Financial Statements With Supplementary Information

March 31, 2024 and 2023

Financial Statements With Supplementary Information March 31, 2024 and 2023

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NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Roster of Officials and Commissioners March 31, 2024 and 2023

Officials 0

Mr. Tom Kern

Mr. Patrick Lund

Commissioners

Mr. Reed Matney

Chairman

Mr. Eugene Christian

General Manager

Commissioners

Vice-Chairman

Secretary





Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Commissioners Natural Gas Utility District of Hawkins County Rogersville, Tennessee

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Natural Gas Utility District of Hawkins County (the "District") as of and for the years ended March 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the District as of March 31, 2024 and 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, and cash flows, thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

<u>Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements</u>

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to
 fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures
 include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial
 statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements of the District. The supplementary information listed in the table of contents is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory section but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the basic financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

Kodezer Woss & Co, PLLC

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 17, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Greeneville, Tennessee July 17, 2024

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Management's Discussion and Analysis March 31, 2024 and 2023

Our discussion and analysis of the financial performance of Natural Gas Utility District of Hawkins County (the "District") provides an overview of the District's financial activities for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022. Please read it in conjunction with the District's financial statements, which begin on page 9.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The net position decreased \$333,675 for 2024, increased \$60,288 for 2023, and increased \$76,294 for 2022.
- During the year 2024, the operating revenues were \$2,978,410 less than 2023. During the year 2023, the operating revenues were \$1,299,418 more than 2022. The increase in revenue for 2023 resulted from higher natural gas and propane costs as well as colder weather. Industrial customer usage also increased for 2023 compared to 2022. The decrease in revenue for 2024 resulted from lower natural gas and propane costs as well as milder weather. Industrial customer usage also decreased for 2024 compared to 2023. Cost of sales for 2024 were \$2,615,771 less than 2023 and 2023 was \$1,434,559 more compared to 2022. The large increase for 2023 compared to 2022 was due to higher cost of gas as well as increased transportation costs from Enbridge. Propane costs decreased 10% in 2024 compared to 2023 and decreased 12% in 2023 compared to 2022. The cost of sales have closely followed the change in revenue for the years 2024 and 2023. Due to the volatility of gas prices in 2024, revenue decreased 22% while cost of sales increased 30%.
- The other operating revenues increased \$155,272 during 2024 and increased by \$79,660 for 2023 compared to 2022. The increase for 2024 and 2023 is due to the increase in interest income due to increased rates for savings and certificate of deposit accounts.
- It has been increasingly difficult in recent years to project operating costs due to the extreme volatility of natural gas and propane prices. Both revenue and cost have been based on historical averages adjusted for estimated gas costs. The District utilizes a Purchase Gas Adjustment (PGA) rate. The retail rates are adjusted each month based on the cost of gas for that month.

DESCRIPTION OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The District operates as a utility enterprise and its annual report consists of a series of financial statements presented on the full accrual basis of accounting. The Statements of Net Position, Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position and Statements of Cash Flows (on pages 9-11) provide information about the District as a whole and present a longer-term view of the District's finances.

CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following condensed financial information provides an overview of the District's financial activities for the years ended March 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022.

NET POSITION

	 2024		2023		2022
Capital assets, net	\$ 10,295,079	\$	10,604,625	\$	10,982,743
Other assets, net	 11,953,838		11,999,625		11,649,827
Total assets	22,248,917		22,604,250		22,632,570
Long-term liabilities	97,364		99,084		100,004
Other liabilities	 658,884	_	678,822		766,510
Total liabilities	756,248		777,906		866,514
Net investment in capital assets	10,295,079		10,604,625		10,982,743
Unrestricted	 11,197,590	_	11,221,719		10,783,313
Total net position	\$ 21,492,669	\$	21,826,344	\$	21,766,056

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Management's Discussion and Analysis (Continued)

NET POSITION (Continued)

Other assets decreased \$45,787 for 2024 compared to 2023 because of a decrease in inventory of \$263,669 due to lower gas prices and milder weather resulting in decreased usage during the winter months during 2024 compared to 2023. Other assets increased \$349,798 for 2023 compared to 2022 because of an increase in inventory of \$1,098,689 due to higher gas prices and decreased usage during the winter months.

