



441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

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January 16, 2026

The Honorable Paul S. Atkins
Chairman
United States Securities and Exchange Commission

Financial Audit: Securities and Exchange Commission’s FY 2025 Financial Statements

Dear Mr. Atkins:

This report transmits the GAO auditor’s report on the results of our audits of the fiscal year 2025 financial statements of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and its Investor Protection Fund (IPF),¹ which is incorporated in the enclosed *U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Fiscal Year 2025 Agency Financial Report*.

As discussed more fully in the auditor’s report that begins on page 34 of the enclosed agency financial report, we found

- the SEC and IPF financial statements as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles;
- SEC maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting for SEC and for IPF as of September 30, 2025; and
- no reportable noncompliance for fiscal year 2025 with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements we tested.

SEC is required by law to annually prepare and submit audited financial statements covering all accounts and associated activities of the Commission to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.² Further, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended in 2010 by section 922 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act), requires SEC to annually prepare and submit a complete set of audited financial statements for IPF to Congress.³ In accordance with our authority to audit statements and

¹IPF was established in 2010 by section 922 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act). IPF funds the activities of SEC’s whistleblower award program and the SEC Office of Inspector General Employee Suggestion Program established under sections 922 and 966 of the Dodd-Frank Act, respectively. Pub. L. No- 111-203, §§ 922(a), 966, 124 Stat. 1376, 1844, 1912-13 (classified as amended at 15 U.S.C. §§ 78d-4(e), 78u-6(b), (g)). IPF is a separate SEC fund and its financial statements present SEC’s financial activity associated with these programs. Accordingly, IPF’s financial transactions are also included in SEC’s overall financial statements.

²231 U.S.C. § 3515.

³Dodd-Frank Act, § 922(a), 124 Stat. 1844, adding § 21F(g)(5) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (classified at 15 U.S.C. § 78u-6(g)(5)).

schedules prepared by executive agencies and their components,⁴ we have audited the SEC and IPF financial statements.

Section 963 of the Dodd-Frank Act further requires that (1) SEC annually submit a report to Congress describing management's responsibility for internal control over financial reporting and assessing the effectiveness of such internal control during the fiscal year; (2) the SEC Chair and Chief Financial Officer attest to SEC's report; and (3) GAO assess the effectiveness of SEC's internal control over financial reporting and evaluate, attest to, and report on SEC's assessment.⁵ Accordingly, this report also includes our reporting in response to the requirement under section 963 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

We are sending copies of this report to the appropriate congressional committees. We are also sending copies to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and other interested parties. In addition, the report is available at no charge on the GAO website at <https://www.gao.gov>.

If you or your staff have questions concerning this report, please contact me at padillah@gao.gov. Contact points for our Offices of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this report. GAO staff who made key contributions to this report are listed on the third to last page of this report.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//

M. Hannah Padilla
Director
Financial Management and Assurance
Enclosure

431 U.S.C. § 3521(g), (i).

5Dodd-Frank Act, § 963(a), (b), 124 Stat. 1910 (classified at 15 U.S.C. § 78d-8(a), (b)).