

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INVESTMENT COMPLIANCE

The Board of Directors
Development Authority of the North Country:

Report on Investment Compliance

Opinion on Investment Compliance

We have audited the Development Authority of the North Country (the Authority), with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit with Section 2935(3)(f) of the New York State Public Authorities Law for the year ended March 31, 2024.

In our opinion, the Authority complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above for the year ended March 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinion Investment Compliance

We conducted our audit of compliance 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Investment Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on investment compliance. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Investment Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations and rules applicable to the Authority's investments.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Investment Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Authority's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Authority's investment compliance.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Authority's internal control over investment compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over investment compliance but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Authority's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, investment noncompliance on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over investment compliance that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over investment compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over investment compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Investment Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over investment compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over investment compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over investment compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over investment compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over investment compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management of the Authority, the New York State Office of the State Comptroller, the New York State Division of the Budget, and the New York State Authority Budget Office and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than those specified parties.

EFPR Group, CPAs, PLLC

Williamsville, New York
June 27, 2024