

AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The audit by the Bureau of State Audits will provide independently developed and verified information related to Health Services, its radiologic branch, and the Southwestern Commission, and would include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. Identify the radiologic branch's mission and determine how the branch measures its success in fulfilling that mission. Review and assess the branch's strategic plan to determine if it is aligned with its mission and whether it contains elements to plan and implement procedures, measure effectiveness, and report on performance.
3. Review and assess the radiologic branch's policies, procedures, and rules regarding the clean-up standards for contaminated sites that include addressing where the wastes from such cleanups would be sent for disposal. Determine whether they comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including executive orders and the Sacramento Superior Court ruling of 2002 and the CEQA.
4. Review a representative sample of decommissioned sites (after cleanup of contamination has taken place) and determine if there have been discoveries of significant radioactive contamination after the unrestricted use approval was obtained from Health Services.
5. Examine the radiologic branch's records of radioactive waste disposal. Determine where the waste is disposed of and ensure the disposal complies with policies and procedures and Executive Order D-62-02. Determine whether the branch has the authority to move the waste and is disposing of it in authorized locations that are licensed and designed to receive radioactive waste.
6. Review and assess the status of the radiologic branch's tracking system for low-level radioactive waste. Determine if the branch is in compliance with SB 2065 (Chapter 891, Statutes of 2002) and when the tracking system was implemented. Identify reasons for any delays in implementing the system.
7. Determine the processes that Health Services and the Southwestern Commission (to the extent possible) use to approve the export of California low-level radioactive waste, including the category of slightly radioactive waste. Determine whether Health Services and the Southwestern Commission approve the export of such waste to Tennessee for ultimate disposal in municipal landfills after some or all of the waste is put through a "blending" process.

8. Describe the category of “slightly radioactive waste” and assess the legality of using it as a category or whether it is a category recognized by the industry.
9. To the extent possible, determine whether the Southwestern Commission’s policies and procedures regarding exporting low-level radioactive waste outside its four-state compact comply with federal law.
10. Review the Southwestern Commission’s policies and regulatory changes resulting in shipments to Tennessee and determine whether these policies and changes expose California to liability.
11. Examine the sources and uses of the Radiation Control Fund (radiation fund) for the last three years. Determine whether the costs appear reasonable and consistent with the radiologic branch’s mission. Determine the most current radiation fund balance.
12. Review the 2005 administration request Health Services submitted to increase fees the radiologic branch charges hospitals, labs, universities, etc., and the supporting documentation. Assess whether the request was justified and considered all the relevant factors. Determine the condition of the radiation fund at the time of the request and reasons for the condition.
13. Review the recently approved fee schedule and determine the status of implementation. Calculate the funds resulting from the fee increase and determine what the additional funds were used for. Determine whether professional staff were hired, and if so, the classifications, qualifications, and reasons for hiring those staff.
14. Assess the “Currie Project.” Specifically, determine the goals and objectives of the project, reasons for, and the authority to, embark on the project, cost of the project, and its results.
15. Determine the extent to which the radiologic branch’s work is backlogged and whether such a backlog prevents the branch from fulfilling its mission or poses a risk to public health. Determine whether the fee increase funded new equipment or other resources to ease the backlog.
16. Review and assess the radiologic branch’s minimum qualifications and training requirements for its staff and determine whether they are consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Review a sample of the radiologic branch’s staff personnel records to ensure the qualifications and training meet the requirements.