



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

South State, Inc.  
202 Reeves Road  
P.O. Box 68  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

June 8, 2023

Re: Warning Letter  
Public Works Employment Verification Act  
Project: Roosevelt Blvd. Exit; Design activities limited to: ADA Ramps, Traffic Control, & Traffic Signals/Contract 92809

Dear South State, Inc.:

This correspondence shall serve as official notice that, as a result of an investigation conducted by the Department of General Services, South State, Inc. has been found to be in violation of the Public Works Employment Verification Act (the Act):

*5(1) Failed to verify the employment eligibility of a new employee hired after January 1, 2013, through the federal E-Verify Program.*

The Act was effective January 1, 2013, and requires every public works contractor and subcontractor to utilize the federal E-Verify Program, 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 five (5) business days of his or her start date.

By letter dated May 3, 2023, the Department requested South State, Inc. provide specific information establishing compliance with the Act. A review of the documentation submitted reveals that South State, Inc. was awarded a public works contract by PennDOT on January 12, 2022. South State, Inc. submitted a Public Works Employment Verification form acknowledging that it was in compliance with the Act as of December 20, 2021. According to the information submitted in response to the investigation, South State, Inc. did not enroll into EVP until May 19, 2023, and could not initiate verification of the thirty-three (33) as required. Therefore, it is the Department's conclusion that South State, Inc. did not utilize the EVP system to verify new employees in accordance with the Act and is in violation of Section 5(1) of the Act.

This is South State, Inc.'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](http://www.dgs.pa.gov). If South State, Inc. fails to comply with the Act or commits subsequent violations thereof, South State, Inc. 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 Capital Programs, Department of General Services, 1800 Herr Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17125. 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](http://www.dgs.pa.gov), for additional information on the requirements of the Act and the appeal procedures to be followed if South State, Inc. requests an administrative hearing. Your cooperation with the Department in complying with the Act is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Dombrowsky  
Employment Verification Administrator