Long-term and other liabilities - Long-term liabilities has remained stable over the three years due to meter deposits have remained consistent. Other liabilities decreased \$19,938 for 2024 compared to 2023 due to a decrease in gas purchases included in accounts payable as of March 31, 2024. Other liabilities decreased \$87,688 for 2023 compared to 2022 due to a decrease in gas purchases included in accounts payable as of March 31, 2023.

CHANGES IN NET POSITION

		2024 2023		2024		2023		2023		2022
Total operating revenues	\$	10,481,761	\$	13,423,967	\$	12,124,549				
Total other operating revenues		391,561		236,289		156,629				
Total revenues		10,873,322		13,660,256		12,281,178				
Total operating expenses		6,040,189		8,655,960		7,221,401				
Total other operating expenses		5,166,808		4,944,008	_	4,983,483				
Total expenses		11,206,997		13,599,968		12,204,884				
Change in net position		(333,675)		60,288		76,294				
Net position, beginning of year		21,826,344		21,766,056		21,689,762				
Net position, end of year	\$	21,492,669	\$	21,826,344	\$	21,766,056				

<u>Revenues</u> - Operating revenues consist primarily of natural gas sales. The main source of other operating revenues are connection charges and forfeited discounts.

<u>Expenses</u> - Total expenses decreased by \$2,392,971 during 2024 due to a decrease in cost of gas. The expenses increased by \$1,395,084 during 2023 due to an increase in cost of gas and increase in expenses for installation of appliances and services.

CAPITAL ASSET

<u>Capital Assets</u> - At March 31, 2024, 2023 and 2022, the District had \$28.6, \$28.3, and \$27.9 million, respectively, invested in distribution plant, intangible plant, propane plant, land, buildings, equipment, furniture and fixtures and automobiles (see table below).

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Management's Discussion and Analysis (Continued)

CAPITAL ASSET (Continued)

	 2024	 2023		2022
Distribution plant	\$ 20,737,876	\$ 20,478,134	\$	20,264,853
Intangible plant	16,958	16,958		16,958
Propane plant	3,154,683	3,114,647		3,077,373
Land and right-of-ways	382,406	382,406		382,406
Buildings	1,752,767	1,750,532		1,741,032
Equipment	561,737	544,146		527,951
Furniture and fixtures	621,761	610,585		588,605
Automobile and trucks	 1,418,157	 1,367,991		1,329,289
Totals	\$ 28,646,345	\$ 28,265,399	\$	27,928,467

The District continues to extend mains as needed for future development. During 2024, the District purchased a truck and made property improvements. During 2023, the District purchased a truck and made property improvements. The Utility did not invest a lot in capital assets during 2024 or 2023 due to supply chain issues. Depreciation has remained relatively stable over the 3 years.

RESULTS AND OUTLOOK

The District continued a decrease in overall natural gas sales compared to the same time in the previous year. The decrease in sales came from the industrial sector while the residential sector showed an increase in sales. However, this increase was not enough to overcome the slowdown in industrial sales or the loss of one of the top ten industrial customers when it shut down. At least one new industrial customer is locating in the Phipps Bend Industrial Park and will have a significant gas load. When this industry comes online its projected usage will help replace the lost sales from the closure of the TRW plant.

The District entered into a contract with Tennessee Energy Acquisition Corporation ("TEAC") to manage its natural gas supply in April of 2023. The contract with Symmetry Energy expired in March of 2023. So far TEAC has been able to manage the District's gas supplies more efficiently and at a lower expense. The use of the District's expensive LNG storage was on the increase every year while Symmetry managed the gas supplies, TEAC was able to not use any LNG storage for FY 23-24.

As a result of the current economic climate, the District is looking at other ways to generate revenue. One such source is a natural gas pre-pay deal with a very large manufacturer that is supplied directly by Enbridge. This deal would generate saving for this manufacturer as well as generate an additional \$300,000 in annual revenue. This manufacturer has agreed verbally to enter into a deal with the District to produce a pre-pay deal. Such a deal would not be expected to come to fruition until the first or second guarter of 2025.

