

# **Investigative Summary: Secretary with OSMRE Indicted for Misuse of Government Fleet Cards**

**Report Date: April 21, 2016**

OIG investigated allegations that Loren Estes, a former secretary from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) in the Lexington, KY, Field Office, had used Government fleet credit cards for personal expenses. She resigned from her position amid suspicions but before administrative action could be taken.

Our investigation substantiated that, while employed at OSMRE, she used Government fleet credit cards to purchase gasoline for her personal vehicle and to make payments on her personal automobile loans and utility bills. The total loss to the Government was approximately \$1,900.

On September 3, 2015, a grand jury for the Eastern District of Kentucky indicted Estes and she pleaded guilty to one count of theft of Government money. Estes was subsequently sentenced to 24 months of probation and ordered to pay \$2,000.73 in fines and restitution.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued to OSMRE.

