



Report to the Administrative Board, Finance and Audit Committee, and Management

Lincoln Electric System

Results of the 2023 Financial Statement Audit, Including Required Communications

Lincoln, Nebraska
December, 31, 2023



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Required Communications Regarding Our Audit Strategy & Approach (AU-C 260)

The following matters are required communications we must make to you, including these responsibilities:

Overview & Responsibilities

Matter	Discussion
Scope of Our Audit	<p>This report covers audit results related to your financial statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of and for the year ended December 31, 2023• Conducted in accordance with our contract dated September 8, 2023
Our Responsibilities	<p>FORVIS is responsible for forming and expressing an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP)</p>
Audit Scope & Inherent Limitations to Reasonable Assurance	<p>An audit performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (GAGAS) is designed to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about the financial statements. The scope of our audit tests was established in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole and did not include a detailed audit of all transactions.</p>



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Matter	Discussion
Extent of Our Communication	In addition to areas of interest and noting prior communications made during other phases of the engagement, this report includes communications required in accordance with GAAS that are relevant to the responsibilities of those charged with governance in overseeing the financial reporting process, including audit approach, results, and internal control. The standards do not require the auditor to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to be communicated with those charged with governance.
Independence	The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, and our firm, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.
Your Responsibilities	Our audit does not relieve management or those charged with governance of your responsibilities. Your responsibilities and ours are further referenced in our contract.
Distribution Restriction	<p>This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the following and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administrative Board, Finance and Audit Committee, and Management • Others within Lincoln Electric System



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Government Auditing Standards

Matter	Discussion
Additional GAGAS Reporting	<p>We also provided reports as of December 31, 2023 on the following as required by GAGAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters based on an audit of the financial statements performed in accordance with GAGAS
Reporting Limitations	<p>Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting and our tests of compliance were not designed with an objective of forming an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control or on compliance, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.</p>



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Other Information Accompanying the Audited Financial Statements

The audited financial statements are presented along with management's annual report. Management, or those charged with governance, is responsible for preparing the annual report.

We were not engaged to audit the information contained in the annual report, and as a result, our opinion does not provide assurance as to the completeness and accuracy of the information contained therein.

As part of our procedures, we read the entire report to determine if financial information discussed in sections outside the financial statements materially contradicts the audited financial statements. If we identify any such matters, we bring them to management's attention and review subsequent revisions.



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Auditor Objectives Related to Other Information

Our objectives related to the other information accompanying the audited financial statements were to:

- Consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements
- Remain alert for indications that:
 - A material inconsistency exists between the other information and the auditor's knowledge obtained in the audit, or
 - A material misstatement of fact exists, or the other information is otherwise misleading
- Respond appropriately when we identify that such material inconsistencies appear to exist or when we otherwise become aware that other information appears to be materially misstated. Potential responsive actions would include requesting management to correct the identified inconsistency.
- Include the appropriate communication in our auditor's report, disclosing the procedures performed on the Other Information, as well as the results obtained.

No material inconsistencies were identified.

Qualitative Aspects of Significant Accounting Policies & Practices

The following matters are detailed in the following pages and included in our assessment:

Significant Accounting Policies

Significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 of the audited financial statements.

With respect to new accounting standards adopted during the year, we call to your attention the following topics:

- During the year, Lincoln Electric System (LES) implemented the provisions of GASB 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*

Unusual Policies or Methods

With respect to significant unusual accounting policies or accounting methods used for significant unusual transactions (significant transactions outside the normal course of business or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size, or nature), we noted the following:

- No matters are reportable

Alternative Accounting Treatments

We had discussions with management regarding alternative accounting treatments within GAAP for policies and practices for material items, including recognition, measurement, and disclosure considerations related to the accounting for specific transactions as well as general accounting policies, as follows:

- Proper accounting treatment in accordance the provisions of GASB Codification Section Re10, *Regulated Operations*, specifically as it relates to regulatory assets and liabilities, capital contributions and the recovery of plant costs.



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Management Judgments & Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of financial statement preparation by management, based on its judgments. Significant areas of such estimates for which we are prepared to discuss management's estimation process and our procedures for testing the reasonableness of those estimates include:

- Calculation of unbilled revenues
- Allowance for uncollectible accounts
- Capital assets, including estimated useful lives, depreciation methods and allocation of overhead and other costs
- Reserves for future health and dental claims

Financial Statement Disclosures

The following areas involve particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures for which we are prepared to discuss the issues involved and related judgments made in formulating those disclosures:

- Long-term debt and liabilities
- Jointly-governed organizations
- Commitments and contingencies
- Environmental regulations

Our Judgment About the Quality of LES' Accounting Principles

During the course of the audit, we made the following observations regarding LES' application of accounting principles:

- No matters are reportable



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Adjustments Identified by Audit

During the course of any audit, an auditor may propose adjustments to financial statement amounts. Management evaluates our proposals and records those adjustments that, in its judgment, are required to prevent the financial statements from being materially misstated.

