fund) consists of income generated by the Stadium to be used for maintenance and capital improvements for the Stadium.

Box Office Account - All amounts received as payment for tickets or admissions to events, including ticket surcharge revenues are recorded in the Box Office Fund.

Operating Account - The administrative functions of the Stadium are accounted for in the Operating Account. All unrestricted resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund, are accounted for in this fund.

Revenue Account - which receives any operating cash balance in excess of two months of operating expenses from the Operating Account.

Cash Equivalents - For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Stadium considers all highly liquid investments purchased with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. There were no cash equivalents at June 30, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

Accounts Receivable - The Stadium considers accounts receivable to be fully collectible; accordingly, no allowance for doubtful accounts is required. If amounts become uncollectible, they will be charged to operations when that determination is made. Accounts receivable at June 30, 2008, were \$196,668.

Capital Assets - Capital assets include the Stadium itself, major building additions and improvements, and stadium equipment. Capital assets are defined by the Stadium as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$1,000, and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized.

Capital assets of the Stadium are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Building	40 years
Building additions and improvements	20 years
Stadium equipment	5 years

Deferred Revenues - Deferred revenues represent prepaid ticket sales and advertising revenues for future events.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Income Taxes - The Stadium is exempt from state and federal income taxes.

Presentation of Sales Tax - The State of Connecticut imposes a sales and admissions tax on the Stadium events and activities. The Stadium collects that sales and admissions tax from attendees and remits the entire amount to the State. The Stadium's accounting policy is to exclude the tax collected and remitted to the State from sales.

Deficit in Net Assets - An unrestricted net asset deficit of \$320,900 exists in the Stadium Fund. It is expected that concert revenues during fiscal year 2009 will provide positive net assets in the operating fund.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Annual budgets are required to be submitted by NAEG to OPM per NAEG's management contract with OPM, within 120 days prior to the beginning of each contract year. OPM is required to respond to the proposed annual budget within 30 days of receipt. OPM is then required to submit the budget to the Legislature and the Office of the State Comptroller for review in accordance with Section 32-657 of the Connecticut General Statutes. However, the Legislature and the Comptroller's Office are not legally required to approve the budget and accordingly, budgeted amounts are not reflected in the financial statements.

NOTE 2 -CASH DEPOSITS

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3 requires governmental organizations to categorize their cash deposits into three levels of risk. Category 1 includes amounts insured or collateralized with securities held by the Stadium or by its agent in the Stadium's name. Category 2 includes amounts which are collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the name of the Stadium. Category 3 includes amounts which are uninsured and uncollateralized including any bank balance that is collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or by its trust department or agent, but not in the name of the Stadium.

For purposes of this disclosure, cash deposits include bank deposits. As of June 30, 2008, the bank balance was \$2,272,394 of which \$100,000 was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (Category 1) as defined by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No.3.

NOTE 3 -ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable at June 30, 2008, consisted of the following:

	Stadium Facility Enterprise <u>Fund</u>	Operating <u>Accounts</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$
Interest receivable	11,842		11,842
Accounts receivable		183,722	183,722
Event operations		8,132	8,132
Intercompany receivables		4,814	4,814
Total	<u>\$11,842</u>	<u>\$196,668</u>	<u>\$208,510</u>

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, is presented in the schedule below. Adjustments have been made to the June 30, 2007 balances to reflect the total cost of the Stadium and the related infrastructure.

	<u>Balance at June 30, 2007</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Balance at June 30, 2008</u>
Building, additions and improvements	\$ 74,433,354	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,433,354
Stadium equipment	<u>2,556,548</u>	<u>53,979</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,610,527</u>
	76,989,902	53,979	-	77,043,881
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(8,728,911)</u>	<u>(2,135,095)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,864,006)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 68,260,991</u>	<u>\$(2,081,116)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 66,179,875</u>

NOTE 5 – DEFERRED REVENUE

As of June 30, 2008, the Stadium had received payment for ticket sales in the amount of \$101,526 for future events. This amount is recorded as deferred revenue on the accompanying Statement of Net Assets.

NOTE 6 - DUE TO OPERATIONS MANAGER

The previous manager of the Stadium, MSG, was to be paid management fees from the Stadium's cash accounts. The unpaid management fees as of June 30, 2008, and June 30, 2007 was \$1,125,942. The balance due as of June 30, 2008 was to be paid to the operations manager during the year ended June 30, 2009. The management agreement with MSG was terminated effective June 30, 2007.

The current manager of the Stadium, NAEG, is to be paid management and incentive fees from the Stadium's cash accounts. See Note 1 for more specific details on the calculation of these fees. As of June 30, 2008, NAEG was owed an incentive fee for that period of \$65,802.

NOTE 7 – OPERATING LEASES

The Stadium leases cell tower space to four entities under various lease agreements expiring in November 2010. All of the leases have renewal options for two additional five-year terms. The leases require the parties to pay an aggregate monthly rent totaling approximately \$8,200. Rental income recognized under the lease agreements was \$78,335. This amount was less than the scheduled minimum rental amounts due to a contractual dispute with one of the lessees.

