



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Office of the Inspector General*

**GREGORY W. SULLIVAN**  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 24, 2011

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Paul Capizzi  
City Solicitor  
City of Revere  
281 Broadway  
Revere, MA 02151

Dear Mr. Capizzi:

As you know, the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reviewed the City of Revere's receipt of a \$485,500 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The OIG is reviewing ARRA-related grants to identify potential vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse and other risks that could negatively impact the accountability, transparency, and anti-fraud mandates contained in the statutory language and interpretive guidance of ARRA. This review should not be construed as an investigation of the program or a comprehensive programmatic review. The OIG intends these reviews to assist recipients of ARRA funding identify and address risks.

Prior to applying for the EECBG grant, the City entered into an Energy Services Agreement (ESA) with Ameresco, Inc. (Ameresco) that included a number of energy efficiency projects including a new roof with a solar panel system and rooftop heating units at the Beachmont School, at an estimated total cost of \$3,206,771. The City applied for the \$485,500 EECBG grant to partially fund this roof project. The OIG requested, and the City provided, certain information regarding the City's expenditures under this grant. The City indicated that it used M.G.L. c.25A §11I as the procurement method for the roof project.

The OIG review found that the City complied with the requirements of M.G.L. c.25A and spent the EECBG funds for the intended project. The OIG review also included a site visit to confirm the installation of the new roof and solar panel system. The OIG verified that the work had been performed.

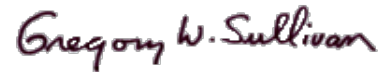
During the site visit, OIG staff observed accumulated snow on the rooftop solar panels that "can impair performance" of solar energy systems according to guidance issued by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The City should

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examine the ESA between the City and Ameresco to determine who is responsible for the proper maintenance of the solar panel system including the removal of snow and other possible obstructions and ensure that these responsibilities are met to ensure optimal system performance.

We appreciate your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gregory W. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory W. Sullivan  
Inspector General