A misstatement is a difference between the amount, classification, presentation, or disclosure of a reported financial statement item and that which is required for the item to be presented fairly in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Proposed & Recorded Adjustments

Auditor-proposed and management-recorded entries include the following:

- No matters are reportable

Uncorrected Misstatements

- No uncorrected misstatements



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Other Required Communication

Other Material Communication

Listed below is another material communication between management and us related to the audit:

- Management representation letter (see Attachment)

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Other Matters

We also observed other matters and offer these comments and suggestions with respect to matters which came to our attention during the course of the audit of the financial statements. Our audit procedures are designed primarily to enable us to form an opinion on the financial statements and, therefore, may not bring to light all weaknesses in policies and procedures that may exist.

However, these other matters are offered as constructive suggestions for the consideration of management as part of the ongoing process of modifying and improving financial and administrative practices and procedures.

We can discuss these matters further at your convenience and may provide implementation assistance for changes or improvements.


New Accounting Standards

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences* (GASB 101). GASB 101 updates the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences under a unified model. It defines compensated absences and requires that liabilities be recognized in financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus for leave that has not been used and leave that has been used but not yet paid or settled. GASB 101 amends the existing requirement to disclose the gross increases and decreases in a liability for compensated absences to allow governments to disclose only the net change in the liability (as long as they identify it as a net change).

This statement will be effective for LES' fiscal year ending December 31, 2024.



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The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures* (GASB 102). GASB 102 provides users of government financial statements with essential information about risks related to a government’s vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints. GASB 102 defines a concentration and a constraint and requires a government to assess whether a concentration or constraint makes the government that reports a liability for revenue debt vulnerable to the risk of a substantial impact. If a government determines that those criteria for disclosure have been met for a concentration or constraint, GASB 102 defines the requirements for disclosure.

This statement will be effective for LES’ fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.



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Attachment

Management Representation Letter

As a material communication with management, included herein is a copy of the representation letter provided by management at the conclusion of our engagement.

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Representation of:

Lincoln Electric System
9445 Rokeby Road
Lincoln, Nebraska 68526

Provided to:

FORVIS, LLP

Certified Public Accountants
1248 "O" Street, Suite 1040
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

The undersigned ("We") are providing this letter in connection with FORVIS' audits of our financial statements as of and for the years December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Our representations are current and effective as of the date of FORVIS' report: April 11, 2024.

Our engagement with FORVIS is based on our contract for services dated: September 8, 2023.

Our Responsibility & Consideration of Material Matters

We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the financial statements subject to FORVIS' report in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies; establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, operations, and compliance; and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

Confirmation of Matters Specific to the Subject Matter of FORVIS' Report

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following:

Broad Matters

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of our contract, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
2. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of:
 - a. Internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
 - b. Internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

Lincoln Electric System
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3. We have provided you with:
 - a. Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as financial records and related data, documentation, and other matters.
 - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d. All minutes of governing body meetings held through the date of this letter or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared. All unsigned copies of minutes provided to you are copies of our original minutes approved by the governing body, if applicable, and maintained as part of our records.
 - e. All significant contracts and grants.
4. We have responded fully and truthfully to all your inquiries.

Government Auditing Standards

5. We acknowledge that we are responsible for compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
6. We have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that have a direct and material effect on the determination of amounts in our financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
7. We have identified and disclosed to you any violations or possible violations of laws, regulations, including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for recognition and/or disclosure in the financial statements or for your reporting on noncompliance.
8. We have taken or will take timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud, abuse, illegal acts, or violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements that you or other auditors report.
9. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
10. We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives of your audit and the corrective actions taken to address any significant findings and recommendations made in such audits, attestation engagements, or other studies.

Misappropriation, Misstatements, & Fraud

11. We have informed you of all current risks of a material amount that are not adequately prevented or detected by our procedures with respect to:
 - a. Misappropriation of assets.
 - b. Misrepresented or misstated assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, or net position.

12. We have no knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:
 - a. Management or employees who have significant roles in internal control over financial reporting, or
 - b. Others when the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
13. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, customers, regulators, citizens, suppliers, or others.
14. We have assessed the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud and disclosed to you any such risk identified.

Related Parties

15. We have disclosed to you the identity of all of the entity's related parties and all the related-party relationships of which we are aware. The entity has not entered into any new agreements with a related party or modified terms related to an existing related-party transaction during the year under audit, or as of the date of this letter. Further, we do not have any existing or ongoing agreements with related parties that are still in effect as of the date of this letter.
16. We understand that the term related party refers to:
 - Affiliates
 - Management and members of their immediate families
 - Any other party with which the entity may deal if one party can significantly influence the management or operating policies of the other to an extent that one of the transacting parties might be prevented from fully pursuing its own separate interests.

Another party is also a related party if it can significantly influence the management or operating policies of the transacting parties or if it has an ownership interest in one of the transacting parties and can significantly influence the other to an extent that one or more of the transacting parties might be prevented from fully pursuing its own separate interests.

The term affiliate refers to a party that directly or indirectly controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the entity.

Litigation, Laws, Rulings, & Regulations

17. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. The effects of all known actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
18. We have no knowledge of communications from regulatory agencies, governmental representatives, employees, or others concerning investigations or allegations of noncompliance with laws and regulations, deficiencies in financial reporting practices, or other matters that could have a material adverse effect on the financial statements.
19. We have disclosed to you all known instances of violations or noncompliance or possible violations or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency.

20. We have no reason to believe the entity owes any penalties or payments under the Employer Shared Responsibility Provisions of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* nor have we received any correspondence from the IRS or other agencies indicating such payments may be due.
21. We have not been designated as a potentially responsible party (PRP or equivalent status) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or other cognizant regulatory agency with authority to enforce environmental laws and regulations.

Nonattest Services

22. You have provided nonattest services, including the following, during the period of this engagement:
 - Assistance with the printing and binding of the financial statements
23. With respect to these services:
 - a. We have designated a qualified management-level individual to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the nonattest services.
 - b. We have established and monitored the performance of the nonattest services to ensure they meet our objectives.
 - c. We have made any and all decisions involving management functions with respect to the nonattest services and accept full responsibility for such decisions.
 - d. We have evaluated the adequacy of the services performed and any findings that resulted.
 - e. Established and maintained internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.
 - f. When we receive final deliverables from you, we will store those deliverables in information systems controlled by us. We have taken responsibility for maintaining internal control over these deliverables.

Financial Statements & Reports

24. With regard to other information that is presented in the form of our annual report:
 - a. We confirm that the 2023 Lincoln Electric System Financial Report comprises the annual report for the entity.
 - b. We have provided you with the final draft of the annual report.

Transactions, Records, & Adjustments

25. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
26. We have everything we need to keep our books and records.
27. We have disclosed any significant unusual transactions the entity has entered into during the period, including the nature, terms, and business purpose of those transactions.

Governmental Accounting & Disclosure Matters

28. With regard to deposit and investment activities:
 - a. All deposit, and investment transactions have been made in accordance with legal and contractual requirements.
 - b. Investments are properly valued.
 - c. Disclosures of deposit and investment balances and risks in the financial statements are consistent with our understanding of the applicable laws regarding enforceability of any pledges of collateral.
 - d. We understand that your audit does not represent an opinion regarding the enforceability of any collateral pledges.
29. The financial statements include all component units, appropriately present majority equity interests in legally separate organizations and joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures and other related organizations.
30. We have identified and evaluated all potential fiduciary activities. The financial statements include all fiduciary activities required by GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, as amended.
31. Components of net position (net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
32. Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated or amortized.
33. We have appropriately disclosed the entity's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available and have determined that net position is properly recognized under the policy.
34. The entity has properly separated information in debt disclosures related to direct borrowings and direct placements of debt from other debt and disclosed any unused lines of credit, collateral pledged to secure debt, terms in debt agreements related to significant default or termination events with finance-related consequences, and significant subjective acceleration clauses in accordance with GASB Statement No. 88.
35. The entity's ability to continue as a going concern was evaluated and that appropriate disclosures are made in the financial statements as necessary under GASB requirements.
36. The supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, consisting of management's discussion and analysis has been prepared and is measured and presented in conformity with the applicable GASB pronouncements, and we acknowledge our responsibility for the information. The information contained therein is based on all facts, decisions, and conditions currently known to us and is measured using the same methods and assumptions as were used in the preparation of the financial statements. We believe the significant assumptions underlying the measurement and/or presentation of the information are reasonable and appropriate. There has been no change from the preceding period in the methods of measurement and presentation.

