



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RECOVERY

RECOVERY OVERSIGHT ADVISORY

Bureau of Indian Affairs Contract Procurement Personnel



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OCT 13 2010

To: Chris Henderson
Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Economic Recovery and Stimulus

From: *Robert A. Knox*
Robert A. Knox
Assistant Inspector General for Recovery Oversight

Subject: Recovery Oversight Advisory — Bureau of Indian Affairs Contract Procurement Personnel (ROO-ROA-BIA-2010-2010)

This advisory, regarding Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) contract procurement personnel, is part of our ongoing efforts to oversee and ensure the accountability of funding appropriated to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

We received an allegation in February 2010, regarding a contractor's employee who reportedly lacked the requisite experience for the position for which the individual was contracted. The complainant stated that the contractor's employee was reported to have the experience equivalent to a Senior Contracting Specialist, but his skill level was comparable to low-level clerical staff. The contractor billed BIA for the services of a Senior Contracting Specialist, yet BIA did not receive the skills and experience of one.

Our review found no evidence that the contractor deliberately misrepresented its employee's experience and abilities, nor did we uncover any evidence that BIA officials were derelict in their duties in terms of monitoring the contractor's performance. We reviewed the contract file for this acquisition and found that the BIA requirements for a Senior Contract Specialist were clearly articulated in the contract. To qualify for this position and pay rate, a person was required to have at least eight years in government contracting and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or Accounting. The education requirement could be waived if the individual had in excess of 12 years of Government contracting experience.

We reviewed the resume of the individual in question and found that he reportedly had in excess of 12 years of government contracting experience and a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. Nevertheless, when we attempted to interview the complainant and obtain more information, we learned that the contract employee had been replaced, after BIA officials expressed their concerns to the contractor about its employee's experience and abilities. Although the complainant did not feel that BIA officials voiced their concerns to the contractor as quickly as they should have, BIA did take the necessary steps to have this individual replaced with a more suitable employee.

We refer this advisory to you as it addresses the complainant's concern and will be posted on our Web site (www.doioig.gov/recovery/) and on Recovery.gov. We commend BIA officials for taking appropriate steps to address this issue; we do not require a response. Information contained in this advisory may also be included in our semiannual report to Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior
Assistant Secretary — Policy, Management, and Budget
Acting Director, Office of Financial Management
Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management
Department GAO/ OIG Audit Liaison
Audit Liaison, Office of the Secretary
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Recovery Coordinator, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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