Another plan to raise additional revenues is to release excess capacity on the Enbridge pipeline. The pipeline is fully subscribed thereby making capacity a valuable commodity. The District holds firm capacity through several choke points on the pipeline, which makes its very valuable. TEAC is doing a capacity release on a small scale at first as they get a better handle on just how much they can release without impacting the gas supplies to the District's customers in a negative way. To tie in with this capacity release, talks have begun with Kinzer Drilling for potential supplies of natural gas delivered to the District without having to use its own capacity to transport the gas. Doing so could free up additional pipeline capacity to be released to the highest bidder as well as less use of storage gas during the winter season.

Natural gas prices continue to hover down around their pre-inflationary prices. Some of the NYMEX settlement prices had dropped below \$2.00/Dkt. The market is sitting around \$2.50-\$2.75 currently. Delivered propane prices still remain around \$1.50/gal. No changes in the District's propane rates are expected.

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Management's Discussion and Analysis (Continued)

RESULTS AND OUTLOOK (Continued)

The Hawkins County Board of Education has purchased about five (5) propane powered school buses for its fleet with the help of Federal grants. The BOE approached the District about refueling the buses for them. The District installed a new refueling station across from a high school in Church Hill and modified its existing propane dispenser to refuel buses in Rogersville. The result is an increase in propane sales by about 1,500 gallons per month during the school season. The BOE has also seen a significant savings in fuel costs compared to diesel fuel. The BOE has purchased an additional three (3) buses to be delivered in December of 2025.

NGL Inc., fractionation plant in Bulls Gap is operational now. This plant takes the Y-grade liquids produced from the stripping plant operated by Eco-Energy and produces propane, butane, natural gasolines, etc. This plant could provide the District's propane needs at a cheaper price by reducing the cost of transporting the propane from Catlettsburg, KY or Millner, GA as is currently the case. This cost savings could then be passed on to the District's customers.

CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our purveyors, taxpayers, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report, or need additional financial information, contact the District at 202 Park Boulevard, Rogersville, Tennessee 37857.

Statements of Net Position March 31, 2024 and 2023

		2024		2023
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash	\$	2,500,362	\$	2,754,751
Certificates of deposit		6,157,845		5,507,372
Accounts receivable, net		564,919		854,923
Inventories		2,211,342		2,475,011
Unbilled revenues		185,731		189,836
Prepaid expenses		79,491		63,914
Interest receivable	_	156,784	_	54,734
Total current assets		11,856,474		11,900,541
Designated Funds				
Gas meter deposits - cash		97,364		99,084
Total designated funds	_	97,364		99,084
Utility Plant				
Utility plant, not being depreciated		382,406		382,406
Utility plant, being depreciated		28,263,939		27,882,993
Less accumulated depreciation	_	(18,351,266)	_	(17,660,774)
Total utility plant, net	_	10,295,079		10,604,625
Total assets	\$	22,248,917	\$	22,604,250
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$	366,938	\$	383,999
Other payables and accrued liabilities		291,946		294,823
Total current liabilities	_	658,884		678,822
Non-Current Liabilities				
Payable from designated funds - gas meter deposits	_	97,364		99,084
Total non-current liabilities		97,364	_	99,084
Total liabilities		756,248		777,906
Net Position				
Net investment in capital assets		10,295,079		10,604,625
Unrestricted		11,197,590		11,221,719
+	_		<u> </u>	
Total net position	\$	21,492,669	\$	21,826,344

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position Years Ended March 31, 2024 and 2023

		2024		2023
OPERATING REVENUES				
Sales	\$	10,481,761	\$	13,423,967
Cost of sales		6,040,189		8,655,960
		4,441,572		4,768,007
Other operating revenues		125,818	_	162,022
Net operating revenues	_	4,567,390	_	4,930,029
OPERATING EXPENSES				
General and administrative Transmission and distribution Depreciation Customer accounting and collection Sales promotion Total operating expenses	_	3,178,719 1,064,605 690,492 155,267 77,725 5,166,808		3,127,931 870,786 715,050 164,399 65,842 4,944,008
Operating loss	_	(599,418)		(13,979)
OTHER INCOME				
Interest income		265,743	_	74,267
Total other income		265,743		74,267
Change in net position		(333,675)		60,288
Net position at the beginning of the year		21,826,344		21,766,056
Net position at the end of the year	\$	21,492,669	\$	21,826,344

