



---

*Auditing for a Better Oregon*

December 15, 2006

Matthew Garrett, Director  
Department of Transportation  
355 Capitol Street NE, Room 135  
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Dear Mr. Garrett:

We have concluded our construction quality assurance investigation at the Oregon Department of Transportation (department). The Audits Division received an allegation in May 2006 that a department employee in the Quality Assurance Unit did not follow appropriate procedures regarding the calibration of a nuclear density gauge.

The initial purpose of our investigation was to determine the validity of the allegation. As the department had already conducted a review regarding the specific calibration complaint, however, we focused our investigation on the department's review process for addressing the complaint. We determined the department conducted a thorough review and took appropriate and sufficient steps to address the complaint.

During the course of our work, we received and investigated allegations regarding the quality of several road construction projects. As a result, we identified and communicated some control issues to department management. These issues appeared to be isolated incidents that had minimal impact on the overall quality of the road construction projects.

We appreciate your staff's time and cooperation during this investigation. If you have any questions, please contact me at (503) 986-2255.

Sincerely,  
OREGON AUDITS DIVISION

Ryan K. Dempster, CPA, CFE  
Audit Manager

RKD:brk

cc: Mike Marsh, Deputy Director, Central Services Division  
Marlene Hartinger, Chief Auditor, Central Services Division  
Doug Tindall, Deputy Director, Highway Division  
Jeff Gower, State Construction and Materials Engineer  
Cole Mullis, Quality Assurance Manager, Construction, Highway Division  
Lindsay Ball, Director, Department of Administrative Services

---

Management Letter No. 730-2006-12-01