

Summary: Investigation of an FWS Employee for Employment Fraud

Report Date: May 18, 2015

OIG investigated allegations that a U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) motor vehicle operator at Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery in Celina, TN, intentionally omitted information about his retirement from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) on his OF-306, the “Declaration of Federal Employment” form completed as part of the hiring process. The omission allegedly resulted in his being hired as a full-time employee instead of a reemployed annuitant (someone receiving a retirement annuity while also earning a paycheck as a Federal employee). It was also alleged that the employee owed the U.S. Government thousands of dollars because his salary was not offset by his annuity.

We found that the employee did in fact retire from USPS, 10 years before he was hired by FWS. We also found that he failed to disclose his USPS retirement information on his OF-306, and he was hired by FWS as a temporary full-time employee for 1 year. In addition, we found that he worked a 40-hour per week schedule for the entire year, and he was then converted from a temporary full-time employee to a term employee.

FWS officials said that his salary should have been offset by his annuity for the entire time he was employed at FWS. The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Georgia declined prosecution in this case.

We provided this report to the FWS Director for any action deemed appropriate. As a corrective action, FWS offset the employee’s pay for Pay Period 21 by his retirement annuity, and then requested that DOI’s Interior Business Center (IBC) audit his pay records. IBC determined that the employee was overpaid by approximately \$25,770. The employee resigned from his position with FWS on October 23, 2015, and subsequently requested a debt waiver from the Office of Hearings and Appeals. The waiver was submitted to the Department’s Payroll Operations Division, and FWS officials advised us that the debt collection process has been placed on hold. At the time of this summary, the employee has not made any restitution payments.

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 March 10, 2016.

