

Cybersecurity Controls Over Critical Systems

Department of Environmental Quality



Information Systems Audit Report

April 2025

State Auditor
Dave Boliek

*A Constitutional Office of the
State of North Carolina*





North Carolina Office of the State Auditor

Dave Boliek, State Auditor

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Auditor's Transmittal

The Honorable Josh Stein, Governor
The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Destin Hall, Speaker of the House
Honorable Members of the North Carolina General Assembly
D. Reid Wilson, Secretary, Department of Environmental Quality

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has a sizable impact on North Carolina's business community and the public, particularly through regulatory involvement. Given that impact is magnified by the internal storage of all related funds, documents, contracts, and data that flows through the department, proper cybersecurity systems management needs to be a high priority.

In accordance with law, the Office of the State Auditor conducted an Information Systems Audit Report, *Cybersecurity Controls Over Critical Systems*, on DEQ. The objective of the audit was to determine whether DEQ performed selected cybersecurity control activities in compliance with the Statewide Information Security Manual. Our audit report discloses findings, as well as recommendations for DEQ to improve its information systems security.

To protect state interests and data, the findings and recommendations of this report are confidential. DEQ is not required to disclose security features of its electronic data processing systems, information technology systems, or telecommunications networks.

I would like to thank DEQ for their courtesy and cooperation received as our office conducted this audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Boliek
State Auditor