



## INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2011-04-0153

August 2, 2013

### INDOT SEYMOUR FUEL THEFT II

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

On April 19, 2011, the Office of the Inspector General received information stating that a former Indiana Department of Transportation (“INDOT”) employee was suspected of committing acts of theft. Specifically, it was alleged that the employee used his state issued fuel credit card to make unauthorized fuel purchases.

During the investigation, Special Agent Boehmer learned that, as a Highway Technician, the former employee drove INDOT vehicles to perform roadway maintenance. To complete his INDOT duties, the former employee was issued a COMDATA fuel credit card to purchase fuel for INDOT vehicles. Each COMDATA fuel card assigned to INDOT employees has their name on it along with a unique number associated with that employee. The COMDATA card is similar to a bank credit card. When making a purchase, an employee swipes the COMDATA card at the point of purchase and then enters the INDOT vehicle

number and INDOT vehicle mileage. INDOT employees are also required to turn in receipts for those purchases to their assigned district.

While performing a fuel audit, an INDOT Auditor identified suspicious fuel transactions made by the former employee. During the investigation, Special Agent Boehmer learned that the former employee purchased fuel on sick days, vacation days, holidays, regular days off and on days he worked, but when he was off-duty. Special Agent Boehmer determined that the former employee, in several instances, also made multiple purchases within a few minutes of each other on days when he was not working. The former employee did not have a take-home vehicle and was not authorized to operate any INDOT vehicle when he was not working. In addition, the former employee made unleaded fuel purchases entering a vehicle identification number for a vehicle that only used diesel fuel. He also failed to turn in receipts for any of the suspicious purchases. Furthermore, the former employee made several suspicious purchases in Columbus Indiana which was outside of his work area.

The INDOT Auditor determined that the former employee made 35 valid purchases between February 4, 2008 and August 12, 2008. These purchases demonstrate that the former employee remained in possession of his COMDATA fuel card throughout the time period the unauthorized purchases were made.

Special Agent Boehmer sent a letter to the former employee offering him an opportunity to explain or refute the audit findings. The former employee declined to accept this offer and was not interviewed.

The INDOT Auditor determined that the suspected theft came to \$26,625.40.

This investigation was submitted to the Jennings County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and criminal charges were filed. This investigation was also presented to the State Ethics Commission which found probable cause to move the case forward to a hearing to determine whether the former employee violated the use of state property rule. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

APPROVED BY:

/s/ David O. Thomas, Inspector General