



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

William G. Holland, Auditor General

**SUMMARY REPORT DIGEST**

**VILLAGE OF ROBBINS' USE OF  
MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND MONIES**

**FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE, & PROGRAM AUDIT  
For the Year Ended: December 31, 2010**

**Release Date: March 2012**

**Summary of Findings:**

<b>Total this audit:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total last audit:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Repeated from last audit:</b>	<b>1</b>

**SYNOPSIS**

The Public Utilities Act (220 ILCS 5/8-403.1) requires the Auditor General to conduct an annual financial, compliance, and program audit of distributions received by any municipality from the Municipal Economic Development Fund (MEDF). Qualified solid waste energy facilities are required to pay into the Fund \$0.0006 per kilowatt hour of electricity the facilities sold to electric utilities.

Each audit is to be for distributions from the Fund for the immediately preceding year. This is the twelfth audit conducted under this requirement. This audit covers distributions from the Fund during calendar year 2010. The Village of Robbins was the only entity to receive distributions from the Fund. The audit concluded that:

- In 2010, Robbins received \$386,132.93 in quarterly disbursements from the Fund.
- Robbins used these monies for specific disbursements such as Village payroll, employee insurance expenses, and general Village expenses. Based on our review of documentation provided by the Village of Robbins, we concluded that Robbins' calendar year 2010 expenditures of MEDF receipts appeared to be consistent with Public Utilities Act requirements.
- Robbins officials have not yet calculated and transferred the interest earned on a \$1.6 million Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant deposited into the Village's MEDF fund in April 2007. The Public Utilities Act requires that MEDF monies be held in a "separate account."

## **MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND**

The Public Utilities Act was amended in January 1999 to create the Municipal Economic Development Fund. The Municipal Economic Development Fund is a trust fund created to receive and maintain payments from qualified solid waste energy facilities that sell electricity to electric utilities. Each qualified facility must make payments of \$0.0006 per kilowatt hour of electricity it produces and sells to the electric utilities. The facilities make payments to the Department of Revenue, which deposits the payments into the Fund. The Department may assess penalties and interest if the facilities do not submit the payments.

Amendments added by Public Act 94-836 require that the Treasurer compare the monthly amount received to the amount received for the corresponding month in 2002. If the amount received in 2002 is greater, the difference is to be transferred from the General Revenue Fund to the MEDF. A total of \$286,806.98 was transferred in 2010.

The State Treasurer is required to make quarterly distributions from the Fund to each eligible municipality. Prior to August 2009, an eligible city, village, or incorporated town had to have within its boundaries an incinerator that:

(1) uses, or on the effective date of Public Act 90-813 [January 29, 1999], used municipal waste as its primary fuel to generate electricity;

(2) was determined by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to qualify as a qualified solid waste energy facility prior to the effective date of Public Act 89-448 [March 14, 1996]; and

(3) commenced operation prior to January 1, 1998.

According to information from the ICC and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Robbins had the only operating incinerator in the State that met these criteria and was entitled to receive disbursements from the Municipal Economic Development Fund.

Public Act 96-449, effective August 14, 2009, changed the requirements for a municipality that is eligible to receive funds. An eligible municipality now must be located in Cook County and must have “approved construction of an incinerator within its boundaries that will burn recovered wood processed for fuel to generate electricity.” An official at IEPA confirmed that the plant in Robbins is the only place in Cook County with a permit to burn clean wood recovered from construction and demolition debris on a permanent basis. (pages 2–3)

**EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM THE MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**Robbins was the only entity to receive distributions from the Municipal Economic Development Fund.**

**Robbins received \$386,133 from the Fund and earned \$18 in interest income in calendar year 2010.**

**Robbins disbursed \$386,149 in Fund receipts during calendar year 2010.**

The Village of Robbins is the only entity to receive distributions from the Municipal Economic Development Fund. In calendar year 2010, Robbins’ net cash receipts from the Municipal Economic Development Fund (MEDF) totaled \$386,132.93 and the Village earned \$17.51 in interest income on monies deposited into its MEDF account. Digest Exhibit 1 shows that Robbins disbursed \$386,148.54 in Municipal Economic Development Fund receipts during calendar year 2010. Robbins began the year with a cash balance of \$56.99 in its bank account for Municipal Economic Development Funds and ended the year with a balance of \$58.89 in the account.

