

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

May 4, 2004

MINUTE NO. 3

10:30 a.m. - Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Hermanson in the Chair and Members Borgerson, Elhard *, Hagel, Hart, Trew and Yates.

Substituting Member

Mr. Elhard for Mr. Krawetz

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Rodd Jersak, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 3 (Reporting on Infrastructure) of the *2001 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)* and Chapter 2 (Reporting on Infrastructure – SaskEnergy and Highways and Transportation) of the *2002 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following SaskEnergy and Department of Highways and Transportation officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Dean Reeve, Executive Vice President, SaskEnergy and TransGas Limited

Greg Mrazek, Vice President, Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer,
SaskEnergy

Doug Kelln, Senior Vice President, Distribution Utility, SaskEnergy

Daryl Posehn, Vice President, TransGas Limited

Ron Podbielski, Executive Director, Corporate Affairs, SaskEnergy

Harvey G. Brooks, Deputy Minister, Department of Highways and Transportation

Don Wincherauk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services, Department of Highways and
Transportation

Gary Diebel, Director, Finance and Administration, Department of Highways and Transportation

3. The committee concurred with recommendation 2-1 made at page 14 of Chapter 2 (Reporting on Infrastructure – SaskEnergy and Highways and Transportation) of the *2002 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)* that SaskEnergy should give the public additional information about the condition of its natural gas transmission and distribution systems and the ability of these systems to meet peak demands for gas. The committee noted that the SaskEnergy has complied with the recommendation.

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 2-2 made at page 14 of Chapter 2 (Reporting on Infrastructure – SaskEnergy and Highways and Transportation) of the *2002 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)* that the Department of Highways and Transportation should give the public additional information on its key plans related to highway condition, safety, and reliability, as well as comparisons of plans to actual results with any differences explained. The committee noted that the Department of Highways and Transportation has complied with the recommendation.
5. The committee adjourned at 11:59 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2004.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Elwin Hermanson
Committee Chair