

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

March 29, 2018

To the Board of Directors of
Seneca Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Seneca Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (the Corporation), a blended component unit of the County of Seneca, New York, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Corporation's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 29, 2018.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness (Finding 2017-001).

171 Sully's Trail, Suite 201
Pittsford, New York 14534
p (585) 381-1000
f (585) 381-3131

www.bonadio.com

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Finding 2017-001: Material Audit Adjustments

Condition/Criteria: The Corporation's financial statements required significant prior period adjustments in order to properly state the results of operations and long-term obligations. Generally accepted accounting principles require revenue to be recorded in the period earned and liabilities to be recorded in the period that they are incurred.

Cause: The internal controls of the Corporation did not catch the material errors.

Effect: The prior period adjustments resulted in an increase to net position in the government-wide financial statements as of December 31, 2016 totaling \$533,655.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Corporation develop a process to ensure the year-end activity is properly closed and representative of the true assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the Corporation.

Management Response: Management concurs and will work with the auditor to develop a process to mitigate the potential for future audit adjustments.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Corporation's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Corporation's Response to Finding

The Corporation's response to the finding identified in our audit is described above. The Corporation's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.