

Summary: Investigation of BLM Payment for Products Not Delivered

Report Date: January 6, 2017

We initiated this investigation based on allegations from a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) official who told us BLM paid a vendor \$20,720 to deliver eight backup power supply units, but only one of these units was delivered.

Our investigation substantiated the allegations. BLM generally pays vendors only after receiving a product or service, but in this instance they mistakenly paid the vendor the full amount after receiving only one of the eight backup power supply units ordered. Subsequent efforts by BLM to contact the vendor to collect the other seven units or get a refund were unsuccessful.

We located the vendor at the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta, where he was being held on fraud charges not related to this investigation. He declined our request to be interviewed.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix and the District Attorney's Office in Atlanta both declined prosecution. We referred the case to our Division of Administrative Remedies for potential suspension or debarment action and to BLM.

This is a summary of a report of investigation that was issued to the Bureau of Land Management.