Statements of Cash Flows

Years Ended March 31, 2024 and 2023

		2024	_	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES Cash receipts from customers Cash paid to suppliers Cash paid to employees including benefits Other operating receipts	\$	10,876,200 (6,866,779) (3,549,400) 125,818	\$	13,546,163 (10,585,327) (3,491,754) 162,022
Net cash flows from operating activities		585,839	_	(368,896)
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES Acquisition and construction of utility plant		(380,946)		(336,932)
Net cash flows from capital and related financing activities		(380,946)	_	(336,932)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES Maturities of investments Purchases of investments Interest collected		5,416,883 (6,143,628) 265,743		4,491,383 (5,496,060) 62,955
Net cash flows from investing activities		(461,002)		(941,722)
Net change in cash		(256,109)		(1,647,550)
Cash at the beginning of the year		2,853,835		4,501,385
Cash at the end of the year	\$	2,597,726	\$	2,853,835
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITION Operating loss Adjustments to reconcile operating income to cash flows from operating activities	ES \$	(599,418)	\$	(13,979)
Depreciation Decrease (increase) in:		690,492		715,050
Accounts receivable Inventories Unbilled revenues Prepaid expenses and interest receivable		290,004 263,669 4,105 (41,355)		86,409 (1,098,689) 84,417 (53,496)
Increase (decrease) in: Accounts payable Accrued liabilities Gas meter deposits		(17,061) (2,877) (1,720)		(95,429) 3,812 3,009
Net cash flows from operating activities	\$	585,839	\$	(368,896)
RECONCILIATION OF CASH TO STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION Cash Gas meter deposits - cash Total	\$	2,500,362 97,364 2,597,726	\$	2,754,751 99,084 2,853,835

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Notes to Financial Statements March 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE 1 - NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

Natural Gas Utility District of Hawkins County (the "District") was created under the Utility District Act of 1937 to provide natural gas and propane gas services to residents and businesses of Hawkins County, Tennessee.

The District receives the majority of its natural gas supply through East Tennessee Natural Gas, a division of Enbridge and Tennessee Gas Pipeline interstate pipelines. The District has firm transportation and storage contracts with these pipelines. The District purchases its natural gas supply from two marketing companies, Symmetry Energy and Tennessee Energy Acquisition Corporation, ("TEAC"). The TEAC natural gas supply is a firm long-term supply contract.

The District is operated under the control of a three-member Board of Commissioners ("Board"). The District's operations alone constitute the reporting entity since the Board is not financially accountable for any other entities and the District has no relationships with any other entities where the nature and significance of the relationships would require inclusion in the financial statements of the District. Operating revenues are based on rates approved by the Board of Commissioners. No other board or commission has jurisdiction over the District in the management and control of its operations.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation - The District is an enterprise fund. An enterprise fund is a proprietary type fund used to account for operations 1) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or 2) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes. The District has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 62, "Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA pronouncements."

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation - Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The accompanying financial statements are reported using the "economic resources management focus," and the "accrual basis of accounting". Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents - For purposes of reporting cash flows, cash includes highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) purchased with a maturity of three months or less.

Accounts Receivable - The District extends unsecured credit to its customers in the ordinary course of business but mitigates the associated credit risk by actively pursuing past due accounts. Management has established an allowance for doubtful accounts of approximately \$159,000 in 2024 and \$187,000 in 2023. Based on subsequent collections, historical performance, and experience with the District's customers, management believes that the allowance is adequate.

Inventories - Materials, which include appliances, supplies and gas in storage, are valued at average cost.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Utility Plant - The utility plant is stated at the historical cost of construction. Such costs include direct construction costs and payroll related costs. Depreciation is provided by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets ranging from three to thirty-three years. The cost of normal repairs of property and the replacements and renewal of items considered being less than units of property are charged to maintenance expense. Units of property replaced or retired are credited to the utility plant accounts and charged to accumulated depreciation.

Revenues and Expenses - The District distinguishes operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and delivering gas in connection with ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the District are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

Leases - The District accounts for leases under GASB Statement No. 87 - *Leases*. The primary objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. There was no impact on the current financial statements from the implementation of this Statement. The District monitors changes in circumstances that would require a measurement of its lease liability, and will remeasure the lease liability and deferred outflows of resources if certain changes occur that are expected to significantly affect the amount of the lease liability.

Impact of Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements - In May 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 96 - Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs), effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2022. The primary objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for SBITAs by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain subscription assets and subscription liabilities. There was no impact on the current financial statements from the implementation of this Statement.

Date of Management Review - Management has evaluated events and transactions occurring subsequent to the statement of net position for items that should potentially be recognized or disclosed in these financial statements. The evaluation was conducted through the date of the independent auditors' report, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS

State statutes require that all deposits with financial institutions must be collateralized by securities whose market value is equal to 105 percent of the value of the deposits, less so much of such amount as is insured by federal deposit insurance. The collateral must be held by the District or its agent in the District's name, or by the Federal Reserve in the District's name.

Statutes also authorize the District to invest in bonds, notes or treasury bills of the United States or any of its agencies, certificates of deposit at Tennessee state chartered banks and savings and loan associations and federally chartered banks and savings and loan associations, repurchase agreements utilizing obligations of the United States or its agencies as the underlying securities, state pooled investment fund, and money market mutual funds. Statutes also require that securities underlying repurchase agreements must have a market value at least equal to the amount of funds invested in the repurchase transaction.

NOTE 3 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Following are the components of the District's cash on hand and carrying amounts at March 31, 2024 and 2023:

March 31, 2024	Un	designated	Designated			Total		
Cash on hand Bank deposits -	\$	1,000	\$	-	\$	1,000		
Non-interest bearing demand		413,181		_		413,181		
Interest bearing demand		2,086,181		97,364		2,183,545		
Total cash		2,500,362		97,364		2,597,726		
Investments in certificates of deposit		6,157,845			_	6,157,845		
Total	\$	8,658,207	\$	97,364	\$	8,755,571		
March 31, 2023	Undesignated		Designated			Total		
Ozak an hand								
Cash on hand Bank deposits -	\$	1,000	\$	-	\$	1,000		
Bank deposits -	\$	1,000 456,151	\$	-	\$	1,000 456,151		
	\$		\$	- 99,084	\$			
Bank deposits - Non-interest bearing demand	\$	456,151	\$	-	\$	456,151		
Bank deposits - Non-interest bearing demand Interest bearing demand	\$ 	456,151 2,297,600	\$	99,084	\$	456,151 2,396,684		

The carrying amounts of the District's deposits were \$8,755,571 and \$8,361,207 and the bank balances were \$8,960,707 and \$8,521,846 as of March 31, 2024 and 2023. Of the bank balances, \$1,522,211 for 2024 and \$1,518,259for 2023 were covered by federal depository insurance and \$7,438,496 and \$7,003,587 were covered for 2024 and 2023 through the banks' participation in the Tennessee Bank Collateral Pool.

NOTE 4 - INVENTORIES

Inventory is valued at average cost. Inventories consisted of:

	 2024	2023
Natural gas storage Appliances, parts and supplies Propane	\$ 616,853 1,104,758 489,731	\$ 1,083,939 1,038,122 352,950
Topane	\$ 2,211,342	\$ 2,475,011

2027

2027

NOTE 5 - MAJOR SUPPLIERS

For the years ended March 31, 2024 there was one supplier that comprised greater than ten percent of the District's gas purchases and two suppliers for the year ended March 31, 2023. These purchases totaled approximately \$3.2 million for 2024 and \$7.1 million for 2023 or 96% and 98% of gas purchases during 2024 and 2023, respectively.

NOTE 6 - MAJOR CUSTOMER

For the year ended March 31, 2024 and 2023, one customer comprised greater than ten percent of the District's gas sales. These sales totaled approximately \$738,000 for 2024 and \$1.4 million for 2023 or 10% and 14% of gas sales for 2024 and 2023, respectively.

NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The District obtains commercial insurance to cover general liability claims, errors or omissions liability, auto liability, property damage, and workers' compensation. The District is covered by the Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Act, which generally limits the District's tort liability to \$350,000 per claim. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in the past three years.

NOTE 8 - UTILITY PLANT

Utility plant activity for the year ended March 31, 2024 was as follows:

	Beginning			Ending
	Balance	Increases	Decreases	Balance
Capital assets not being depreciated Land and land rights	\$ 382,406	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 382,406
Total capital assets not being depreciated	382,406	-	-	382,406
Capital assets being depreciated				
Buildings and permanent improvements	1,750,532	2,235	-	1,752,767
Equipment and gas distribution system	26,132,461	378,711		26,511,172
Total capital assets being depreciated	27,882,993	380,946	-	28,263,939
Less accumulated depreciation	(17,660,774)	(690,492)		(18,351,266)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	10,222,219	(309,546)		9,912,673
Total capital assets, net	\$ 10,604,625	\$ (309,546)	\$ -	\$ 10,295,079

NOTE 8 - UTILITY PLANT (Continued)

Utility plant activity for the year ended March 31, 2023 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets not being depreciated Land and land rights	\$ 382,406	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 382,406
Total capital assets not being depreciated	382,406			382,406
Capital assets being depreciated				
Buildings and permanent improvements	1,741,032	9,500	-	1,750,532
Equipment and gas distribution system	25,805,029	327,432		26,132,461
Total capital assets being depreciated	27,546,061	336,932	-	27,882,993
Less accumulated depreciation	(16,945,724)	(715,050)		(17,660,774)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	10,600,337	(378,118)		10,222,219
Total capital assets, net	\$ 10,982,743	\$ (378,118)	\$ -	\$ 10,604,625

Depreciation charged to income was \$690,492 and \$715,050 for the years ended March 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

NOTE 9 - DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

Employees of the District are offered a deferred compensation plan through Natural Gas Utility District of Hawkins County (the "Plan") created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan permits employees to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, in-service distributions at age $59 \, \frac{1}{2}$ or unforeseen emergency. The assets of the plan are held in a trust for the exclusive benefit of the participants and their beneficiaries. Presently, the District does not match any employee deferrals.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Employees of the District are provided a contributory target benefit defined contribution retirement plan covering substantially all of its employees through Hawkins County Gas Utility Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan provisions and contribution requirements are established by and may be amended by the District's Board of Commissioners. Employees are eligible to participate in the plan after completion of six months of service and attainment of their 21st birthday. Employees participate in the plan on January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 after the eligibility requirements are met. The plan allows employees to contribute up to 2% of their annual salary to the plan. The District's contributions to the plan are actuarially calculated based on age, salary, and date of employment, using a target benefit of 25% of the employee's annual average compensation. The District's contributions for each employee and earnings allocated to each employee's account are vested on a graded schedule of 20% increments for 2-6 years of service. The employee is vested 100% at all times for employee contributions. Forfeitures of the Plan may be used to satisfy any contribution paid by the District or to pay any administrative expenses of the Plan. The Plan used forfeitures from the plan of \$6,106 and \$0 in 2024 and 2023, respectively. The balances of forfeitures available at March 31, 2024 and 2023 were \$0 and \$6,106, respectively. The District's contributions to the plan totaled \$244,628 for 2024 and \$265,439 for 2023. Employees' contributions to the plan totaled \$37,083 for 2024 and \$37,797 for 2023.

NOTE 11 - CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments that potentially subject the District to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash, certificates of deposit and customer accounts receivable. The District's cash deposits and investments in certificates of deposit are in financial institutions and are federally insured or collateralized. Credit evaluation and account monitoring procedures are utilized to minimize the risk of loss. Management does not believe significant credit risk existed at March 31, 2024.

NOTE 12 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The District has firm gas supply and firm gas transportation contracts some of which do not expire until September 2049. These contracts typically contain minimum demand or storage obligations on the part of the District.

The District is involved in litigation and claims arising principally in the normal course of business. In the opinion of management, the outcomes of these claims will not have a material adverse effect on the accompanying financial statements and accordingly, no provisions have been recorded.



Schedules of Operating Revenues Years Ended March 31, 2024 and 2023

Year Ended March 31, 2024		Sales		Cost of Sales	 Gross Profit	Gross Profit Percentage
Natural gas Propane Appliances and service	\$	7,473,256 1,472,562 1,535,943	\$	3,687,474 859,596 1,493,119	\$ 3,785,782 612,966 42,824	50.7% 41.6% <u>2.8%</u>
Year Ended March 31, 2023	<u>\$</u>	10,481,761	\$	6,040,189	\$ 4,441,572	42.4%
Natural gas Propane Appliances and service	\$ 	10,159,623 1,749,796 1,514,548	\$\$	6,191,437 959,255 1,505,268 8,655,960	\$ 3,968,186 790,541 9,280 4,768,007	39.1% 45.2% <u>0.6</u> % 35.5%

Schedules of Other Operating Revenues Years Ended March 31, 2024 and 2023

	 2024		2023		
	 mount	Percent of Sales		Amount	Percent of Sales
Connection charges	\$ 31,280	0.3%	\$	35,898	0.3%
Forfeited discounts	89,822	0.9%		121,321	0.9%
Miscellaneous revenues	1,410	0.0%		1,380	0.0%
Discounts taken	 3,306	<u>0.0</u> %		3,423	<u>0.0</u> %
	\$ 125,818	1.2%	\$	162,022	1.2%

Schedules of Other Operating Expenses Years Ended March 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024		2023		
		Percent		Percent	
	Amount	of Sales	Amount	of Sales	
Transmission and distribution expense					
Repair and maintenance	\$ 532,869	5.1%	\$ 380,107	2.8%	
Salaries	488,681	4.7%	449,569	3.3%	
Engineering	43,055	0.4%	41,110	0.3%	
	1,064,605	<u>10.2%</u>	870,786	6.5%	
				_	
Customer accounting and collection expens					
Salaries	66,614	0.6%	59,421	0.4%	
Supplies and expenses	66,217	0.6%	63,599	0.5%	
Uncollectible accounts	22,436	0.2%	41,379	0.3%	
	155,267	<u>1.5%</u>	164,399	<u>1.2</u> %	
Sales promotions	77,725	0.7%	65,842	<u>0.5</u> %	
General and administrative expense					
Employee benefits	1,289,889	12.3%	1,301,358	9.7%	
Salaries	1,172,288	11.2%	1,194,804	8.9%	
Insurance	314,549	3.0%	266,344	2.0%	
Office supplies	156,039	1.5%	135,216	1.0%	
Professional fees	98,799	0.9%	75,171	0.6%	
Repairs and maintenance	94,116	0.9%	98,267	0.7%	
Utilities and telephone	82,958	0.8%	86,686	0.6%	
Other general and administrative	53,800	0.5%	51,249	0.4%	
Commissioners expense	18,000	0.2%	16,500	0.1%	
Transportation	1,466	0.0%	939	0.0%	
Freight	-	0.0%	622	0.0%	
Overhead capitalized to plant	(103,185)	<u>-1.0%</u>	(99,225)	- <u>0.7</u> %	
	3,178,719	<u>30.3%</u>	3,127,931	<u>23.3</u> %	
Depreciation	690,492	<u>6.6%</u>	715,050	<u>5.3</u> %	
	\$ 5,166,808	<u>49.3%</u>	\$ 4,944,008	<u>36.8</u> %	

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Schedule of Utility Plant in Service March 31, 2024

	Cost April 1, 2023	Additions	Retirements	Cost March 31, 2024
Distribution plant				
Mains	\$ 13,444,959	\$ 36,584	\$ -	\$ 13,481,543
Service lines	4,227,545	76,828	-	4,304,373
Meters	2,805,630	146,330		2,951,960
	20,478,134	259,742		20,737,876
Intangible plant	16,958			16,958
Propane plant	3,114,647	40,036		3,154,683
General plant				
Land and right-of-ways	382,406	-	-	382,406
Buildings	1,750,532	2,235	-	1,752,767
Equipment	544,146	17,591	-	561,737
Furniture and fixtures	610,585	11,176	-	621,761
Automobiles and trucks	1,367,991	50,166		1,418,157
	4,655,660	81,168		4,736,828
	\$ 28,265,399	\$ 380,946	\$ -	\$ 28,646,345

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Schedule of Utility Rates March 31, 2024

Residential
Base Tariff Rates Excluding Gas Cost

Customer service charge \$5.95

Standard gas charge 0.663 per therm

Summer reduced rate .336 per therm

Supplemental service rate 1.636 per therm

Commercial

Base Tariff Rates Excluding Gas Cost

Customer service charge \$6.95

Standard gas charge 0.673 per therm

Summer reduced rate .366 per therm

Supplemental service rate 1.646 per therm

Public Authority and Religious Base Tariff Rates Excluding Gas Cost

Customer service charge \$5.95

Standard gas charge 0.626 per therm

Summer reduced rate .366 per therm

Supplemental service rate 1.636 per therm

Small Industrial

Base Tariff Rates Excluding Gas Cost

Customer service charge \$60.00

Standard gas charge 0.646 per therm

Large Industrial

Base Tariff Rates Excluding Gas Cost

Customer service charge \$100.00

Next 40,000 therms 0.616 per therm

For all over 40,000 therms each month 0.556 per therm

Interruptible

Base Tariff Rates Excluding Gas Cost

For the first 40,000 therms each month .408 per therm
For all over 40,000 therms each month .338 per therm

The average cost of gas for the current month will be added to the above base tariff rates for the current month billing.

A 10% penalty is added to all amounts not paid by the discount date. Summer reduced rates apply to gas used for space cooling from May through September. Supplemental service rates apply to gas used for supplemental and/or auxiliary fuel in automatically controlled heating equipment where gas is not the primary heat source from November through March.

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Schedule of Utility Rates (Continued)

The number of natural gas customers at March 31, 2024 and 2023 is as follows:

	2024	2023
Residential	6,973	6,927
Commercial	488	486
Public authority and religious	394	391
Industrial and interruptible	31	33
	7,886	7,837





Independent Auditors' 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

Board of Commissioners Natural Gas Utility District of Hawkins County

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 Natural Gas Utility District of Hawkins County (the "District") as of and for the year ended March 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 17, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District'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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District'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 financial statements. 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*.

District's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. The District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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 District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Greeneville, Tennessee

Kodezer Woss & Co, PLLC

July 17, 2024

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Schedule of Findings and Responses Year Ended March 31, 2024

Findings - Financial Statement Audit

Significant Deficiencies - Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

2024-001 - Segregation of Duties (repeated from prior year)

Criteria

Ideally, duties should be segregated so that one person is performing only one of the following functions in relation to a specific aspect of the District:

- 1) Custody
- 2) Recording
- 3) Authorization

Condition

Due to the small size of the bookkeeping staff, segregation of duties is inadequate.

Effect of Condition

One person in control of all aspects of accounting leaves greater potential for error or fraud to occur.

Cause of Condition

The District only employs one individual in the accounting department.

Recommendation

Internal control procedures should be in place to segregate the duties of custody, recording, and authorization of the accounting records to prevent error and fraud.

Management's Response

Management acknowledges that segregation of duties is not ideal; however, management continues to study the most efficient ways to eliminate or mitigate this weakness.

NATURAL GAS UTILITY DISTRICT OF HAWKINS COUNTY Schedule of Disposition of Prior Year Findings Year Ended March 31, 2024

Prior Year Financial Statement Findings

Status/
Current Year
Finding Number

<u>Prior Year Finding Number</u>

2023-001

Finding Title
Segregation of Duties
(original finding #2016-001)

Repeated/2024-001



Management's Corrective Action Plan March 31, 2024

202 Park Boulevard - PO Box 667 Rogersville, TN 37857 (423) 272-8841 • (423) 246-4212 • (423) 357-8585 www.hcgas.com

2024-001 - Segregation of Duties (Repeated from prior year)

Recommendation

Internal control procedures should be in place to segregate the duties of custody, recording, and authorization of the accounting records to prevent error and fraud.

Action Taken

Currently the general ledger is maintained by the accountant with the Board reviewing financial statements at meetings. The accounting process does not lend itself to an appropriate segregation of duties and oversight of transactions. Due to the small size of the organization and cost efficiency, the current accounting process is the most beneficial. The Board will add levels of duties if the District increases in transactions and size.

Name of Contact Person:

Patrick Lund

Anticipated Completion Date: Ongoing

Sincerely,

Patrick Lund **General Manager**