



**OFFICE *of* INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

## **GOVERNANCE:**

Quality Control Review of Amtrak's Single Audit for  
Fiscal Year 2017

**OIG-A-2018-009 | July 25, 2018**


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## Memorandum

**To:** Jeffrey R. Moreland  
Chairman, Audit and Finance Committee, Amtrak Board of Directors

William N. Feidt  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

**From:** Tom Howard  
Inspector General 

**Date:** July 25, 2018

**Subject:** *Governance: Quality Control Review of Amtrak's Single Audit for Fiscal Year 2017 (OIG-A-2018-009)*

Amtrak (the company) contracted with the independent public accounting firm of Ernst & Young LLP to audit its consolidated financial statements as of and for the fiscal year then ended, September 30, 2017, to provide a report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters.<sup>1</sup> The contract also required Ernst & Young to perform a Single Audit of the company's federal grants for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, in accordance with the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the company receives federal funding, it must obtain an audit performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards. The objective of the Single Audit was to test internal control over compliance with major federal program award requirements and determine whether the company complied with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements that may have a direct and material effect on its major federal programs.

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<sup>1</sup> Ernst & Young report titled *Report of Independent Auditors 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*, dated January 26, 2018.

*Amtrak Office of Inspector General*  
**Governance: Quality Control Review of Amtrak's Single Audit for Fiscal Year 2017**  
OIG-A-2018-009, July 25, 2018

Major federal grant programs are those with the larger and highest risk grant fund expenditures, as determined using the Uniform Guidance. In fiscal year 2017, the company had one such grant program: the Department of Transportation (DOT) National Railroad Passenger Corporation Grants.

As authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, we monitored the audit activities of Ernst & Young to help ensure audit quality and compliance with auditing standards. Our review disclosed no instances in which Ernst & Young did not comply, in all material respects, with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards and Uniform Guidance requirements. The key aspects of Ernst & Young's report<sup>2</sup> are discussed below.

Ernst & Young issued an unmodified compliance opinion on the major federal grant program it reviewed. However, Ernst & Young identified a significant deficiency<sup>3</sup> in internal control over compliance relating to Equipment and Real Property Management for the DOT National Railroad Passenger Corporation Grant. This is a repeat finding. Ernst & Young made several recommendations to correct the significant deficiency. The company agreed with the recommendations and provided a detailed corrective action plan to address them.

We monitored Ernst & Young's audit activities by reviewing its reports, audit plans, detailed audit testing results, summary workpapers, audit quality controls, and auditor independence and qualifications. We observed Ernst & Young's equipment testing at selected field locations and attended key meetings.

Our monitoring activities, as differentiated from an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards, were not intended to enable us to express an audit opinion. Therefore, we do not express an opinion on compliance for the major program, conclusions about the effectiveness of internal control over compliance, or whether the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated. Ernst & Young is responsible for its report dated June 22, 2018, and the conclusions expressed in the report.

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<sup>2</sup> Ernst & Young report titled *Report of Independent Auditors on Compliance for the Major Federal Program; Report on Internal Control Over Compliance and Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance*.

<sup>3</sup> A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

*Amtrak Office of Inspector General*

**Governance: Quality Control Review of Amtrak's Single Audit for Fiscal Year 2017**

OIG-A-2018-009, July 25, 2018

If you have any questions, please contact me ([Tom.Howard@amtrakoig.gov](mailto:Tom.Howard@amtrakoig.gov)) or Stephen Lord, Assistant Inspector General, Audits, at ([Stephen.Lord@amtrakoig.gov](mailto:Stephen.Lord@amtrakoig.gov)) or 202-906-4600.

# OIG MISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

## Mission

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The Amtrak OIG's mission is to provide independent, objective oversight of Amtrak's programs and operations through audits and investigations focused on recommending improvements to Amtrak's economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse; and providing Congress, Amtrak management and Amtrak's Board of Directors with timely information about problems and deficiencies relating to Amtrak's programs and operations.

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800-468-5469

## Contact Information

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