**INDEPENDENT REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Secretary Benjamin Barnes
State of Connecticut
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

We have audited the financial statements of each major fund of the Stadium at Rentschler Field (the "Stadium") as of June 30, 2008, and for the year then ended, and have issued our report thereon dated March 18, 2011. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Stadium's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Stadium's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Stadium's internal control over financial reporting.

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 Stadium's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with

generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the Stadium's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the Stadium'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 financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the Stadium's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting 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 deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Stadium's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We noted certain matters that we reported to management of the Stadium in a separate letter dated March 18, 2011.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management of the Stadium and the State of Connecticut. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Kevin P. Johnston
Auditor of Public Accounts

Robert G. Jaekle
Auditor of Public Accounts

January 4, 2011
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Secretary Benjamin Barnes
State of Connecticut
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Stadium at Rentschler Field for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, we considered the Stadium's internal control in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control. We noted no matters involving the internal accounting control structure and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses according to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

However, during our review we became aware of certain matters that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and compliance, as well as improving operational efficiencies. The following summarizes our observations regarding those matters. This letter does not affect our report dated March 18, 2011 on the financial statements of the Stadium at Rentschler Field.

Submission of Budget to State Comptroller and Joint Legislative Committees:

Criteria: Section 32-657, subsection (a), of the General Statutes requires that the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management submit the Stadium operating and capital budgets for the State Comptroller's comments no later than ninety days prior to the

start of the fiscal year. The Secretary is also required to submit a copy of each budget to the joint standing committees of the general assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and appropriations.

Condition: The operating and capital budgets for the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years were not submitted to the State Comptroller as required.

Effect: The intended distribution of the budget is not being achieved.

Cause: This appeared to be caused by an oversight.

Recommendation: The Office of Policy and Management should take steps to make sure that the Stadium budget is submitted to the State Comptroller and the cognizant legislative committees as required by Section 32-657, subsection (a).

Agency Response: "OPM acknowledges that, due to issues related to changes in management firms at the Stadium, it failed to submit the FY08 and FY09 budgets to the State Comptroller and General Assembly in accordance with the schedule outlined in Section 32-657, subsection (a). The FY10 budget was submitted on time and the agency will take steps to ensure that future budgets are submitted promptly as well."

Utilization of the Revenue Account:

Criteria: Section 32-657, subsection (d), of the General Statutes authorized the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to establish a revenue account for the purpose of collecting revenues from daily operations of the Stadium. These revenues are to be transferred to the Operating Account as necessary to pay expenses. If there is an amount on deposit in the Revenue and Operating Accounts that exceeds three months of projected expenses, the excess is to be transferred to the Stadium Facility Enterprise Fund.

Sound business practices suggest that the number of bank accounts be kept to a minimum in order to facilitate reporting, maximize investment opportunities and minimize efforts required to balance the accounts.

Condition: A Revenue Account was established for the Stadium, but the balance had never risen to the level necessary to trigger a transfer

to the Stadium Facility Enterprise Fund. The intended objective of the Revenue Account can be accomplished by monitoring the balance in the Operating Account, eliminating the need for the additional bank account.

Effect: The maintenance of a seldom-used bank account is not consistent with sound business practices.

Cause: The Office of Policy and Management opened the account as provided for in the General Statutes without knowing whether it would be needed for the intended purpose.

Recommendation: The Office of Policy and Management should consider eliminating the Revenue Account from the set of accounts comprising the Stadium Enterprise Fund.

Agency Response: “OPM agrees with this finding and has taken steps to eliminate this account.”

Oversight of the Catering and Concessions Contractor:

Criteria: The contract between the State of Connecticut and the Stadium manager relating to the management of the catering and concessions services provides for an annual independent audit of the catering and concessions operations at the Stadium.

Condition: We were informed that the only audits known to be performed of the concessions operator were performed by internal auditors from the operator’s corporate headquarters. While the results of such audits may be helpful, they lack the objectivity provided from independent auditors.

Effect: There is reduced assurance that issues relating to the management of the concessions will be reported on in a timely and independent manner.

Cause: The Office of Policy and Management did not enforce the contractual provisions.

Recommendation: The Office of Policy and Management should takes steps to ensure that any contractual provisions for the performance of independent audits are adhered to in order to provide increased accountability of contractors.

Agency Response: “OPM will ensure that these independent audit provisions are written into our new management contract with The Bushnell and are strictly enforced.”

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we wish to express our appreciation for the courtesies shown to our representatives during the course of our audit. The assistance and cooperation extended to them by the personnel of Northland AEG, LLC and the representatives of the Office of Policy and Management greatly facilitated the conduct of this examination.

Kenneth Post
Administrative Auditor

Approved:

Kevin P. Johnston
Auditor of Public Accounts

Robert G. Jaekle
Auditor of Public Accounts

January 4, 2011
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut