

Summaries of Audit Report 2007

Board of Audit of Japan

① A project to upgrade a waste disposal facility

Regarding a project to upgrade a waste disposal facility, neither garbage-disposal facilities nor power generating facilities perform their expected functions because the waste disposal facility was handed over to municipalities without adequate confirmation of its disposal capacity written on the specification. As a result, the objectives of subsidies could not be achieved. (1 case; 247.93 million yen)

② A project to install septic tanks

Regarding a project to install septic tanks, the subsidies were overpaid because the expenses for the fictitious septic tank installation works were included in the project expenses eligible for the subsidies. (1 case; 4.28 million yen)

③ Projects for improvement of septic tank installation and projects for promotion of improvement of septic tanks for the municipalities

The Ministry of the Environment pays state subsidies for the implementation of projects for improvement of septic tank installation and/or the projects for promotion of improvement of septic tanks for the municipalities. The Board found out that i) the installed septic tanks had not been used, ii) the septic tanks which had been already installed before the previous fiscal year was included in the project expenses eligible for the subsidies in the current fiscal year, and iii) since the installed septic tanks had not undergone the inspection required by laws, it could not be confirmed to be installed and maintained properly. Therefore, the Ministry should take necessary measures to promptly make use of the installed septic tanks as well as confirm if the installed tanks are properly installed and maintained. Besides, the Ministry should clearly define the start date for use of septic tanks in the guidelines for project, etc. and instruct municipalities to implement a system to confirm if the installed tanks have undergone the inspection.

(1 case; improper amount: 3,847.28 million yen)

④ Examinations of certainty of implementation of the projects to improve facilities related to subsidies to promote utilization of biomass in the local area

Regarding the projects to improve facilities related to subsidies to promote utilization of biomass in the local area, specific procedures to examine the certainty of implementation of the projects had not been defined and survey to measure willingness of the persons concerned to utilize biomass had not been examined properly at the time of preparing project implementation plan. Therefore, the target amount of biomass specified in the plan had not been secured, which resulted in a low usage rate of biomass for the first year of the projects.

(1 case; improper amount: 1,517.19 million yen)

⑤ Criteria for judgment to adopt the works for forestation outsourced by forest owners under the forest environment preservation project

Regarding the implementation of the forest environment preservation project, the criteria for judgment to adopt the works for forestation outsourced by forest owners to implementing bodies such as forest associations had not been clearly defined. Therefore, each forest owner as an employee of the project worked for forestation in his/her own area while the areas outsourced by the other forest owners were not performed for forestation at all. As a result, the project did not meet the purpose of works for forestation outsourced by forest owners so that forest associations should efficiently implement the project in a well-planned manner.

(1 case; improper amount: 358.80 million yen)

⑥ Management of waste batteries

The Maritime Self-Defense Force uses silver batteries to provide electricity for Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles mounted on submarine rescue vehicle carriers. The unrefined silver from the waste batteries is then collected and refined to be used as government supplies for producing silver batteries. Waste batteries exceeding the amount required for 5-year government supply are supposed to be sold according to the annual disposal plan. However, according to the estimation based on annual amount for government supply, the amount of silver required for 10-year government supply and that of unrefined silver collected from the waste batteries required for 17-year government supply were stored respectively and yet the waste batteries exceeding the amount required for 5-year government supply had not been sold off. Therefore, The Maritime Material Command should develop a disposal plan for total storage amount of waste batteries exceeding the amount required for 5-year government supply, taking into consideration the silver collection cycle with much thought given to the actual status of storage of silver and waste batteries, to promptly dispose of these waste batteries.

(1 case; improper amount: 980.6 million yen)