Accounting & Disclosure

37. All transactions entered into by the entity are final. We are not aware of any unrecorded transactions, side agreements, or other arrangements (either written or oral) that are in place..
38. Except as reflected in the financial statements, there are no:
 - a. Plans or intentions that may materially affect carrying values or classifications of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, or net position.
 - b. Material transactions omitted or improperly recorded in the financial records.
 - c. Material unasserted claims or assessments that are probable of assertion or other gain/loss contingencies requiring accrual or disclosure, including those arising from environmental remediation obligations.
 - d. Events occurring subsequent to the balance sheet date through the date of this letter, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued, requiring adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.
 - e. Agreements to purchase assets previously sold.
 - f. Arrangements with financial institutions involving compensating balances or other arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances, lines of credit, or similar arrangements.
 - g. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the entity is contingently liable.
 - h. Known or anticipated asset retirement obligations.
39. Except as disclosed in the financial statements, the entity has:
 - a. Satisfactory title to all recorded assets, and those assets are not subject to any liens, pledges, or other encumbrances.
 - b. Complied with all aspects of contractual and grant agreements, for which noncompliance would materially affect the financial statements.

Revenue, Accounts Receivable, & Inventory

40. Adequate provisions and allowances have been accrued for any material losses from:
 - a. Uncollectible receivables.
 - b. Excess or obsolete inventories.
 - c. Sales commitments, including those unable to be fulfilled.
 - d. Purchase commitments in excess of normal requirements or at prices in excess of prevailing market prices.

Estimates

41. We have identified all accounting estimates that could be material to the financial statements, and we confirm the appropriateness of the methods and the consistency in their application, the accuracy and completeness of data, and the reasonableness of significant assumptions used by us in making the accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value reported in the financial statements.
42. Significant estimates that may be subject to a material change in the near term have been properly disclosed in the financial statements. We understand that "near term" means the period within one year of the date of the financial statements. In addition, we have no knowledge of concentrations, which refer to volumes of business, revenues, available sources of supply, or markets, investments, or deposits, existing at the date of the financial statements that would make the entity vulnerable to the risk of severe impact in the near term that have not been properly disclosed in the financial statements.

Fair Value

43. With respect to the fair value measurements of financial and nonfinancial assets and liabilities, if any, recognized in the financial statements or disclosed in the notes thereto:
 - a. The underlying assumptions are reasonable and they appropriately reflect management's intent and ability to carry out its stated course of action.
 - b. The measurement methods and significant assumptions used in determining fair value are appropriate in the circumstances for financial statement measurement and disclosure purposes and have been consistently applied.
 - c. The significant assumptions appropriately reflect market participant assumptions.
 - d. The disclosures related to fair values are complete, adequate, and in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
 - e. There are no subsequent events that require adjustments to the fair value measurements and disclosures included in the financial statements.

Tax-Exempt Bonds

44. Tax-exempt bonds issued have retained their tax-exempt status.
45. We have notified you of any instances of noncompliance with applicable disclosure requirements of the SEC Rule 15c2-12 and applicable state laws.

GASB Statement 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*

46. In connection with the adoption of GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* (GASB 96), we represent the following:
 - a. We have identified a complete population of potential subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) as of the implementation date.
 - b. We have reviewed all significant contracts to identify subscription and nonsubscription components as of the earliest date of adoption. Allocation of costs between subscription and nonsubscription components are based upon standalone prices or other reasonable factors.

- c. Measurements of the subscription assets and liabilities are based upon facts and circumstances that existed at the beginning of the period of implementation.
- d. The estimates related to any options to extend or terminate the SBITA terms within the measurement of subscription liability and an intangible right to use IT subscription asset agrees to management's plans for the SBITA.
- e. The discount rates for each SBITA are based upon what would be obtained by the entity for similar payment amounts during the subscription term as an incremental rate.
- f. We have adequate controls in place to prevent and/or detect errors in subscription assets and liabilities on a recurring basis.
- g. The footnotes to the financial statements appropriately describe the adoption of GASB 96 and include all additional disclosures required under the GASB 96.

Other Matters

- 47. We believe Lincoln Electric System may incur significant costs in the future as a result of the advanced technological improvements that may be needed as a result of new environmental regulations. However, the level of regulatory and legal uncertainty related to these regulations makes it impractical to quantify the specific potential financial impacts at this time.

DocuSigned by:

Emily N. Koenig

Emily Koenig, Vice President & Chief Financial
Officer
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