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# Names of firms hit by audit released

ALBANY — State Comptroller Edward V. Regan's office yesterday identified companies involved in past Staten Island Developmental Center business dealings that the comptroller criticized in an audit published Sunday.

Officials responsible for operating the Willowbrook center said yesterday the audit findings were now outdated, because reforms suggested by the comptroller had been instituted.

Regan spokeswoman Bonnie Graham said yesterday it is not the usual policy of the comptroller to publish such names along with the audit findings because his role was to criticize and improve internal state functions.

But the office identified the firms upon request.

The first purchase case mentioned in the audit involved large orders allegedly split to "avoid competitive bidding."

Purchases above \$1,500 require competitive bidding while those under \$1,500 do not, under state rules for its agencies.

Separate orders for \$930 and \$627 worth of key blanks were made within one week in May 1981 from a firm called Herman's Door Equipment, according to Regan.

Similarly, plastic gallon jugs were ordered on May 26, June 1, June 8 and June 15 of that year all in separate orders of \$492 each, and totaling \$1,971.20, from the Lake Paper Products Co.

Lake was also the vendor for four purchases totaling \$2,859.52 that took place between May 17 and May 27, 1982, for aluminum foil.

The previous year, the center's business office also separately paid Lake \$969.50 twice

on the same day, reportedly for foil pans and lids.

In addition to the split orders, the audit said, "Several commodities were noted on which 1981-82 fiscal year purchases aggregated more than \$1,500 yet no contract was entered into."

The first example cited was five orders totaling \$22,938 for juices, purchased from Weissglass Dairies of Jamaica, Queens, in the 1981-82 fiscal year. Regan said at the time, the Office of General Services could provide frozen juice for 34 cents per quart. Instead, the center had been buying regular juice from Weissglass for 85 cents per quart, in effect wasting \$14,000 a year, the auditors found.

Bidding lists were not kept in some instances, Regan said.

In another example, the center solicited bids from nine vendors for exterminating services for a three-year period ending March 31, 1986.

Specifications listed the job as requiring 129 man-hours a week to perform all services, Regan said, but center records revealed that the previous bidder took only 17 man-hours per week.

According to Regan, this worked to the advantage of the previous bidder, Nu-Brite Exterminators of Stony Point, N.Y. That firm wound up bidding \$33,465 for the job, while the other bidders, Nationwide exterminators of Hartsdale N.Y. and Termite and Ants of Yonkers bid \$79,995 and \$74,489 respectively.

"We questioned one of the other two bidders as to what he would bid and were given a price of \$30,100 annually," the auditors stated.

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