



JANUARY 7, 1997

OIG REPORT NO. 98-5(H)

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. DON C. GARRISON, PRESIDENT, TRI-COUNTY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE, PENDLETON, SOUTH CAROLINA

SUBJECT: Memorandum Survey Report--Review of Equipment Purchased With
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant Funds

OBJECTIVE

This review was undertaken as part of a survey to determine the status of equipment purchased with ARC grant funds in the Appalachian Region.

BACKGROUND

ARC awarded a number of grants to Tri-County Technical College in recent years to purchase computers and other equipment. These included the following grants: SC-10453-89, Equipment for Industrial and Business Development Center; SC-10646-90, Office Systems Technology/Secretarial Science and Business Technology Equipment; SC-10912-91, Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) Programming and Networking Equipment; and SC-11120-92, Business Technology Computer Lab Equipment.


Our review of ARC project files disclosed that U. S. Department of Education staff had made a site visit to the college on August 30, 1990 in connection with ARC Grant No. SC-10453-89. The grant was to provide equipment to be used in the new Industrial and Business Development Center specifically for continuing education. According to the site visit form, the purpose of the visit was to "assess the extent to which initial intent and objectives of the project have been fulfilled and to make decisions on certain requests of the local recipient for a no-cost extension and changes in the housing and use of equipment purchased under the project." In some instances the site visitors found that the college intended to use the equipment to equip new curriculum labs or update existing labs instead of using it for continuing education as provided for in their ARC grant application and agreement. As a result of the site visit, agreements were reached that provided for federally funded, including ARC funded, equipment to be used in accordance with the grant application and agreement.

RESULTS

We made an unannounced visit to the Tri-County Technical College on August 12, 1997. A college employee responsible for maintaining equipment inventories was not at work that day and officials told us that computerized equipment inventory records must be requested from the state records system in advance. As a result, we were unable to determine, specifically, which items of equipment were purchased with ARC funds, where they were located and the purposes for which they are currently being used. Subsequent to our visit, the grantee provided inventory records, purchase

orders and a turn-in document for specific categories of equipment to be purchased with ARC grant funds. According to the documents, most of the ARC purchased equipment is still in use and assigned to computer labs as planned.

As noted above, we did not attempt to inventory individual pieces of equipment and we accepted information from the grantee as to the location and use of the equipment. However, we may include the verification of equipment and site locations in connection with current or future ARC grants as part of our survey of equipment use.


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General



**APPALACHIAN
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Office of the Inspector General

January 12, 1998

Dr. Don Garrison, President
Tri-county Technical College
P. O. Box 587
Pendleton, SC 29670

re: OIG Report 98-5(H)


Dear Dr. Garrison:

Enclosed is a copy of our memorandum report dealing with a spot check of equipment purchased, in part, with funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Based on the age of the grants and related equipment, we relied on information and documentation provided by college officials with respect to equipment use and disposition. We did not identify problems or make any recommendations.

A copy of this report is being provided to the Federal Co-Chairman, ARC Executive Director, and South Carolina State Alternate.

The courtesies and cooperation afforded the auditor were appreciated.

Sincerely,


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General

Enclosure



January 12, 1998


Mr. Sam Cargill, Director
Community Grants Division
South Carolina Department of Commerce
P. O. Box 927
Columbia, SC 29201

re: OIG Reports 98-5(H) and 98-6(H)

Dear Mr. Cargill:

Enclosed are copies of two small reports. As noted, due to the age of grants and equipment pertaining to Tri-county Technical College, we accepted information provided by officials and did not conduct on-site visual spot checks. Such spot checks would normally be made in cases where the equipment is well within its use expectancy period. Also, we noted the possibility of including newer grants in surveys of equipment use and will let you know if we intend to conduct such spot checks at South Carolina grantees.

Sincerely,


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General

Enclosures