

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0201

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Inspector General (OIG), performed an audit (OIG Report No. 21-01-001-07-711) of DOL occupied facilities to determine whether payments to the District of Columbia (DC) for water and sewage services are made promptly. The audit is mandated by the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act which requires a quarterly report on the efficiency of Federal agencies in making these payments.

Since the second quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 1990, the DC Appropriations Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-168) has required the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury) to make quarterly payments to DC for the Federal Government's use of its water and sewer services. These payments are from a fund administered by Treasury and funded by the General Services Administration (GSA), acting on behalf of DOL and other "delegating" Federal agencies. These agencies pay into the Treasury fund on a quarterly basis.

The billing and payment process is as follows: (1) once a year, DC conducts water meter readings of all Federal owned, leased, or rented buildings, (2) each year, DC sends Treasury its estimate for water and sewer services provided to the Federal Government, which is based on the actual costs of 3 years prior to the current year, and (3) each quarter, Treasury pays DC and charges the Federal agencies for their fair share of the estimate through the Online Payment and Collection System (OPAC), an inter-federal fund transfer system for collections and disbursements. Since 1990, GSA has paid approximately \$60 million to DC on behalf of DOL and other delegating Federal agencies (see Enclosure A).

DOL occupies the following facilities in which the DC provides services:

<b><u>Building Name/Location</u></b>	<b><u>Building Classification</u></b>
Frances Perkins Building 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.	Government Owned/ Delegated
Postal Square Building 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.	Leased/GSA Operated

Techworld 800 K Street, N.W.	Leased/Owner Operated
800 North Capitol Street, N.W.	Leased/Owner Operated
1331 F Street, N.W.	Leased/Owner Operated
1441 L Street, N.W.	Leased/Owner Operated
Riddell Building 1730 K Street, N.W.	Leased/Owner Operated

The Frances Perkins Building (FPB) is a GSA owned facility; all other DOL occupied facilities are leased. Water and sewage services for the FPB are paid by GSA, while that of the DOL leased facilities are included as a portion of the lease payments to the building owners. There is one exception, the Postal Square building, where GSA is the facility operator and makes the water and sewage payment. Rent and lease payments for all DOL occupied facilities (including regional facilities) are made to GSA on a monthly basis (see Enclosure B).

We performed our fieldwork during the first quarter of FY 2000 (October 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000). Our review of the water and sewage payments covered FYs 1990 through 2000 and was accomplished through interviews with DOL and GSA personnel, a review of related documentation, and an analysis of applicable legislation

The audit was performed in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

### **Results**

Our evaluation of the payments for water and sewage services for DOL leased facilities and the Frances Perkins Building disclosed that payments, made on behalf of DOL by GSA, were made promptly for the first quarter of FY 2000 and are in accordance with the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, P.L.101-168, and no payments are in arrears.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (202) 693-5100.

Sincerely,

Gordon S. Heddell  
Inspector General

**GSA Reimbursements to the Department of Treasury for Water and  
Sewage Services for DOL and Other Delegating Federal Agencies**

**Fiscal Years 1990 through 2000**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2000	\$ 6,850,990
1999	8,819,636
1998	5,869,705
1997	5,628,338
1996	8,966,108
1995	5,018,661
1994	6,152,174
1993	4,189,587
1992	3,876,324
1991	1
1990	<u>2,963,971</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ <u>58,335,494</u></b>

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<sup>1</sup>GSA could not locate data for FY 1991.

## DOL Rent Payments To GSA

For the Period October 1, 1999 through December 31, 2000

<u>Month</u>	<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Payment Amount</u>
October 99	99274053	10/27/99	*\$16,261,719
November 99	99305053	11/22/99	9,566,402
December 99	99335053	12/16/99	* 2,909,669
January 00	00001053	1/15/00	9,443,915
February 00	00032053	2/16/00	9,596,959
March 00	00061053	3/16/00	9,555,194
April 00	00092053	4/15/00	9,443,717
May 00	00122053	5/16/00	9,743,375
June 00	00153053	6/16/00	10,044,764
July 00	00183053	7/15/00	9,306,041
August 00	00214053	8/15/00	9,669,171
September 00	00245053	9/16/00	9,674,401
October 00	00275053	10/21/00	9,317,082
November 00	00306053	11/16/00	9,900,931
December 00	00336053	12/16/00	9,635,159

\*An error in the rent billed for October 1999 caused a \$6,625,151 overpayment, which was corrected in the December 1999 bill.

The Honorable C. W. (Bill) Young  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0910

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Inspector General

Enclosures

Enclosure A

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