



September 30, 2016

Mr. Dan Wuertele
Lehigh Valley Floor Covering, LLC
865 N. Fenwick Street
Allentown, PA 18109

Re: Violation Notice/Warning Letter
Public Works Employment Verification Act
Project: Carpet and VCT Replacement
Nazareth Area School District

Dear Mr. Wuertele:

This correspondence shall serve as official notice that, as a result of an investigation or audit conducted by the Department of General Services, Lehigh Valley Flooring Covering, LLC ("Lehigh Valley Flooring") has been found to be in violation of Section 5(1) of the Public Works Employment Verification Act (the "Act"), 43 P.S. §§167.1, *et seq.* The details of the violation are as follows:

The Act was effective January 1, 2013, and requires every public works contractor and subcontractor to utilize the federal E-Verify Program ("EVP"), operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, to verify the employment eligibility of new employees hired on or after January 1, 2013. Public works contractors and subcontractors must be in compliance with the Act prior to the award of the contract. An employee hired after the award of the public works contract must be verified within 5 business days of his or her start date.

By letter dated August 31, 2016, the Department requested Lehigh Valley Flooring provide specific information establishing compliance with the Act. A review of the documentation submitted reveals that Lehigh Valley Flooring was awarded a public works contract by the Nazareth Area School District on April 19, 2016. According to the information submitted in response to the audit, Lehigh Valley Flooring hired a total of approximately three (3) employees after the award of the contract. Lehigh Valley Flooring did not initiate verification of the three (3) new employees until on or after September 8, 2016, which has been more than five business days after the employees' start dates. Therefore, Lehigh Valley Flooring did not properly utilize the EVP system to verify the new employees in accordance with the Act and is in violation of Section 5(1) of the Act, 43 P.S. § 167.5(1).

This is Lehigh Valley Flooring's first violation under the Act. As required by Section 6(d)(1) of the Act, 43 P.S. § 167.6(d)(1), this first violation warning letter will be posted to the Department's publicly accessible website at www.dgs.pa.gov. If Lehigh Valley Flooring fails to comply with the Act or commits subsequent violations thereof, Lehigh Valley Flooring may be subject to civil penalties as well as debarment by the Department as provided for in Section 6 of the Act.

To appeal this determination, you must submit a written request for an administrative hearing setting forth all of the facts upon which the appeal is based, within ten (10) calendar days of the date of this letter, to the Deputy Secretary for Procurement, Department of General Services, 6th Floor, Forum Place, 555 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17101. A filing fee of \$100.00, in the form of a certified check or money order payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of General Services, must be enclosed with the request.

Please refer to the Department's web site, www.dgs.pa.gov, for additional information on the requirements of the Act and the appeal procedures to be followed if Lehigh Valley Flooring requests an administrative hearing. Your cooperation with the Department in complying with the Act is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Cuff

Public Works Employment Verification Manager

cc: Janice Pistor, Chief, Strategic Support & Audits Division