

Summary: Investigation of alleged diversion of royalty payments by members of the Chippewa Cree Tribe

Report Date: December 1, 2015

OIG investigated allegations that members of the Chippewa Cree Tribe (CCT) may have inappropriately diverted royalty payments that were intended for CCT's trust account.

We found that CCT purchased two gas leases and hired an independent third party to manage the gas sales revenues and royalty disbursements for those leases. The third party paid royalties on behalf of CCT and maintained the remaining funds in a trust account until CCT requested a transfer to purchase other gas leases.

We found the trust account included few restrictions or requirements and that CCT had full discretion in the use of the funds.

We provided a copy of our report to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Montana, who declined to pursue prosecution.

This is a summary of information that was referred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for any action deemed appropriate. We did not require a response.

