



INSPECTOR GENERAL ARRA REPORT

2012-03-0050

March 20, 2012

ARRA REVIEW OF WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT, UNION COUNTY, INDIANA

Indiana Inspector General David O. Thomas, after an inspection and review by Special Agent Chuck Coffin, reports as follows:

This report addresses an inspection and evaluation by Special Agent Chuck Coffin regarding the progress of a project funded by money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).¹ The ARRA intends to provide a stimulus to the United States economy by providing \$787 billion in program funding and tax credits.² Indiana is to receive over \$4 billion in ARRA funding.

The purpose of this report is to document a physical inspection of a project funded in whole or in part by ARRA funds.

The OIG's enabling statute provides that the OIG is responsible for addressing fraud, waste, abuse and wrongdoing in agencies. IC 4-2-7-2(b). The

¹ American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 115 (2009).

² See: <http://www.recovery.gov>.

OIG is also to review and recommend policies and carry out other activities designed to deter, detect, and eradicate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct in state government. IC 4-2-7-3(2).

Based upon these authorities, random ARRA projects were selected from the Invest Indiana website map (<http://www.in.gov/gov/countyarra.htm>). This website specifies ARRA projects by county.

A physical inspection was then made of the selected project. The inspection was limited to a visual review of the work that had occurred. In this case, Contract SRF – DW09048102 was inspected. The contract on this project was let on 05-04-2009. The project consisted of “Replacing drinking water – water mains in multiple locations in Liberty, Union County, Indiana.

Replacement was necessary due to the severely deteriorated condition of the old water mains in the town. This condition presented three significant, ongoing problems to the town residents and repair personnel. The primary concern was the continuing health hazard of unsafe drinking water in Liberty, Indiana. The secondary concern involved significant road hazards created along the two separate US 27 and State Road 44 corridors each time a water main broke. The third concern was the safety factor for personnel while they completed repairs along the two busy roadways which are the main routes in and through Liberty.

SA Coffin interviewed Liberty City Chief of Police Barry Bryant who confirmed that his agency provided continued traffic assistance during the project.

All work has been completed, which was visually inspected by SA Coffin on November 25, 2011.

In addition to a visual inspection, photographs were taken of the area and are included in Exhibit A, attached hereto. These photographs were taken in 2009 while the work was still in progress. The subsequent inspection in 2011 was consistent with this work being completed.

As the inspection revealed that the location and type of work to be performed was completed, this case will be closed.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2012.

APPROVED BY:

/s/

David O. Thomas, Inspector General

EXHIBIT A:

