



# SIGTARP

Office of the Special Inspector General  
for the Troubled Asset Relief Program

## **Demolition Contractor Dumped Dirt with Construction Debris onto Demolition Sites and Submitted False Claims in TARP's Hardest Hit Fund Program**

*January 2019*

The Special Inspector General for Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) investigated Martin Enterprises, Inc. under the False Claims Act for fraudulently submitting claims for TARP dollars for demolitions in Fort Wayne, Indiana under TARP's Hardest Hit Fund Blight Elimination Program. From 2014 to 2016, the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana awarded all of the demolition contracts under the TARP program to Martin Enterprises, Inc. who was paid \$2 million in TARP. SIGTARP's investigation uncovered that Martin Enterprises dumped dirt contaminated with construction debris into the demolition hole and falsely billed the TARP program as if it had filled the hole with clean fill dirt.

After SIGTARP's investigation, Martin Enterprises, Inc. closed its business. The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana resolved the investigation under the False Claims Act by Martin Enterprises, Inc. paying the Federal Government \$30,508 for fraudulently billed claims and a \$30,508 penalty.

Martin Enterprises Inc. also paid the City of Fort Wayne \$800,000 for the cost to excavate and remove all of the construction debris and replace with approved fill dirt, and for other damages.