

**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET  
SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**

*(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)  
Basic Financial Statements and Required  
Supplementary Information for the  
Year Ended December 31, 2014  
and Independent Auditors' Reports*



**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
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**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

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*Certified Public Accountants*

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Board of Directors  
Niagara Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation:

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Niagara Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (the "NTASC"), a component unit of the County of Niagara, New York, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the NTASC's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

NTASC's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

## ***Opinions***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of NTASC, as of December 31, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## ***Other Matters***

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 13, 2015 on our consideration of NTASC's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering NTASC's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



March 13, 2015

**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

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As management of the Niagara Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation ("NTASC"), a blended component unit of the County of Niagara (the "County"), we offer readers of NTASC's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of NTASC for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. This document should be read in conjunction with additional information that we have furnished in NTASC's financial statements, which follow this narrative.

**Financial Highlights**

- Total government-wide liabilities of NTASC exceeded government-wide assets by \$60,961,406 at December 31, 2014. This compares to total government-wide liabilities of NTASC exceeding government-wide assets by \$59,051,521 at December 31, 2013.
- NTASC's net position decreased by \$1,909,885 for the year ended December 31, 2014. This decrease in NTASC's net position was largely due to a \$2 million transfer to the County.
- At the close of the current year, NTASC's governmental funds reported combined fund balances of \$3,671,964, a decrease of \$737,100 in comparison with the prior year. Approximately 3.0% of this amount, \$108,662, is available for spending at NTASC's discretion (unassigned fund balance).
- NTASC's total bonded indebtedness increased \$4,520,000, after a premium, as a result of new debt issuances during the year reduced by principal payments.

**Overview of the Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to NTASC's basic financial statements. NTASC's basic financial statements comprise of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to the financial statements.

**Government-wide financial statements**—The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of NTASC's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of NTASC's assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources with the difference reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of NTASC is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 8-9 of this report.

**Fund financial statements**—A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. NTASC, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. Both of NTASC’s funds are classified as governmental funds.

**Governmental funds**—*Governmental funds* are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on *near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources*, as well as on *balances of spendable resources*, available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in assessing a government’s near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government’s near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

NTASC maintains two individual governmental funds, the General Fund and the Debt Service Fund. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for both funds.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 10-13 of this report.

**Notes to the financial statements**—The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 14-24 of this report.

### **Government-wide Overall Financial Analysis**

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government’s financial position. In the case of NTASC, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources exceeded assets by \$60,961,406 at December 31, 2014, as compared to \$59,051,521 at December 31, 2013. Table 1, shown on the following page, presents the condensed statements of net position (deficit) for NTASC at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.



**Table 1—Condensed Statements of Net Position**

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Current assets	\$ 7,279,015	\$ 7,611,274
Total assets	<u>7,279,015</u>	<u>7,611,274</u>
Current liabilities	269,211	317,010
Noncurrent liabilities	62,810,442	66,345,785
Deferred inflows	<u>5,160,768</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows	<u>68,240,421</u>	<u>66,662,795</u>
Net position	<u>\$ (60,961,406)</u>	<u>\$ (59,051,521)</u>

A portion of NTASC's net position, \$3,563,302, represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. Therefore, the unrestricted deficit totals \$64,524,708 at December 31, 2014.

At December 31, 2014, total NTASC assets were \$7,279,015; and, \$7,611,274 at December 31, 2013. The largest asset held by NTASC for both years was cash and cash equivalents. NTASC had no noncurrent assets at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

NTASC's liabilities totaled \$63,079,653 at December 31, 2014; and, \$66,662,795 at December 31, 2013. The largest portion of the liabilities is outstanding debt totaling \$61,935,024 and \$66,345,785 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

NTASC's deferred inflows of resources totaled \$5,160,768 at December 31, 2014. NTASC had no deferred inflows of resources at December 31, 2013.

