



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2007-10-0240

February 28, 2008

INDOT FUEL THEFT

Inspector General David O. Thomas and Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after an investigation by INDOT Director of Internal Affairs Ed King and OIG Special Agent Alan McElroy, report as follows:

The Office of the Indiana Inspector General (OIG) conducted a criminal investigation in this case at the request of Ed King, Director of Internal Affairs for the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The allegation was that INDOT employee Larry Estes improperly purchased INDOT gasoline for his personal vehicle.

OIG Special Agent Alan McElroy was assigned. The investigation revealed that Larry Estes was employed from November 9, 2003 through August 21, 2007 by INDOT at the Rushville Unit which is in the Greenfield sub-district. He was issued a State gasoline credit card solely for the purpose of purchasing gasoline for INDOT vehicles and equipment.

Credit card fuel purchase records were reviewed and showed that Estes used the state credit card for his personal use at three service stations located in the city of Rushville, Rush County, Indiana. Estes made most of these purchases in the evening after work hours. All of the improper purchases were for unleaded

regular gasoline.

One method used by Estes was to pretend to pump gasoline into his supervisor's state truck, when in reality Estes was putting gas into his personal vehicle. An internal computerized method of monitoring gasoline purchases revealed the impropriety.

Estes was interviewed on October 30, 2007 by OIG Special Agents to give him an opportunity to explain these purchases, but he admitted that he improperly made these gasoline purchases for his personal use.

Estes used the state gasoline credit card to purchase gas for his personal vehicle from May of 2007 through August 20, 2007. The total amount of the theft was \$794.18.

The results of the investigation were submitted to Rush County Prosecuting Attorney Paul W. Barada, Jr. on December 27, 2007, and felony criminal charges of theft were immediately filed.

Dated this 28th day of February, 2008.



David Thomas, Inspector General