



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2008-12-0319

March 3, 2009

INDOT INDIANAPOLIS FUEL THEFT

Inspector General Staff Attorney Kristi Shute, after an investigation by Special Agent Darrell Boehmer, reports as follows:

On December 2, 2008, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received information stating that a former Indiana Department of Transportation (“INDOT”) employee was suspected of committing acts of theft. It was alleged that the employee used his state issued fuel credit card to make unauthorized fuel purchases.

During the course of the investigation, Special Agent Boehmer learned that, as a Highway Technician for INDOT, the employee was issued a fuel credit card with a unique number to purchase fuel for INDOT vehicles he was assigned to operate. Upon his hire, the employee signed an acknowledgement of the policies and procedures for the INDOT Fuel Program. The policy stated, in part, that any use of the credit card for purposes other than official business constitutes theft. The policy also stated that signed receipts for all purchases must be turned in within three (3) days of the purchase.

Special Agent Boehmer discovered that, pursuant to INDOT policy, an employee is required to enter a vehicle identification number when purchasing fuel. He determined that this employee used his INDOT credit card to make approximately 186 unauthorized purchases for 4,837 gallons of unleaded gasoline at a cost of \$15,779.46. He verified that the vehicle number entered for these purchases was for vehicles this employee did not have access to or were not motor vehicles. In addition, many purchases were made while the employee was on days off, vacation days, sick days or personal days. The employee's supervisor confirmed that the employee would not have been driving an INDOT vehicle and should not have purchased fuel on days he did not work. Agent Boehmer also confirmed that the employee should have been purchasing diesel fuel for the vehicles to which he was assigned.

Furthermore, the last day the employee worked was September 19, 2008. He applied for medical disability and his employment was terminated on November 19, 2008. While on disability and before his termination, the employee made approximately fifty-four (54) purchases even though he was not driving an INDOT vehicle during that time. The employee did not turn in receipts for any unauthorized purchases but turned in receipts for legitimate purchases.

The OIG is responsible for addressing fraud, waste, abuse, and wrongdoing in agencies. IC 4-2-7-2(b). The OIG is also charged to investigate criminal offenses by state employees. IC 4-2-7-3.

This case was submitted to the Marion County Prosecuting Attorney's

Office and criminal charges were filed on March 18, 2009. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2009.

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

David O. Thomas, Inspector General