



SOCIAL SECURITY

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 14, 2001

Refer To:

To: William A. Halter
Acting Commissioner of Social Security

From: Inspector General

Subject: Payments Due to the District of Columbia Water and Sewage Authority
for Social Security Administration Occupied Buildings -- INFORMATION

We have provided the attached report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees as mandated by the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-554). The requested information concerns the promptness of payments to the District of Columbia Water and Sewage Authority (DC WASA).

In summary, we found that SSA does not make payments to the DC WASA because SSA does not have any delegated buildings in the area serviced by DC WASA. The General Services Administration is responsible for the operations, including payment for water and sewage service charges, for all SSA occupied buildings in the area under the jurisdiction of DC WASA.

If you have any questions, please call me or have your staff contact,
Steven L. Schaeffer, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, at 410-965-9700.

James G. Huse, Jr.

Attachment



SOCIAL SECURITY

Office of the Inspector General

February 14, 2001

The Honorable C.W. Young
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As required by the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-554), the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is pleased to provide you with the requested information relating to the promptness of payments to the District of Columbia Water and Sewage Authority (DC WASA).

In summary, we found that SSA does not make payments to the DC WASA because SSA does not have any delegated buildings in the area serviced by DC WASA. The General Services Administration is responsible for the operations, including payment for water and sewage service charges, for all SSA occupied buildings in the area under the jurisdiction of DC WASA. Because SSA is not responsible for payments, we respectfully request that the Committees waive this reporting requirement for SSA/OIG.

We have sent identical letters and enclosures to the Honorable David Obey, Ranking Minority Member of your Committee and the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

If you have any questions or would like to be briefed on this issue, please call me or have your staff contact, Steven L. Schaeffer, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, at 410-965-9700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James G. Huse, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with "James" on the first line and "G. Huse, Jr." on the second line.

James G. Huse, Jr.
Inspector General of Social Security

Enclosure

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

Payments Due to the District of Columbia Water and Sewage Authority for Social Security Administration Occupied Buildings



FEBRUARY 2001

BACKGROUND

The Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-554) requires:

“...that not later than 15 days after the end of the month following each quarter (beginning with the first quarter of fiscal year 2001), the inspector general of each Federal department, establishment, or agency receiving water and sewage services from the District of Columbia shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate analyzing the promptness of payment with respect to the services furnished to such department, establishment, or agency.”

Agencies having delegated buildings¹ are required to make payment on the first day of each quarter for water and sewage to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's *Federal Payment for Water and Sewage Services* account. General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for the deposits for water and sewage cost for non-delegated buildings. On the second day of each quarter, Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) transfers funds to the DC WASA. If agencies do not make their payments timely, FMS may not have sufficient funds available to make the transfer.

The District of Columbia Water and Sewage Authority (DC WASA) services the District of Columbia; portions of the State of Maryland's Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties; portions of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Loudon and Fairfax Counties; and the City of Vienna, Virginia.

¹ Agencies occupying delegated buildings are responsible for paying water and sewage charges directly to the supplier.

RESULTS OF REVIEW

To comply with the requirements of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-554), we interviewed SSA Office of Finance and Office of Facilities Management staff, as well as GSA staff responsible for SSA occupied space. The purpose of those interviews was to determine the SSA occupied buildings serviced by the DC WASA and the nature of any payments for water and sewage services. The scope of our review covered SSA occupied buildings during the period Fiscal Year 1990 to present.

We compiled a list of the space SSA occupies in the District of Columbia and surrounding area (see Attachment A). Because we were not sure of the exact area serviced by the DC WASA, we used GSA's Region 11, which covers the District of Columbia and surrounding area, for the scope of our review. SSA occupies 22 buildings in GSA's Region 11. Twenty-one buildings are leased from private concerns and one is owned by the Social Security trust funds.

SSA does not have any delegated buildings in the area serviced by the DC WASA. GSA manages all of the SSA occupied space. Specifically, GSA pays either rental cost, which covers water and sewage costs, to the lessor or pays the DC WASA for water and sewage services. SSA could not provide us with the names of the lessors because the leases were negotiated and maintained by GSA.

CONCLUSION

GSA operates all SSA buildings in and around the District of Columbia. As a result, GSA is responsible for water and sewage service charges. SSA is not responsible for making payments to the DC WASA.

Barring a change in these conditions, we respectfully request that the Committee on Appropriations waive the requirement that the Inspector General of Social Security report each quarter on the promptness of payments for DC WASA service charges.

APPENDIX

List of SSA Occupied Buildings General Services Administration Region 11

<u>Real Property Identification</u>	<u>Building Number</u>	<u>Address</u>
-------------------------------------	------------------------	----------------

Leased Buildings:

Washington DC

DC0331	DC0050308	500 E Street SW (ITC Building)
DC0373	DC0055689	820 First Street NE
DC0406	DC0051289	800 N Capitol Street NW (OI DC Suboffice)
DC0421	DC0018656	400 Virginia Avenue
	/DC0055982	
DC0436	DC0058978	1905-B 9th Street NE
DC0467	DC0018703	2041 Martin Luther King Avenue
DC0512	DC0051638	7820 Eastern Avenue NW
DC1222	DC0018836	2100 M Street NW

Maryland

MD0206	MD0018908	51 Monroe Street, Rockville
MD0245	MD0018950	8484 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring
MD0326	MD0019034	7401 Forbes Boulevard, Seabrook
MD0327	MD0019035	337 Brightseat Road, Landover
MD1194	MD0019090	Wheaton Shopping Center, Wheaton

Virginia

VA0244	VA0052409	5111 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church (OA)
VA0274	VA0055119	1815 N. Fort Meyer Drive, Arlington
VA0301	VA0019313	5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
VA0309	VA0019317	6295 Edsall Road, Alexandria
VA0357	VA0019417	10500 Battleview Parkway, Manassas
VA0373	VA0050788	8700 Centreville Road, Manassas
VA0401	VA0019457	11212 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax
VA1573	VA0055935	8600 Morrisette, Springfield

Trust Fund Owned Building:

Maryland

MD0067	MD0018873	6400 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton
--------	-----------	---------------------------------