



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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**INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Stacey E. Pickering, State Auditor  
Office of the State Auditor  
State of Mississippi  
P.O. Box 956  
Jackson, MS 39205-0956

7/12/10

Dear Mr. Pickering:

This letter is in response to the limited assessment of the Information Systems general controls and selected application controls of the Mississippi State Treasury Department conducted by the State Auditor's Office. Please find below the responses/corrective action plans the State Treasury will implement after reviewing the recommendations from the audit.

**AUDIT FINDINGS:**

1. State Treasury Department Should Comply with its Security Policy Concerning Passwords.

**Response:** The I. T. Department now changes passwords every six months. Administrative passwords are changed at the same frequency as user passwords. Passwords are kept in a directory on the system that is accessible only to administrators. The I.T. Department will change the way it handles passwords as follows:

- A. Users will be required to change their own passwords every six months.
- B. Passwords must not be disclosed to anyone except in emergency circumstances or when there is an overriding operational necessity.
- C. Passwords must never be written down.
- D. Passwords must not be sent in clear text over the network.
- E. Passwords must be unique per user.
- F. Default passwords must be changed.
- G. Passwords suspected to be stolen or cracked must be changed immediately and notification must be given to the user's supervisor and system administrator.
- H. Passwords for administrative accounts must be changed every thirty days.
- I. Passwords will no longer be stored on the system, not even in a secure administrator spreadsheet.
- J. Passwords must contain at least eight characters.
- K. Password must contain a combination of letters, numbers and at least one special character.

2. State Treasury Department Should Consider Other Options for Fire Suppression in the Computer Room.

**Response:** The State Treasury Department utilizes a fire suppression system called "wet pipe". This system is tied into the Woolfolk Building's fire sprinkler system. To reroute the pipes in the ceiling over the computer equipment would require extensive plumbing modifications. Due to budget constraints, the cost is prohibitive at this time. The price of a new systems will just add even more to the cost. Corrective actions the Treasury will consider are as follows:

1. Determine what other agencies with computer rooms located in the Woolfolk Building are doing about fire prevention.
2. Get with Capitol Facilities and discuss the possibilities for moving the overhead pipes in the computer room.
3. Get a price for purchasing and installing a Sapphire Fire Suppression System.
4. Consider replacing the "wet pipe" system in a future budget year or when monies become available.

Sincerely,



Liz Welch  
Deputy Treasurer  
MS State Treasury