**Governmental Activities**—During the current year, net position for governmental activities declined \$1,909,885 from the prior fiscal year for an ending deficit balance of \$(60,961,406). The statement of activities presents revenues received and expenses paid by NTASC. Presented as Table 2, is the condensed statement of activities for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

**Table 2—Condensed Statements of Activities**

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
General revenues	\$ 4,332,202	\$ 3,445,445
Expenses—governmental activities	(4,242,087)	(4,402,530)
Transfer to County	<u>(2,000,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in net position	(1,909,885)	(957,085)
Net position—beginning	<u>(59,051,521)</u>	<u>(58,094,436)</u>
Net position—ending	<u>\$ (60,961,406)</u>	<u>\$ (59,051,521)</u>

Total revenues for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 were \$4.3 million and \$3.4 million, respectively. The net increase in revenues of \$0.9 million is primarily due to the increase in tobacco settlement revenues in 2014. Revenues for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 consisted of \$4.1 million (94.9%) and \$3.2 million (93.1%), respectively, of tobacco settlement revenues, \$221,869 and \$237,176, respectively, of interest and net earnings from investments.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, NTASC received increased tobacco settlement revenues as a result of the settlement of a lawsuit disputing MSA payments in sales years 2003 through 2012. The lawsuit was brought about by Participating Manufactures (tobacco companies) on the basis that certain settling states, including New York State, did not diligently enforce their respective Qualifying Statutes in each of those years. The Arbitration Panel determined that New York State diligently enforced its Qualifying Statutes during sales year 2003 and therefore is not subject to the NPM Adjustment for 2003 pursuant to the MSA.

A summary of sources of revenues for the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 is presented below in Table 3.

**Table 3—Sources of revenues**

	Year Ended December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2014	2013	Dollars	Percent (%)
Tobacco settlement revenues	\$ 4,110,303	\$ 3,208,269	\$ 902,034	28.1 %
Interest and net earnings from investments	221,873	237,176	(15,303)	(6.5)%
Miscellaneous	26	-	26	n/a
Total revenues	<u>\$ 4,332,202</u>	<u>\$ 3,445,445</u>	<u>\$ 886,757</u>	25.7 %

Total expenses for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 were \$4.2 million and \$4.4 million, respectively. Expenses for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 primarily consisted of \$4.2 million (98.0%) and \$4.3 million (98.2%), respectively, of interest and fiscal charges, and \$84,840 and \$79,881 respectively, of general government support expenses incurred in connection with the operations of the NTASC.

A summary of operating expenses for the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 is presented below in Table 4.

**Table 4—Operating expenses**

	Year Ended December 31,		Increase/(Decrease)	
	2014	2013	Dollars	Percent (%)
General government support	\$ 84,840	\$ 79,881	\$ 4,959	6.2 %
Interest and fiscal charges	4,157,247	4,322,649	(165,402)	(3.8)%
Total operating expenses	<u>\$ 4,242,087</u>	<u>\$ 4,402,530</u>	<u>\$ (160,443)</u>	(3.6)%

### Financial Analysis of Governmental Funds

As noted earlier, NTASC uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

**Governmental Funds**—The focus of NTASC’s governmental funds is to provide information on near-term infows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing NTASC’s financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government’s net resources available for discretionary use as they represent the portion of fund balance which has not yet been limited to use for a particular purpose by either an external party, NTASC itself, or a group or individual that has been delegated authority to assign resources for use for particular purposes by NTASC’s Board.

At December 31, 2014, NTASC’s governmental funds reported combined fund balances of \$3,671,964, a decrease of \$737,100 in comparison with the prior year. Approximately 3.0% of this amount, \$108,662, constitutes unassigned fund balance, which is available for spending at NTASC’s discretion. The remainder of the fund balance, \$3,563,302, is restricted to indicate that it is restricted for a particular purpose.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of NTASC. At the end of the current fiscal year, total fund balance of the General Fund was unassigned fund balance in the amount of \$108,662. As a measure of the General Fund’s liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total General Fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance and total fund balance both represent approximately 145.2% of total General Fund expenditures.

The Debt Service Fund, the remaining major governmental fund, had a decrease in fund balance during the current year of \$662,416 to bring the year end fund balance to \$3,563,302. The decrease primarily results from increased bond issuance costs during the current year. Principal, interest, and bond issuance costs in the amount of \$5,077,930 were paid in addition to general government expenditures of \$10,000. These expenditures were offset by revenues totaling \$3,927,205.

### **Debt Administration**

**Long-Term Debt**—At the end of the current fiscal year, NTASC had Tobacco Settlement Bonds outstanding of \$48,075,877, and Subordinate Turbo CABs outstanding of \$14,879,983. During the year ended December 31, 2014, NTASC made principal payments of \$1,085,000 on its Tobacco Settlement Bonds and accreted interest of \$563,965 on its Subordinate Turbo CABs.

