



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RECOVERY OVERSIGHT ADVISORY

A Critical Point Evaluation Product







RECOVERY OVERSIGHT OFFICE
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 28 2009

To: Sam Whittington
Director, Denver Service Center
National Park Service

From:  Robert A. Knox 
Assistant Inspector General, Recovery Oversight Office

Subject: Review of the NPS Fort Jefferson Restoration Project (ROO-RM-NPS-6003-2009)

We conducted a review of a project at Dry Tortugas National Park to restore and refortify sections of historic Fort Jefferson, which is located in the Park. Our review was part of our oversight efforts under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act or Act). Congress provided us with funding to oversee and ensure accountability of the \$3 billion appropriated to the Department of the Interior (DOI) under the Recovery Act. To help safeguard these taxpayer dollars, we are focused on: preventing fraud, waste, and mismanagement of recovery and reinvestment dollars; early detection to reduce the impact of misuse when it does occur; and ensuring transparency in our oversight efforts. The project we reviewed at Dry Tortugas is funded with Recovery Act appropriations.

We reviewed the project contract file and interviewed the contracting officer for the project and other officials at the Park, in the NPS, and at the Denver Service Center, which is handling the contract. We also visited Fort Jefferson on June 16, 2009, to observe ongoing work and to interview contractor employees. We reviewed compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act requirements and validated employee job classifications. We also reviewed the letter of designation and qualifications for the construction inspector on the project.

Our review went smoothly, in considerable part because of the organization, knowledge, cooperation and assistance of the contracting officer for the project. She also maintained complete, clear and accurate contract files, which helped in our review. We commend her and appreciate the effort she took to facilitate our review.

Our review and employee interviews indicate that the contractor is paying contractor employees working onsite the prevailing regional wages required under the Davis-Bacon Act. We also confirmed that the construction inspector, a park ranger working at Dry Tortugas, appears to be qualified, based on her letter of qualifications and our interview with her.

Although we did not identify any significant problems with the contract, contract file, or contract administration, we did note one minor issue. The chef onsite was classified incorrectly on the weekly certified payrolls as a mason. We notified the contracting officer of this fact, and she promptly took action to correct the classification.

While we found no significant issues at Dry Tortugas regarding the project we reviewed, we will continue to provide oversight of Recovery Act projects as they progress to completion and closeout and may review this or other projects at the Park in the future.

We appreciate the time the NPS provided in our review. We do not require a response to this memorandum, but we will post it on our website (www.doioig.gov) and Recovery.gov. Information contained in this advisory may also be included in our semi-annual reports to Congress. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Economic Recovery and Stimulus
Acting Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management, and Budget
Director, Office of Financial Management
Bureau Procurement Chief, National Park Service
Chief, Contracting Services Division – Denver Service Center
Superintendent, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Park
Bureau Recovery Coordinator, National Park Service
Contracting Officer, Denver Service Center

Report Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement



Fraud, waste, and mismanagement in government concerns everyone: Office of Inspector General staff, Departmental employees, and the general public. We actively solicit allegations of any inefficient and wasteful practices, fraud, and abuse related to Departmental or Insular Area programs and operations. You can report allegations to us in several ways.



By Mail:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Inspector General
Mail Stop 4428 MIB
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

By Phone:

24-Hour Toll Free	800-424-5081
Washington Metro Area	703-487-5435

By Fax:

703-487-5402

By Internet:

www.doiioig.gov/hotline