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COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY  
JUSTIN P. WILSON, COMPTROLLER  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### COMPTROLLER WILSON RELEASES FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON PROJECT EDISON

Links: Edison Project Information: <http://tn.gov/comptroller/edison/index.htm>

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – Comptroller Justin P. Wilson told members of the Fiscal Review Committee Wednesday morning that continuing corrective action is needed to resolve issues with the financial component of the state's Enterprise Resource Planning Project, which is commonly called Project Edison.

Project Edison is a new software system that's being used to manage and track state government's financial transactions, including payments to vendors, disbursement of grant funds to local governments and other expenditures.

Some state departments are already using Project Edison's financial component, while others are scheduled to make the transition later this year.

Project Edison also handles the state's payroll and human resources functions, which were the subject of a report by Wilson's staff earlier this year.

In the follow-up report presented Wednesday, Wilson and his staff recommended that the Project Edison team develop a complete list of problems that have been identified with the financial component and resolve those problems as quickly as possible. Wilson and his staff also suggested that the training program for employees who must work with the financial component should be reviewed and upgraded.

Wilson and his staff also stated that Project Edison's financial component implementation should not proceed for departments that aren't already using it until the system applications for each agency are in fact ready. That would involve both user acceptance of the new system and third-party verification that problems have been sufficiently addressed.

"It's important that the operations of Project Edison be as transparent as possible," Wilson added. "We're recommending that the Fiscal Review Committee get regular reports."

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As part of its review, the Comptroller's office surveyed the state's fiscal directors and other employees who must use Project Edison's financial software to do their jobs. The survey respondents also reported numerous problems, including inability to pay vendors in a timely fashion.

"What's at stake here is nothing less than the financial integrity of Tennessee state government," Wilson said.

Responding to complaints from state employees, the Fiscal Review Committee requested in April that the Comptroller's office begin reviewing Project Edison's performance, primarily relating to payroll and benefits.

In his earlier report, Wilson recommended an independent technical review of both the human resources and financial functions.

He also recommended delays in the implementation of the financial component of Edison for agencies not yet using the software. Subsequently, the Project Edison team employed an independent reviewer and last month announced delays in implementing the financial component for 12 of the 14 agencies that had been scheduled to make the transition July 1.

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