In addition, NTASC issued \$44,295,000 of Tobacco Settlement Asset Backed Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 Senior, to refund \$38,690,000 of Series 2000 Tobacco Settlement Asset Back Bonds and call certain 2005 Subordinate Turbo CABs.

### **Request for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of NTASC’s finances for all those with an interest in NTASC’s finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Niagara Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation Secretary/Treasurer, 175 Hawley Street, Lockport, New York, 14094-2740.

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# **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



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**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2014**

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	<u>Primary Government Governmental Activities</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 194,040
Investments	3,477,924
Due from New York State	<u>3,607,051</u>
Total assets	<u>7,279,015</u>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Current liabilities:	
Accrued interest payable	269,211
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Due within one year—bonds	875,418
Due in more than one year—bonds	47,055,041
Subordinate turbo CABs payable	<u>14,879,983</u>
Total liabilities	<u>63,079,653</u>
 <b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred gain on refunding	<u>5,160,768</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>5,160,768</u>
 <b>NET POSITION</b>	
Restricted for debt service	3,563,302
Unrestricted	<u>(64,524,708)</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ (60,961,406)</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.



**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

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<b>Functions/Programs</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Program Revenues</b>	<b>Net (Expenses) and Changes in Net Position</b>
			<b>Primary Governmental Activities</b>
<b>Primary government:</b>			
Governmental activities:			
General government support	\$ 84,840	\$ -	\$ (84,840)
Interest and fiscal charges	<u>4,157,247</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,157,247)</u>
Total primary government	<u>4,242,087</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,242,087)</u>
General revenues:			
Tobacco settlement revenue			4,110,303
Interest earnings			221,869
Dividend income			4
Miscellaneous			26
Transfer to County			<u>(2,000,000)</u>
Total general revenues and transfer			<u>2,332,202</u>
Change in net position			<u>(1,909,885)</u>
Net position—beginning			<u>(59,051,521)</u>
Net position—ending			<u>\$ (60,961,406)</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
**Balance Sheet—Governmental Funds**  
**December 31, 2014**

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	<b>General</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 108,662	\$ 85,378	\$ 194,040
Investments	-	3,477,924	3,477,924
Total assets	\$ 108,662	\$ 3,563,302	\$ 3,671,964
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>			
Restricted for debt service	\$ -	\$ 3,563,302	\$ 3,563,302
Unassigned	108,662	-	108,662
Total fund balances	\$ 108,662	\$ 3,563,302	\$ 3,671,964

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
**Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet—Governmental Funds**  
**to the Government-wide Statement of Net Position**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position (page 8) are different because:

Total fund balance—governmental funds (page 10)	\$	3,671,964
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		3,607,051
Long-term liabilities and certain deferred inflows of resources are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. The effects of these items are:		
Accrued interest payable	\$	(269,211)
Deferred gain of refunding		(5,160,768)
Due within one year—bonds		(875,418)
Due in more than one year—bonds		(47,055,041)
Subordinate Turbo CABs payable		<u>(14,879,983)</u>
		<u>(68,240,421)</u>
Net position of governmental activities		<u>\$ (60,961,406)</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances—Governmental Funds**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

	<b>General</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Tobacco settlement revenue	\$ -	\$ 3,705,462	\$ 3,705,462
Interest earnings	130	221,739	221,869
Dividend income	-	4	4
Miscellaneous	26	-	26
Total revenues	156	3,927,205	3,927,361
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Current:			
General government	74,840	10,000	84,840
Debt service:			
Principal	-	1,085,000	1,085,000
Interest	-	2,665,152	2,665,152
Bond issuance costs	-	1,327,778	1,327,778
Total expenditures	74,840	5,087,930	5,162,770
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(74,684)	(1,160,725)	(1,235,409)
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>			
Transfer to County	-	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)
Refunding bonds issued	-	44,295,000	44,295,000
Premium on refunding bonds issued	-	3,780,877	3,780,877
Payment to refunded bond escrow agent	-	(45,577,568)	(45,577,568)
Total other financing sources and (uses)	-	498,309	498,309
Net change in fund balances	(74,684)	(662,416)	(737,100)
Fund balances – beginning	183,346	4,225,718	4,409,064
Fund balances – ending	\$ 108,662	\$ 3,563,302	\$ 3,671,964

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in**  
**Fund Balance—Governmental Funds to the Government-wide Statement of Activities**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities (page 9) are different because:

Net change in fund balances—total governmental funds (page 12)	\$ (737,100)
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Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.	404,841
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The issuance of long-term debt and activity recognized related to certain deferred inflows of resources provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities. The net effect of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and the related items is as follows:

Accreted interest on subordinate turbo CABs	(563,965)	
Amortization of premium	145,418	
Amortization of gain on refunding	206,431	
Refunding bonds issued	(44,295,000)	
Premium on refunding bonds issued	(3,780,877)	
Payment to refunded bond escrow agent	<u>45,577,568</u>	(2,710,425)

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not requires the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.	<u>1,132,799</u>
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Change in net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ (1,909,885)</u>
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The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**NIAGARA TOBACCO ASSET SECURITIZATION CORPORATION**  
**(A Component Unit of the County of Niagara, New York)**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The basic financial statements of the Niagara Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (“NTASC”) have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (the “GASB”) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of NTASC’s accounting policies are described below.

***Description of Government-Wide Financial Statements***

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., statement of net position and the statement of changes in net position) report information on all the nonfiduciary activities of NTASC. All fiduciary activities are reported only in the fund financial statements. *Governmental activities*, which are normally supported by taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. NTASC reports no business-type activities.

***Reporting Entity***

NTASC is a special purpose, bankruptcy remote, local development corporation organized under the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York. NTASC is an instrumentality of, but separate, and apart from the County of Niagara, New York (the “County”). Although legally separate from the County, NTASC is a component unit of the County. Based on the nature and significance of NTASC’s relationship with the County and the criteria set forth by GASB, NTASC is included within the County basic financial statements as a blended component unit.

The sole Member of NTASC is the person who is the Chairman of the Board of Legislators of the County of Niagara, New York. The Member is also be a member of the Board of Directors of NTASC. The Board of Directors of NTASC has seven members, one of which must meet certain requirements of independence, hence, the Independent Director. All members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the Member of NTASC.

The NTASC was incorporated on October 6, 2000 for the purpose of issuing Asset Backed Bonds in order to provide funds to purchase from the County certain of the County’s right, title and interest under the Master Settlement Agreement (the “MSA”) and the Consent Decree and Final Judgment (the “Decree”) as described herein.

The MSA was entered into on November 23, 1998, among the attorneys general of 46 states (including New York), the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Territory of the Northern Marianas and for the four largest United States tobacco manufacturers: Philip Morris Incorporated, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company and Lorillard Tobacco Company (collectively the “Original Participating Manufacturers” or “OPMs”) in settlement of certain smoking-related litigation

and the Decree entered in New York Supreme Court, including the County's right to receive certain initial and annual payments to be made by the OPMs under the MSA.

The County dedicated the discounted net proceeds of the sale of the bonds first to the payment of certain currently outstanding County bonds and to the extent available to finance certain capital projects identified in the County capital program. NTASC disbursed the net proceeds of the sale of bonds on behalf of the County as follows: \$23,076,566 to Escrow Agent to defease certain County bonds; \$19,077,644 to the County to finance certain capital projects, and; \$3,973,906 to the Liquidity Reserve Account held by the Indenture Trustee.

Subsequent to the initial sale of the bonds, the County has the right to receive net proceeds of future bond issuances and the revenues of NTASC that are in excess of NTASC's expenses, debt service and contractual obligations, pursuant to the Indenture. In the current year, there were no payments to the County resulting from these excess revenues.

In accordance with the Bond Indenture and to the extent contained in the MSA Report, as of the next distribution date, three trapping events have occurred. One is still occurring, while the others, the NPM Trapping Event and the Downgrade Trapping Event as defined in the Bond Indenture and the Official Statement, respectively, are no longer occurring.

In accordance with the Bond Indenture and to the extent contained in the Master Settlement Agreement ("MSA") Report, a trapping event is occurring. A Consumption Decline Trapping Event occurs when shipments of cigarettes in or to the 50 United States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico as measured under the MSA, are less in any year preceding a deposit date than the amount opposite such year under the "Consumption Decline Trapping Event" definition, which number for the year 2013 is 285,975,111,088. According to the MSA Report, the amount shown as relevant shipments for the year 2013 was less than the shipment amount specified above, and therefore, a Consumption Decline Trapping Event has occurred.

The following *acronyms* that have been used throughout this report:

"Decree"	Consent Decree and Final Judgment
CAB	Capital Appreciation Bond
FDIC	Federal Depository Insurance Corporation
FHLMC	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation
FNMA	Federal National Mortgage Association
GASB	Governmental Accounting Standards Board
MSA	Master Settlement Agreement
NPM	Non-Participating Manufacturers
NTASC	Niagara Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation
NYCTT	New York Counties Tobacco Trust V
OPMs	Original Participating Manufacturers
TSR	Tobacco Settlement Revenues

### ***Basis of Presentation – Government-wide Financial***

While separate government-wide and fund financial statements are presented, they are interrelated. The governmental activities column incorporates data from governmental funds. Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds.



### ***Basis of Presentation – Fund Financial Statements***

The fund financial statements provide information about NTASC's funds. Separate statements for governmental funds are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column in the fund financial statements.

NTASC reports the following major governmental funds:

- *General Fund*—The General Fund constitutes the primary operating fund of NTASC and includes all operations not required to be recorded in another fund.
- *Debt Service Fund*—The Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources that are restricted for the payment principal and interest on long-term obligations of governmental funds.

During the course of operations the government has activity between funds for various purposes. Any residual balances outstanding at year end are reported as due from/to other funds and advances to/from other funds. While these balances are reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Balances between the funds included in governmental activities are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as internal balances in the governmental activities column.

Further, certain activity occurs during the year involving transfers of resources between funds. In fund financial statements these amounts are reported at gross amounts as transfers in/out. While reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Transfers between the funds included in governmental activities are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as transfers in the governmental activities column.

### ***Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting***

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as *current financial resources* or *economic resources*. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows.

Tobacco settlement revenues are exchange transactions, based on the notion that the payments are made to the settling states in exchange for their agreement to release the tobacco companies from present and future litigation. Under the terms of the MSA, the tobacco companies have agreed to make annual payments in perpetuity. The MSA includes a schedule of projected annual base payments, subject to certain adjustments based on future events or circumstances. The most significant factor affecting the annual payments is a *volume adjustment*, which creates a direct relationship between domestic shipments of cigarettes and the annual payments. Based on the MSA, the tobacco companies have no obligation to make settlement payments until cigarettes are shipped.

The event that results in the recognition of an asset and revenue by a settling government is the domestic shipment of cigarettes (sales). Therefore, NTASC recognizes a receivable and revenue for

tobacco settlement revenues when that event occurs. Because annual tobacco settlement revenue payments are based on cigarette sales from the preceding calendar year, NTASC estimates accrued tobacco settlement revenues that derive from sales from January 1 to their respective fiscal year ends. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenue should be recognized to the extent that the event occurs and resources become *available*.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, NTASC considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when the payment is due. Issuance of long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Interest associated with the current fiscal period is considered to be susceptible to accrual and so has been recognized as revenue of the current fiscal period. Entitlements are recorded as revenues when all eligibility requirements are met, including any time requirements, and the amount is received during the period of availability. Expenditure driven grants are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other eligibility requirements are met and amount is received during the period of availability. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by NTASC.

#### ***Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance***

***Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments***—NTASC’s cash, cash equivalents and investments consist of cash on hand, demand deposits, time deposits and short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Investments for NTASC are reported at fair value (generally based on quoted market prices).

***Deferred outflows/inflows of resources***—In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. At December 31, 2014, NTASC does not have any deferred outflows of resources.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. At December 31, 2014, NTASC reports a deferred inflow of resources of \$5,160,568 related to a gain from a refunding debt transaction recognized during the year then ended.

***Net position flow assumption***—Sometimes NTASC will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted – net position and unrestricted – net position in the government-wide financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is NTASC’s policy to consider restricted – net position to have been depleted before unrestricted – net position is applied.

***Fund balance flow assumption***—Sometimes NTASC will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. If NTASC must use funds for emergency expenditures it shall expend funds first from funds classified under GASB as nonspendable (if funds become available) then restricted funds. The use of committed and assigned funds as classified by GASB will occur after the exhaustion of available restricted funds. Finally, if no other fund balances are available NTASC will use unassigned fund balance.

***Fund balance policies***—Fund balance of governmental funds is reported in various categories based on the nature of any limitations requiring the use of resources for specific purposes. NTASC itself can establish limitations on the use of resources through either a commitment (committed fund balance) or an assignment (assigned fund balance).

The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of NTASC's highest level of decision-making authority (NTASC Board). The governing board is the highest level of decision-making authority for the government that can, by adoption of an ordinance prior to the end of the fiscal year, commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed by the ordinance remains in place until a similar action is taken (the adoption of another ordinance) to remove or revise the limitation.

Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the government for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as committed. The governing board (NTASC Board) has by resolution authorized the sole Member to assign fund balance. The Board may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget. Unlike commitments, assignments generally only exist temporarily. In other words, an additional action does not normally have to be taken for the removal of an assignment. Conversely, as discussed above, an additional action is essential to either remove or revise a commitment.

### ***Revenues and Expenses/Expenditures***

***Program Revenues***—Amounts reported as *program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions (including special assessments) that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. There are no program revenues in the current year. Items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

***Tobacco Settlement Revenues***—During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, NTASC received increased tobacco settlement revenues as a result of the settlement of a lawsuit disputing MSA payments in sales years 2003 through 2012. The lawsuit was brought about by Participating Manufactures (tobacco companies) on the basis that certain settling states, including New York State, did not diligently enforce their respective Qualifying Statutes in each of those years. The Arbitration Panel determined that New York State diligently enforced its Qualifying Statutes during sales year 2003 and therefore is not subject to the NPM Adjustment for 2003 pursuant to the MSA.

**Expenditures/Expenses**—Expenditures are recorded on a modified accrual basis of accounting. Payments to the County are recorded when the obligation is incurred. General administration costs consist of operating expenses for professional service fees and are paid from General Fund revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Indirect expenses have been included as part of the program expenses reported for the various functional activities.

**Other**

**Estimates**—The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Adoption of New Accounting Pronouncements**—During the year ended December 31, 2014, NTASC implemented GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 25*, GASB Statement No. 69, *Government Combinations and Disposals of Government Operations*, and GASB Statement No. 70, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Financial Guarantees*. The objective of GASB Statement No. 67 is to improve financial reporting by state and local governmental pension plans. This Statement replaces GASB Statement No. 25 and Statement No. 50. The objective of GASB Statement No. 69 is to standardize accounting and financial reporting related to government combinations and disposals of government operations. The objective of GASB Statement No. 70 is to improve financial reporting by state and local governments that extend and receive nonexchange financial guarantees. GASB Statement Nos. 67, 69, and 70 did not have a material impact on NTASC’s financial position or results from operations.

**Future Impacts of Accounting Pronouncements**—NTASC has not completed the process of evaluating the impact that will result from adopting GASB Statements No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*; No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date—and amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*, effective for the year ending December 31, 2015; and No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, effective for the year ending December 31, 2016. NTASC is, therefore, unable to disclose the impact that adopting GASB Statement Nos. 68, 71 and 72 will have on its financial position and results of operations.

**2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

NTASC’s investment policies are governed by New York State statutes. All deposits are carried at fair value. Collateral is required for demand deposit accounts, time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit not covered by Federal deposit insurance. NTASC has entered into custodial agreements with the various banks which hold their deposits. These agreements authorize the obligation that may be pledged as collateral. Obligations that may be pledged as collateral are outlined in Chapter 623 of the laws of the State of New York.

Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2014, are as follows:

	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total
Deposits	\$ 108,662	\$ 85,378	\$ 194,040

**Deposits**—All deposits are carried at fair value and are classified by custodial credit risk at December 31, 2014 as follows:

	Bank Balance	Carrying Amount
FDIC Insured	<u>\$ 194,040</u>	<u>\$ 194,040</u>

**Investments**—NTASC’s investment policy provides for eligible investments in defeasance collateral, obligations of FHLMC, FNMA, or the Federal Farm Credit System, demand and time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, general obligations of states and guaranteed state obligations, commercial or finance company paper, repurchase obligations, corporate securities bearing interest or sold at discount, taxable money market funds, investment agreements or guaranteed investment contracts, and other obligations or securities that are non-callable.

Investments include money market accounts and a discount note with a maturity date within three months of year end and are, therefore, considered to be cash equivalents. These investments are carried at fair value.

Investments at December 31, 2014 are as follows:

	Carrying Amount
Investments:	
Money Market	\$ 44,437
Discount Notes	<u>3,433,487</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,477,924</u>

**Custodial Credit Risk—Deposits**—Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, NTASC’s deposits may not be returned to it. As noted above, by New York State statute all deposits in excess of FDIC insurance coverage must be collateralized. At December 31, 2014, NTASC’s deposits were either FDIC insured or collateralized with securities held by the pledging bank’s agent in NTASC’s name.

**Custodial Credit Risk—Investments**—For investments, this is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, NTASC will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. For deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, NTASC’s deposits may not be returned to it.

### 3. RECEIVABLES

**Due from New York State**—Represents amounts owed to NTASC for tobacco settlement revenue earned in 2014. NTASC has accrued \$3,607,051 within governmental activities only, as it is not recognized on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

#### 4. LONG-TERM DEBT

In 2000, NTASC issued \$47,920,000 of Tobacco Settlement Asset Backed Bonds, Series A pursuant to an indenture dated as of November 1, 2000. The net proceeds of Series A Bonds were used to purchase from the County all of the County's right, title and interest, under the MSA and the Decree, including the Tobacco Settlement Revenues ("TSR").

The payment of the Series A Bonds is dependent on the receipt of TSRs. The amount of TSRs actually collected is dependent on many factors including cigarette consumption and the continued operations of the OPMs. Such bonds are secured by and payable solely from TSRs and investment earnings pledged under the Bond Indenture and amounts established and held in accordance with the Bond Indenture.

In the event sufficient funds are not available to meet Planned Payment Maturities, Rated Maturity dates will be used.

Each Series A Bond has a Rated Maturity Date and a Planned Principal Payment Date. Planned Principal Payment Dates are based upon a maturity of debt that began May 15, 2002 extending through 2030 at variable rates. Interest is payable May 15 and November 15 of each year. Planned Principal Payments and Rate Maturities are scheduled only on May 15 of each year although principal could be paid semiannually if actual principal payments are slower than Planned Principal Payments. Failure to pay interest on the Series A Bonds when due or principal of the Series A Bonds when due on a Rated Maturity Date will constitute a default.

On November 15, 2005, NTASC participated in New York Counties Tobacco Trust V ("NYCTT"), along with 23 other New York County Tobacco Corporations, and issued Tobacco Settlement Pass-Through Bonds—Subordinate Turbo CABs in various Series for the purpose of securitizing additional future tobacco settlement revenues. The proceeds of these bonds, \$17,408,824 (after the deduction of \$345,732 in bond issuance and underwriter costs), were transferred to the County for the partial defeasance of various bond issuances. The County has deposited \$17,189,240 in an irrevocable trust to pay future debt payments on the partially defeased issuances. The issuance has four components and payments on the Subordinate Turbo CABs are subordinate to the Series A bonds.

On September 24, 2014, NTASC issued \$44,295,000 of Tobacco Settlement Asset Backed Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 Senior ("2014 Senior"). The 2014 Senior bonds were used to advanced refund all of NTASC's Tobacco Settlement Asset Back Bonds Series 2000, outstanding in the aggregate principal amount of \$38,690,000, to acquire by negotiated purchase \$6,572,480 of the initial principal amount of outstanding NYCTT bonds, Series 2005 S4B attributable to NTASC, to cancel the related bond RS4B-1 of NTASC's Series 2005 Subordinate Bonds, to fund a payment of \$2,000,000 to provide Niagara County with funds for capital purposes, and, after a premium of \$3,780,877, to pay the cost of issuance of the 2014 Senior bonds.

Changes in Tobacco Settlement Bonds, Series A, for the year ended December 31, 2014 is as follows:

Description	Beginning Balance 1/1/2014	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance 12/31/2014	Amount Due Within One Year
Tobacco settlement bonds:					
Series A	\$ 39,775,000	\$ -	\$ 39,775,000	\$ -	\$ -
Senior 2014	-	44,295,000	-	44,295,000	730,000
Total tobacco settlement bonds	<u>39,775,000</u>	<u>44,295,000</u>	<u>39,775,000</u>	<u>44,295,000</u>	<u>730,000</u>
Plus:					
Bond premium	-	3,780,877	145,418	3,635,459	145,418
Net tobacco settlement bonds	<u>\$ 39,775,000</u>	<u>\$ 48,075,877</u>	<u>\$ 39,920,418</u>	<u>\$ 47,930,459</u>	<u>\$ 875,418</u>

NTASC debt service requirements based upon planned principal payments for Tobacco Settlement Bonds, Series Senior are as follows:

Year ended December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2015	\$ 730,000	\$ 2,139,087	\$ 2,869,087
2016	795,000	2,108,587	2,903,587
2017	855,000	2,071,312	2,926,312
2018	1,295,000	2,017,562	3,312,562
2019	1,325,000	1,952,062	3,277,062
2020-2024	7,870,000	8,655,935	16,525,935
2025-2029	9,950,000	6,666,190	16,616,190
2030-2034	9,645,000	4,379,944	14,024,944
2035-2039	9,860,000	1,794,189	11,654,189
2040	1,970,000	51,713	2,021,713
	<u>\$ 44,295,000</u>	<u>\$ 31,836,581</u>	<u>\$ 76,131,581</u>

*Subordinate Turbo CABs*—Interest on the Subordinate Turbo CABs is compounded semiannually on June 1 and December 1, but is not payable until bond maturity. Interest accretes until both principal and accreted interest are paid. Future interest accretion has been recorded as bond discount and amortized as the current interest accretes. The accreted interest on the Subordinate Turbo CABs is reflected within the Subordinate Turbo CABs payable liability.

A summary of the Subordinate Turbo CABs net bond balance activity for the year ended December 31, 2014 follows:

	Interest Rate	Original Principal	Beginning Balance 1/1/2014	Annual Net Interest Accretion	Reductions	Ending Balance 12/31/2014
Subordinate	6.00% -					
Turbo CABs	7.85%	<u>\$ 17,754,556</u>	<u>\$ 26,570,784</u>	<u>\$ 563,965</u>	<u>\$ 12,254,766</u>	<u>\$ 14,879,983</u>

Redemption of the Subordinate Turbo CABs as outlined in the original official statement totaled \$89,094,053 and is scheduled to be paid from 2015 through 2038, while early payment is allowed. During the year ended December 31, 2013, NTASC did not make any redemption payments. Any debt service amounts not paid in accordance with the Turbo Redemption Payments schedule will be due and payable on the maturity dates displayed within the table below:

Series 2005 S1	June 1, 2038
Series 2005 S2	June 1, 2050
Series 2005 S3	June 1, 2055

## 5. NET POSITION AND FUND BALANCE

The government-wide financial statements utilize a net position presentation. Net position is categorized as restricted and unrestricted components.

- ◆ ***Restricted for Debt Service***—This category restricts a portion of net position for payment of the debt service obligations of NTASC. At December 31, 2014, the balance of this restriction was \$3,563,302.
- ◆ ***Unrestricted Component of Net Position***—This component represents net position of NTASC not restricted for any other purpose.

In the fund financial statements, restricted fund balances are amounts constrained to specific purposes (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government) through constitutional provisions or by enabling legislation. At December 31, 2014, NTASC reported \$3,563,302 of fund balance restricted for debt service that must be used toward the future repayment of bonded debt.

As of December 31, 2014, NTASC reported no nonspendable, committed, or assigned fund balances.

## 6. CONTINGENCIES

The ability of NTASC to meet debt service payments of bonds is contingent upon the receipt of TSRs. TSRs are principally dependent upon future levels of domestic consumption. A significant decline in the overall consumption of cigarettes could have a material adverse effect on the payments by the OPMs under the MSA and the amounts available to NTASC to make payments of principal and interest on their bonds.

Certain smokers, smokers' rights organizations, consumer groups, cigarette importers, cigarette distributors, cigarette manufacturers, Native American tribes, taxpayers, taxpayers' groups and other parties have filed actions against some, and in certain cases all, of the signatories to the MSA. In the event of an adverse court ruling in such types of litigation, Bondholders could incur a complete loss of their investment.

Additionally, the OPM's are also exposed to liability from various lawsuits including individual lawsuits, class action lawsuits and health care cost recovery litigation. Ultimately, the outcome of these and any other pending or future lawsuits is uncertain. One or more adverse judgment could result in delays in, or reductions of amounts available for, payments on the bonds.



## **7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through March 13, 2015, which is the date the financial statements are available for issuance, and have determined other than the item discussed above, there are no subsequent events that require disclosure under generally accepted accounting principles.

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Certified Public Accountants

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL  
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND  
OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Board of Directors  
Niagara Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Niagara Tobacco Asset Securitization Corporation (“NTASC”) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise NTASC’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 13, 2015.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered NTASC’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of NTASC’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the NTASC’s internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

## **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether NTASC's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



March 13, 2015