



Office of the Metro Auditor

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Audit recommends improvements in contract administration

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The Office of the Metro Auditor released an audit today reviewing Metro's contract for the disposal of hazardous waste collected at its facilities. The purpose of the audit was to determine the quality of the contractor's performance and if the Department of Solid Waste and Recycling had adequate procedures in place to administer the contract and monitor performance.

In September 2005, Metro's Hazardous Waste Program in the Department of Solid Waste and Recycling contracted with the Phillips Services Corporation. The term was for a two-year period in the amount of \$766,070 to dispose of its hazardous waste. The contract was extended an additional year and the amount increased by \$491,103.

Based upon its review, the Metro Auditor's Office found that the procurement process had been fairly strong, but that the Program had inadequately planned for administering the contract once it was awarded. The Program did not have procedures in place to monitor or correct performance.

"While selecting the best service provider is important," Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn said, "it is equally important that Metro monitor contract performance to ensure that benefit is received for public dollars." Auditor Flynn stated she was pleased with Metro's response to the audit's recommendations. The audit recommends that the Program develop a plan to monitor performance in the future and clearly assign staff responsibility. The audit also recommends that the oversight role of Metro's Procurement Manager be strengthened.

For more information contact Suzanne Flynn, Metro Auditor, at 503-797-1891.

The audit is available on the Metro website at <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/auditor> . Copies of the audit can also be obtained by calling the Office of the Metro Auditor at 503-797-1892. The Metro Auditor will brief the Metro Council on May 29, 2008.

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