BERN TOWNSHIP

ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 - 2004

BALESTRA, HARR & SCHERER, CPAs, INC. 528 South West Street, P.O. Box 687

Piketon, Ohio 45661

Telephone (740) 289-4131 Fax (740) 289-3639 www.bhscpas.com



Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

January 9, 2007

The attached audit report was completed and prepared for release prior to the commencement of my term of office on January 8, 2007. Thus, I am certifying this audit report for release under the signature of my predecessor.

Mary Jaylor

MARY TAYLOR, CPA Auditor of State

88 E. Broad St. / Fifth Floor / Columbus, OH 43215-3506 Telephone: (614) 466-4514 (800) 282-0370 Fax: (614) 466-4490 www.auditor.state.oh.us This Page is Intentionally Left Blank.



Auditor of State Betty Montgomery

Board of Trustees Bern Township 17484 Plantsville Road Amesville, Ohio 45711

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditors' Report* of Bern Township, Athens County, prepared by Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Auditors' Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Independent Auditors' Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State permits.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Bern Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Betty Montgomeny

BETTY MONTGOMERY Auditor of State

December 28, 2006

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Member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants

Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Trustees Bern Township Athens County 17484 Plantsville Road Amesville, Ohio 45711

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Bern Township, Athens County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion 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 reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, we presume they are material.

Revisions to GAAP would require the Township to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the year ended December 31, 2004. Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present for 2005 and 2004, the revisions require presenting entity wide statements and also to present its larger (i.e. major) funds separately for 2005 and 2004. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards require us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require, governments to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to reformat its statements. Since the Township does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, the following paragraph does not imply the amounts are materially misstated under accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Bern Township Athens County Independent Auditors' Report Page 2

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Bern Township, Athens County, as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion & Analysis for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion & Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 20, 2006, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing. It does not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. The report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

Balistra, Harr & Scherur

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

November 20,2006

Bern Township Athens County

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	Governmental Fund Types			_		
	G	Special General Revenue		Totals (Memorandum Only)		
Cash Receipts:						
Local Taxes	\$	28,446	\$	57,756	\$	86,202
Licenses, Permits, and Fees		-		5,975		5,975
Intergovernmental		25,777		238,056		263,833
Earnings on Investments		226		517		743
Miscellaneous		56		1,875		1,931
Total Cash Receipts		54,505		304,179		358,684
Cash Disbursements:						
Current:						
General Government		39,688		170		39,858
Public Safety		-		9,325		9,325
Public Works		2,216		80,283		82,499
Health		-		17,615		17,615
Capital Outlay		11,609		182,039		193,648
Total Cash Disbursements		53,513		289,432		342,945
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements		992		14,747		15,739
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		29,462		96,171		125,633
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	30.454	\$	110.918	\$	141.372

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

Bern Township Athens County

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	Governmental Fund Types			_		
	G	eneral		Special Revenue	(Me	Totals morandum Only)
Cash Receipts:						
Local Taxes	\$	25,582	\$	40,502	\$	66,084
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	Ψ		Ŷ	3,025	Ψ	3,025
Intergovernmental		9,902		100,088		109,990
Earnings on Investments		111		277		388
Miscellaneous		170		2,950		3,120
Total Cash Receipts		35,765		146,842		182,607
Cash Disbursements:						
Current:						
General Government		30,609		171		30,780
Public Safety		-		8,071		8,071
Public Works		694		58,137		58,831
Health		-		8,344		8,344
Capital Outlay		352		33,883		34,235
Total Cash Disbursements		31,655		108,606		140,261
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements		4,110		38,236		42,346
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		25,352		57,935		83,287
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	29.462	\$	96,171	\$	125.633

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Bern Township, Athens County, (the Township), is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Township is directed by a publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees. The Township provides services that include road and bridge maintenance (public works), cemetery maintenance (health), and fire protection (public safety). The Township contracts with the Chesterhill Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and the Ames-Bern Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire and emergency medical services.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash

All cash assets are maintained in an interest bearing checking account.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gasoline Tax Fund – This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004 (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2005 and 2004 budgetary activity appears in Note 5.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Township's basis of accounting.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

The Township maintains a cash pool used by all funds. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash at December 31 was as follows:

	2005	2004
Demand deposits	\$141,372	\$125,633

Deposits: \$100,000 of the Township's deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The remainder is collateralized by the financial institution's pooled collateral covering government deposits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004 (Continued)

3. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) of Ohio. OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 2005 and 2004, members of OPERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all employer contributions required through December 31, 2005.

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

5. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2005 and 2004 follows:

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts					
	Budgeted	Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance		
General	\$42,876	\$54,505	\$11,629		
Special Revenue	353,286	309,179	(44,107)		
Total	\$396,162	\$363,684	(\$32,478)		

2005 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures				
	Appropriation	Budgetary		
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance	
General	\$0	\$53,513	(\$53,513)	
Special Revenue	0	289,432	(289,432)	
Total	\$0	\$342,945	(\$342,945)	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004 (Continued)

5. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2005 and 2004 follows:

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts					
	Budgeted	Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance		
General	\$27,503	\$35,765	\$8,262		
Special Revenue	114,389	146,842	32,453		
Total	\$141,892	\$182,607	\$40,715		

2004 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures					
Appropriation Budgetary					
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance		
General	\$32,503	\$31,655	\$848		
Special Revenue	123,016	108,611	14,405		
Total	\$155,519	\$140,266	\$15,253		

Contrary to Ohio laws, the Township did not properly encumber funds. Also, the Township did not file annual appropriations timely for 2004 and at all for 2005 resulting in expenditures exceeding appropriations. The Township did not amend its certificate when necessary.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Polol Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risksharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty Coverage

OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured with APEEP up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000, from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP coverts OTARMA losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

Property Coverage

OTARMA retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Idemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500,000,000 per occurrence. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays for losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding operating contributions.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004 (Continued)

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2004 and 2003 (the latest information available).

