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B-214086, Feb 2, 1984, Office of General Counsel

Number: B-214086

Date: 1984-02-02

B-214086, FEB 2, 1984, OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

MR. EDWARD P. GREENBERG CHIEF, DIVISION OF FINANCE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST (REFERENCE 1385 (822)) THAT TOM WELCH, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE BUREAU, BE RELIEVED OF LIABILITY FOR THE LOSS OF $159.68 IN IMPREST FUNDS. FOR THE REASON EXPLAINED BELOW, WE ARE REFERRING THIS REQUEST TO YOUR OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.

GAO HAS DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT HEADS TO ADMINISTRATIVELY RESOLVE CERTAIN IRREGULARITIES IN THE ACCOUNTS OF ACCOUNTABLE OFFICERS. THIS AUTHORIZATION APPLIES TO PHYSICAL LOSSES OR DEFICIENCIES OF LESS THAN $500. SEE 54 COMP.GEN. 112 (1974). SINCE THE AMOUNT INVOLVED IN THIS CASE IS ONLY $159.68, THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT HAS AUTHORITY TO GRANT OR DENY RELIEF OF LIABILITY TO MR. WELCH WITHOUT SUBMISSION TO THIS OFFICE, UPON MAKING APPROPRIATE DETERMINATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN COMPTROLLER GENERAL DECISIONS. SEE, E.G., B-201651, FEBRUARY 9, 1981 (COPY ENCLOSED). THUS, WE ARE RETURNING THE CASE TO YOU FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION.