

**New Jersey Department of Transportation
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY**

CAPITAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

Director: Walter McGrosky Telephone: (609) 530-5367

QIA No. QIA 050

Approved: W. McGrosky
Date: August 13, 2009

Subject: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Whistleblowers signage poster.

Process Affected:

Scope Design Right of Way Utilities Environmental Historic Construction

Bureaus Affected: All Design Consultants

In-house Design Services

Project Management

Construction Services and Materials

Procedure(s) Affected:

Nature of Issue(s): Pursuant to ARRA, Pub.L. No 111-5, section 1553, all parties involved in ARRA funded projects must post signage of Whistleblowers protection in their offices.

Recommendation(s):

Designers are directed to:

- Include the attached "Whistleblowers Know Your Rights" poster on all ARRA funded projects.
- Post the attached "Whistleblowers Know Your Rights" poster in their own offices for projects that are receiving ARRA funding for Design and/or Construction Engineering work.

The REs must ensure that the attached "Whistleblowers Know Your Rights" poster is conspicuously posted in the Field Offices.

Implementation: Special (S) – Effective immediately, changes must be implemented in all Department projects receiving ARRA, 2009; (Stimulus Act) funding. All necessary addenda and/or addenda to postpone the receipt of bids must be issued to ensure compliance.

A Field order must be issued to incorporate this requirement for ARRA funded projects under construction.

Impact Assessment:

Schedule Quality Cost Scope

Cost Impact: None



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WHISTLEBLOWERS KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

On January 6, 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama to improve public welfare. If you protect America's interests by reporting fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of ARRA funds at your workplace, and are retaliated against as a result, know that America is here for you.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5, Section 1553

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

You have the right to file a complaint with the Office of Inspector General and receive a timely investigation and response.

REPRISAL-FREE:

You have the right to be free from discharge, demotion, or discrimination as a result of disclosing:

- *Gross mismanagement of a stimulus-funded project.*
- *Gross waste of stimulus funds.*
- *Danger to public health and safety related to a stimulus-funded project.*
- *Violation of the law relating to stimulus funds or a stimulus-funded project.*
- *Abuse of authority related to the implementation of stimulus funds.*

REMEDIES:

You have the right to receive remedies if the Office of Inspector General determines you were subjected to an unlawful reprisal. Your employer may be ordered to abate the reprisal, reinstate your employment, and you may receive compensation to reimburse you for your attorney fees and other financial suffering experienced as a result of the reprisal.

ALTERNATIVES:

You have the right to take action against your employer in civil district court if the Office of Inspector General does not respond within 210 days or determines that there was not an unlawful reprisal.

OIG HOTLINE

www.oig.dot.gov/recovery/whistleblower_protections.jsp

Phone: 1-800-424-9071
Email: hotline@oig.dot.gov
Fax: 1-540-373-2090

Mail: USDOT/OIG
P.O. Box 708
Fredericksburg, VA 22404