

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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WASHINGTON ---- The Federal Election Commission today approved a contract for an independent review of its audit policies and procedures.

In approving the study, the Commission recognized the need to "make the most effective, efficient use of its audit staff as is possible," and also expressed concern about the length of time it has taken for audits to be completed.

Audit review is one of a series of FEC actions aimed at ensuring efficient administration of the Federal Election Campaign Act. The study approved today is expected to strengthen the Committee's oversight of 1980 election campaigns.

Arthur Andersen and Associates was selected to conduct the independent study because of its nationwide reputation for expertise in the campaign finance field.

The Washington firm will be joined by the Accountants for the Public Interest, a non-profit group whose primary task will be to prevent the influence of potential conflicts of interest on the study.

The Commissioners adopted six criteria for the audit review, including improvement of the effectiveness, efficiency and speed of the FEC's audit procedures, as well as provisions for post-review and follow-up recommendations.

In order to meet the Commission's goal of preparedness for the 1980 campaign, the review is expected to be complete by the end of the summer, with follow-up finished by January 1, 1980.