

**Oklahoma Center for
the Advancement of
Science and Technology**

*The Auditors' Communication with
Those Charged with Governance*

June 30, 2019





November 23, 2020

To the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of
Science and Technology

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), an agency of the State of Oklahoma, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter to you dated July 30, 2020. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by OCAST are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As discussed below, new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended June 30, 2019. We noted no transactions entered into by OCAST during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

In November 2016, GASB issued Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* (GASB 83). GASB 83 provides accounting and reporting requirements for certain asset retirement obligations (ARO) that arise from legally enforceable liabilities associated with the retirement of certain tangible capital assets. ARO's require an internal and external obligating event and the costs to be reasonably estimable for the incurrence of such a liability. OCAST adopted GASB 83 effective July 1, 2018, for the June 30, 2019, reporting year. The adoption of this Statement did not have a significant impact on the financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In May 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance* (GASB 95). GASB 95 postpones the effective dates of certain provisions in existing GASB Statements and Implementation Guides that are scheduled to become effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2018, and later. This includes GASB 83, GASB 84, GASB 87, GASB 88, GASB 90, GASB 91, GASB 92, GASB 93, Implementation Guide 2018-1, Implementation Guide 2019-1, Implementation Guide 2019-2, and Implementation Guide 2019-3.

In January 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities* (GASB 84). GASB 84 improves guidance regarding the recognition and reporting of fiduciary activities. GASB 84 identifies four types of reportable fiduciary fund types, including 1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, 2) investment trust funds, 3) private-purpose trust funds, and 4) custodial funds. GASB 84 outlines the accounting and disclosure requirements for operating structures that qualify as a fiduciary activity. OCAST will adopt GASB 84 effective July 1, 2020, for the June 30, 2021, reporting year. OCAST is evaluating the impact that GASB 84 will have on the financial statements.

In June 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 87, *Leases* (GASB 87). GASB 87 defines a lease as a contract that conveys control of the right to use another entity's nonfinancial asset (the underlying asset) as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. GASB 87 improves accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under GASB 87, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021. Earlier application is encouraged. OCAST is evaluating the impact of GASB 87 on the financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In March 2018, GASB issued Statement No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements* (GASB 88). GASB 88 provides certain clarifications regarding debt as a liability and identifies additional required disclosures related to debt, including direct borrowings and direct placements of debt. OCAST will adopt GASB 88 on July 1, 2020, for the June 30, 2021, reporting year. OCAST does not expect GASB 88 to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

In June 2018, GASB issued Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period* (GASB 89). GASB 89 directs that interest costs incurred during the construction period of an asset be expensed in the period incurred. GASB 89 changes previous guidance regarding capitalized construction costs where such costs were typically included in the capitalized cost of the asset constructed and depreciated over time. OCAST will adopt GASB 89 on July 1, 2021, for the June 30, 2022, reporting year. OCAST does not expect GASB 89 to significantly impact the financial statements.

In August 2018, GASB issued Statement No. 90, *Majority Equity Interest* (GASB 90). GASB 90 improves the consistency and comparability of reporting government's majority equity interest in a legally separate organization and to improve the relevance of financial statement information for certain component units. OCAST will adopt GASB 90 effective July 1, 2020, for the June 30, 2021, reporting year. OCAST does not expect GASB 90 to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

In May 2019, GASB issued Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations* (GASB 91). GASB 91 provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminates diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligation, and (3) related note disclosures. OCAST will adopt GASB 91 effective July 1, 2022, for the June 30, 2023, reporting year. OCAST does not expect GASB 91 to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In January 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 92, *Omnibus 2020* (GASB 92). GASB 92 addresses a variety of topics and includes specific provisions relating to 1) interim financial reporting requirements of GASB 87 and Implementation Guide 2019-3 2) reporting of intra-entity transfers of assets between a primary government employer and a component unit defined benefit pension plan or defined benefit other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan 3) the applicability of Statements No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68*, as amended, and No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*, as amended, to reporting assets accumulated for postemployment benefits 4) the applicability of certain requirements of GASB 84 to postemployment benefit arrangements 5) measurement of liabilities (and assets, if any) related to asset retirement obligations (AROs) in a government acquisition 6) reporting by public entity risk pools for amounts that are recoverable from reinsurers or excess insurers 7) reference to nonrecurring fair value measurements of assets or liabilities in authoritative literature and 8) terminology used to refer to derivative instruments. The requirements of GASB 92 are effective upon issuance in relation to the provisions impacting GASB 87 and Implementation Guide 2019-3 and are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2021, for all other provisions. OCAST is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of GASB 92 will have on its financial statements.

