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JUSTIN P. WILSON, COMPTROLLER  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release:** May 20, 2009

**Comptroller Wilson Recommends Independent Review of Project Edison**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – The Tennessee Comptroller’s Office is recommending a comprehensive, independent technical review of all operational issues related to the state’s Enterprise Resource Planning Project, commonly called Project Edison. Edison is an ongoing effort to implement an integrated software system to handle state government’s personnel and financial functions.

The Comptroller’s Office recently sent out an online survey to 40,941 state-assigned e-mail addresses for state employees. Those employees who chose to participate in the survey were asked a series of questions about their experiences with the personnel-related functions of the new software. The software began handling the time keeping, payroll and benefits for state employees September 16, 2008.

There were 15,795 responses to the survey, identifying a number of concerns about the way the system was working and the manner in which problems were being addressed. The Comptroller’s Office also sent surveys to 51 human resource directors in various departments of state government, 32 of whom responded. The human resource directors who participated in the survey also raised issues with Edison’s performance.

Based on the concerns identified in the surveys, the Comptroller’s Office is recommending that the state Department of Finance and Administration immediately contact all state departments and agencies to obtain a comprehensive list of operational issues related to Edison’s performance in handling personnel functions.

“What we’ve learned over the last month has been troubling,” Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said of the findings, which were presented during a meeting of the General Assembly’s Fiscal Review Committee Wednesday afternoon. “Edison is supposed to be performing tasks that are critical to the integrity of state government. And it’s not right for our state employees to have their payroll and benefits entrusted to a system that’s not functioning properly.”

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The Comptroller's Office began a review of the project about a month ago at the request of the General Assembly. Sen. Bill Ketron, the Fiscal Review Committee's chairman, sent a letter to the Comptroller's Office April 15, 2009, in which he wrote that a number of members of the General Assembly had received complaints from state employees about the Edison system's handling of various issues dealing with payroll, insurance and employee taxes.

Due to the time constraints, the Comptroller's Office has not yet reviewed the financial component of Project Edison. In light of the issues raised in the employee responses about Edison, the Comptroller's Office is also recommending a review of all operational issues related to Edison's financial functions.

The surveys, the 7,798 comments by the employees, the 20 comments by the HR Directors, and the Comptroller's letter report on Edison are available at: [www.tn.gov/comptroller/edison](http://www.tn.gov/comptroller/edison).

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**Contact:**

Blake Fontenay, Director of Communications, (615) 253-2668 [blake.fontenay@tn.gov](mailto:blake.fontenay@tn.gov)  
Roxanna Pierce, Communications Officer, (615) 401-7806 [roxanna.pierce@tn.gov](mailto:roxanna.pierce@tn.gov)

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