Digest Exhibit 1 <b>ROBBINS’ RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS</b> (Calendar Year 2010)	
Fund Distribution Received 01/10:	\$101,942.67
Fund Distribution Received 04/10:	\$101,158.79
Fund Distribution Received 07/10:	\$101,126.20
Fund Distribution Received 10/10:	\$82,905.27
Interest Income:	<u>\$17.51</u>
Total CY10 Cash Receipts:	\$386,150.44
Total CY10 Cash Disbursements:	<u>\$386,148.54</u>
Excess of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements:	\$1.90
Cash Balance End of CY09:	\$56.99
Cash Balance as of 12/31/10:	<u><u>\$58.89</u></u>
Source: Village of Robbins.	

The Public Utilities Act establishes requirements regarding the allowable uses of Municipal Economic Development Funds (220 ILCS 5/8-403.1(j)). The Act states that MEDF distributions may be used only to:

- promote and enhance industrial, commercial, residential, service, transportation, and recreational activities and facilities within its boundaries, thereby enhancing the employment opportunities, public health and general welfare, and economic development within the community, including

administrative expenditures exclusively to further these activities.

**We concluded that Robbins’ calendar year 2010 expenditures of MEDF receipts appeared to comply with statutory guidelines.**

The Act also lists specific purposes for which the MEDF distributions cannot be used. Based on our review of documentation provided by the Village of Robbins, we concluded that Robbins’ calendar year 2010 expenditures of MEDF receipts appeared to be consistent with Public Utilities Act requirements. Specific disbursements were made for employee payroll; employee insurance expenses; purchase and repair of Village vehicles; repairs to Village property; and other general Village expenses. Digest Exhibit 2 summarizes the amount and purpose for Robbins’ cash disbursements from the Municipal Economic Development Fund receipts during calendar year 2010.

Digest Exhibit 2 <b>VILLAGE OF ROBBINS’ DISBURSEMENT OF MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS (Calendar Year 2010)</b>	
<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
\$281,459	Village employee payroll expenses
\$77,919	Village employee insurance and retirement expenses
\$15,660	General Village expenses
\$5,000	Audit expenses
\$2,800	Street Improvements
\$2,260	Repair and maintenance of Village vehicles
\$1,050	Repairs to Village property
<b><u>\$386,149</u></b>	<b>Total Disbursements</b>
Note: Figures rounded to nearest dollar. Totals may not add due to rounding. Source: Village of Robbins.	

**We recommended that Robbins officials calculate the interest earned on the grant funds and transfer it to the proper account.**

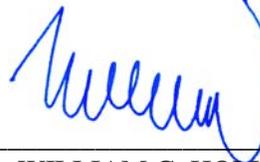
In April 2007, Robbins officials deposited \$1.6 million in grant funds it received from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity into its MEDF account, resulting in a commingling of the funds for approximately one month. The Public Utilities Act requires that MEDF monies be held in a “separate account.” When the grant monies were removed from the Village’s MEDF account, Village officials did not properly allocate and transfer the amount of interest earned on the grant monies out of the MEDF account. As of October 2011, Village officials still had not calculated the interest earned on the grant funds and transferred it to the proper account. We recommended that Village officials calculate the amount of interest earned by the grant funds and transfer that amount to the proper fund.

We audited the Village of Robbins Statements of Cash Receipts from the Municipal Economic Development Fund

and Cash Disbursements from those Cash Receipts for the year ended December 31, 2010. The Village of Robbins was not able to provide us with complete results of its financial audits of the Village of Robbins for the year ended April 30, 2010, and the year ended April 30, 2009. Our audit was delayed several months while we attempted to obtain these documents from the Village. We concluded that, except for the effects of such adjustment or disclosures, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had we been able to consider the complete audit results, the financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and cash disbursements made from those receipts for the year ended December 31, 2010. Appendix B to the full report contains the Independent Auditors' Report. (pages 4-8)

### **AGENCY RESPONSE**

The Village of Robbins responded that it has relied on Municipal Economic Development funding to supplement municipal operations due to its distressed financial condition. Village officials noted that their current financial plight is evident by the Village's inability to provide timely and recent audit reports of the Village to OAG auditors. They also noted that as they revamp services and overall financial operations to better reflect current and acceptable standards, it is their belief that this will be the last audit reflecting reoccurring and unresolved discrepancies of the past. The full text of the Village's response is included as Appendix C of the report.



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WILLIAM G. HOLLAND  
Auditor General

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This audit was conducted by the staff of the Office of the Auditor General.