Casualty Coverage	2004	2003
Assets	\$30,687,203	\$27,792,223
Liabilities	<u>(13,640,962)</u>	<u>(11,791,300)</u>
Retained earnings	<u>\$17,046,241</u>	<u>\$16,000,923</u>
Property Coverage	2004	2003
Assets	\$7,799,073	\$6,791,060
Liabilities	(753,906)	(750,956)
Retained earnings	<u>\$7,045,167</u>	<u>\$6,040,104</u>

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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*

Bern Township Athens County 17484 Plantsville Road Amesville, Ohio 45711

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Bern Township, Athens County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated November 20, 2006 wherein we noted the Township follows accounting practices prescribed by the Auditor of State instead of accounting practices generally accepted in the United States of America. 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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of 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 instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2005-001 through 2005-004.

We noted certain matters which we reported to management in a separate letter dated November 20, 2006

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management and the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Balistra, Harr & Scherur

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc. November 20, 2006

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

Finding Number 2005-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code 5705.41(B) states that no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated.

Expenditures exceeded appropriations at the legal level of control in the Motor Vehicle License Tax, Fire and FEMA funds at December 31, 2004. Expenditures exceeded appropriations in all fund, function and object levels in 2005 as the Township did not file an appropriation measure with the county auditor for the 2005 year. Therefore, appropriations were set at \$0 for all funds.

The Township Clerk should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations. The Township Clerk may request the Board of Trustees to approve increased expenditure levels by increasing appropriation and amending estimated resources, if necessary. Also the Township Clerk should make sure that appropriation measures are being filed with the county auditor each year.

Client Response:

The Township Clerk will monitor appropriation and expenditures more closely and will insure that an appropriation measure is filed with the county auditor each year.

Finding Number 2005-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code 5705.38 states that on or about the first day of each fiscal year, an appropriation measure is to be passed. If the taxing authority wants to postpone the passage of the annual appropriation measure until an amended certificate is received from the County Budget Commission based upon the actual year and balances, it may pass a temporary appropriation measure for meeting the ordinary expenses until April 1st.

The Board of Trustees did not adopt permanent appropriations for 2004 until February 9 and did not adopt appropriations for 2005. This resulted in expenditures exceeding appropriations in every fund, function and object for the period January 1, 2004 through February 8, 2004 and the entire 2005 calendar year.

The Board of Trustees should pass an appropriation measure on or about the first day of the fiscal year. If the taxing authority wants to postpone the passage of the annual appropriation measure until an amended certificate is received from the County Budget Commission based upon the actual year end balances, it may pass a temporary appropriation measure for meeting the ordinary expenses until April 1st. Furthermore, the Clerk should not certify the availability of funds and should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations.

Client Response:

The Township Clerk will make sure that a temporary appropriation measure be passed to cover all ordinary expenses until the annual permanent appropriation is passed.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004 (Continued)

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)

Finding Number 2005-003

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code 5705.41 (D) states no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is a certificate of the fiscal officer that the amount required for the order or contract has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the expenditures tested for 2004 and 2005 did not have the proper certification of the Township. Further, the Township Clerk should not have certified expenditures from January 1^{st} through February 9^{th} 2004 and for the whole year of 2005, since there was no budgetary authority to do so (as noted in finding 2005-002)

Township employees and officials should obtain prior certification of the Township Clerk prior to a commitment being incurred.

Client Response:

The Township Clerk will monitor all expenditures to verify that they have been properly certified.

Finding Number 2005-004

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code 5705.36 (A) allows all subdivisions to request increased amended certificates of estimated resources and reduced amended certificates upon determination by the fiscal officer that revenue to be collected will be greater or less than the amount in the official certificate of estimated resources.

In, 2004 final estimated resources exceeded actual receipts in the Road Fund by (\$4,125) and in the Permissive Motor Vehicle License Fund by (\$10,373). In 2005, final estimated resources exceeded actual receipts in the permissive Motor Vehicle License Fund by (\$400) and FEMA by (\$65,766).

The Township Clerk should monitor estimated resources versus actual receipts and appropriations for the year to ensure that funds are not appropriated in excess of estimated resources available. The Township Clerk should also amend the estimated resources as necessary.

Client Response:

The Township Clerk will monitor estimated resources and request a reduced or increased amended certificate.

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
2003-001	ORC 5705.38 – untimely adoption of permanent appropriations	No	See current year finding number 2005-002
2003-002	ORC 5705.41 (D) – prior certification of funds	No	See current year finding number 2005-003



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BERN TOWNSHIP

ATHENS COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbett

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED JANUARY 16, 2007