



April 22, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Arlene Simpson Porter
Director, Grants Management Division
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RB", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

FROM: Richard Bachman
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Quality Control Review of Ocean Exploration Trust, Inc. for the
Period Ended December 31, 2017 (OIG-19-QCR-3)

Attached is the quality control review (QCR) of the audit of Ocean Exploration Trust, Inc. for the year ending December 31, 2017. The audit was performed by HintonBurdick, PLLC. On our behalf, McBride, Lock & Associates, LLC, performed this review to determine whether the subject report complied with reporting requirements of the Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended in 1996. The QCR was performed using generally accepted auditing standards published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and generally accepted government auditing standards issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Please see the attached review for further details on the audit's scope and methodology.

The QCR identified no deficiencies related to the audit.

This memorandum, as well as the McBride, Lock & Associates, LLC, review, will appear on the Office of Inspector General website pursuant to section 8M of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (5 U.S.C. App., §§ 8M).

Please direct any inquiries regarding this report to me at (202) 482-2877, or Belinda Riley at (404) 730-2067.

Attachment

cc: John Geisen, Director, Grants Management Division, Department of Commerce
MaryAnn Mausser, Audit Liaison, Office of the Secretary
Mack Cato, Audit Liaison, NOAA

**QUALITY CONTROL REVIEW
Of
HINTONBURDICK, PLLC**

**On the Audit of
Ocean Exploration Trust, Inc.
for the year ended December 31, 2017**

McBRIDE, LOCK & ASSOCIATES, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
KANSAS CITY

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McBRIDE, LOCK & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

September 19, 2018

Mr. David R. Wittwer, CPA
HintonBurdick, PLLC
63 South 300 East
St. George, Utah 84770

Subject: **Quality Control Review of the Ocean Exploration Trust, Inc.
for the year ended December 31, 2017**

Dear Mr. Wittwer,

The purpose of this letter is to confirm discussions with you on September 19, 2018 regarding the major issues identified during our quality control review. Our Quality Control Review (QCR) was performed on of the audit of Ocean Exploration Trust, Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017 performed by HintonBurdick, PLLC in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and generally accepted government auditing standards issued by the Government Accountability Office.

Scope of Services

The objective of our review was to perform a QCR:

1. To determine whether the financial statement audit work, compliance audit work, and the associated review of internal controls over both financial reporting and compliance were conducted in accordance with applicable standards, including GAGAS and the published guidance of the OIG, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants standards as well as Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and including its Compliance Supplement.
2. To identify any issues that may require additional attention or any additional audit work by the Independent Public Accountant who performed the audit.

Mr. David Wittwer, CPA
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Methodology

We performed our review using the *Guide for Quality Control Reviews of Single Audits* (the "Guide") issued by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (2016 Edition). In performing the review we met with the engagement partner and obtained supporting audit workpapers. Prior to initiating efforts, the Commerce-OIG provided the audit report to be reviewed and any additional information in its possession about the audit work to be reviewed to the extent that it believed the information may affect the QCR.

Overview of Procedures Performed and Related Findings

We reviewed the audit report issued on Ocean Exploration Trust, Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017. We reviewed the audit report, using the Guide, to ensure that it included and met the requirements of Government Auditing Standards, the standards for financial audits issued by the AICPA, and Uniform Guidance. We reviewed the audit workpapers using the Guide and the evidence documented in the audit workpapers. In each area, we evaluated whether or not the testing performed, results documented, financial statements presented, and findings reported were consistent with and supported the independent accountants report identified in the first paragraph of this report.

Results

Based upon our review, we believe that the audit currently meets the standards set forth by generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards and the requirements of Uniform Guidance and its Compliance Supplement.

Very truly yours,



McBride, Lock & Associates, LLC