

Summary: Investigation of Alleged Contract Steering and Mismanagement by Two BSEE Managers

Report Date: February 2, 2015

OIG investigated alleged mismanagement and misappropriation of funds by two managers at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). Complaints received from BSEE employees included allegations that the managers interfered with the contracting process, steered contracts to favored bidders who were unqualified, generally mismanaged and misspent funds, and routinely hired their friends.

The allegations were related to three procurements—two were multimillion dollar awards, while the third was valued at approximately \$500,000.

Our investigation did not reveal any improprieties in the award of these contracts, but instead found that contract proposals were reviewed by a technical review panel of subject matter experts, who referred their findings to the contracting officer. BSEE then awarded the contracts in a manner consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. We also found that the managers' hiring and promotion practices were consistent with the Merit System Principles that govern the hiring and management of the executive branch workforce.

We provided the results of our investigation to BSEE for information only and did not require a response.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on October 28, 2015.