In March 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 93, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates Activities* (GASB 93). GASB 93 addresses various accounting and other issues arising from the result of the replacement of an interbank offered rate (IBOR) by 1) providing exceptions for certain hedging derivative instruments to the hedge accounting termination provisions when an IBOR is replaced as the reference rate of the hedging derivative instrument's variable payment 2) clarifying the hedge accounting termination provisions when a hedged item is amended to replace the reference rate 3) clarifying that the uncertainty related to the continued availability of IBORs does not, by itself, affect the assessment of whether the occurrence of a hedged expected transaction is probable 4) removing the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) as an appropriate benchmark interest rate for the qualitative evaluation of the effectiveness of an interest rate swap 5) identifying a Secured Overnight Financing Rate and the Effective Federal Funds Rate as appropriate benchmark interest rates for the qualitative evaluation of the effectiveness of an interest rate swap and 6) clarifying the definition of *reference rate*, as it is used in Statement 53, as amended. The removal of LIBOR as an appropriate benchmark interest rate is effective for reporting periods ending after December 31, 2021, and the remaining requirements of GASB 93 are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2021, for all other provisions. OCAST is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of GASB 93 will have on its financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In March 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements* (GASB 94). GASB 94 improves accounting and financial reporting by addressing various issues relating to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (PPPs). This includes the requirement that PPPs that meet the definition of a lease apply the guidance in GASB 87 and establishes the accounting and financial reporting requirements for all other PPPs. The requirements of GASB 94 are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2022. OCAST is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of GASB 94 will have on its financial statements.

In May 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* (GASB 96). GASB 96 provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users. GASB 96 1) defines a SBITA; 2) establishes that SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription intangible asset and a corresponding subscription liability; 3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of SBITA; and 4) requires note disclosures regarding SBITA. The requirements of GASB 96 are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2022. OCAST is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of GASB 96 will have on its financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

In June 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans—an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 84, and a Supersession of GASB Statement No. 32* (GASB 97). The primary objectives of GASB 97 are to (1) increase consistency and comparability related to the reporting of fiduciary component units in circumstances in which a potential component unit does not have a governing board and the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform; (2) mitigate costs associated with the reporting of certain defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plans, and employee benefit plans other than pension plans or OPEB plans (other employee benefit plans) as fiduciary component units in fiduciary fund financial statements; and (3) enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 457 deferred compensation plans (Section 457 plans) that meet the definition of a pension plan and for benefits provided through those plans. The requirements of GASB 97 that 1) exempt primary governments that perform the duties that a governing board typically performs from treating the absence of a governing board the same as the appointment of a voting majority of a governing board in determining whether they are financially accountable for defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution OPEB plans, or other employee benefit plans and 2) limit the applicability of the financial burden criterion in paragraph 7 of Statement 84 to defined benefit pension plans and defined benefit OPEB plans that are administered through trusts that meet the criteria in paragraph 3 of Statement 67 or paragraph 3 of Statement 74, respectively, are effective at the date of issuance of GASB 97. The requirements of GASB 97 that are related to the accounting and financial reporting for Section 457 plans are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021. For purposes of determining whether a primary government is financially accountable for a potential component unit, the requirements of GASB 97 that provide that for all other arrangements, the absence of a governing board be treated the same as the appointment of a voting majority of a governing board if the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform, are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021. Earlier application of those requirements is encouraged and permitted by requirement as specified within GASB 97. OCAST is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of GASB 97 will have on its financial statements.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices, Continued

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting OCAST's financial statements were:

The computation of the net pension liability, net OPEB asset, and the total OPEB liability required significant estimates by management. We reviewed the actuarial information used to compute the pension and OPEB asset and liability.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no uncorrected misstatements (audit differences).

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated November 23, 2020.

Significant Audit Matters, Continued

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to OCAST’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors’ opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Matters or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as OCAST’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the management’s discussion and analysis and the schedules of OCAST’s pension and OPEB information, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplement the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

Other Required Communications

We as independent auditors are required to:

- a. Communicate significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control to the audit committee or its equivalent.
- b. Report directly to the audit committee (or equivalent) any fraud that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements and any fraud involving senior management. Fraud perpetrated by lower-level employees is also to be reported if it resulted in an individually significant misstatement.
- c. Report illegal acts or violations of laws or regulations that come to our attention (except those that are clearly inconsequential).

We have nothing to report.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of OCAST's Board of Directors and management, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

Finley + Cook, PLLC