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FORMER CLARKSVILLE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
SENTENCED TO PRISON

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - November 6, 2013-Rick R. Ingram, Sr., 55, of Simpsonville, South Carolina, was sentenced yesterday in U.S. District Court to 46 months in prison, followed by three years supervised release, for his role in an honest services mail and wire fraud scheme involving his receipt of bribes and kickbacks as the president of the Clarksville Department of Electricity, announced David Rivera, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Ingram was also ordered to pay restitution to the Clarksville Department of Electricity in the amount of \$188,289.39.

“Corrupt practices by public officials and consultants undermine the confidence that citizens must have in their governmental institutions,” said U.S. Attorney David Rivera. “The costs of corruption are born by taxpayers, ratepayers, honest vendors and honest public employees. The Department of Justice is committed to prosecuting individuals who fraudulently game the system to line their own pockets at the expense of the public and of all those who labor honestly and follow the rules.”

Ingram pleaded guilty on May 25, 2012, to two counts of honest services mail fraud and two counts of honest services wire fraud. According to the testimony at his plea hearing, Ingram hired two consultants for the Clarksville, Tennessee Department of Electricity in November 2008 when he was president of the Clarksville Department of Electricity. From November 2008 through June 2009, one of those consultants, Tommy L. Walton, II, and his business entity, IntelliNet Consulting, LLC, invoiced and received from the Clarksville Department of Electricity a total of \$156,139.39. The payment of each invoice was approved by Ingram. During that same time, Tommy L. Walton, II paid \$51,500 directly to Ingram or to one of Ingram’s creditors.

Also, from November 2008 through June 2009, the other of those two consultants, Tommy L. Walton, Sr., and his business entity, Intelligent Surveillance, Inc., invoiced and received from the

Clarksville Department of Electricity a total of \$32,150. The payment of each of those invoices also was approved by Ingram. During that time, Walton, Sr. paid \$16,015 to Ingram.

The payments by the Waltons to Ingram were not disclosed to members of the Clarksville Electric Power Board or to other employees at the Clarksville Department of Electricity. The United States alleged that these payments by the Waltons were bribes and kickbacks and that the concealment of these payments from the Clarksville Department of Electricity deprived the Clarksville Department of Electricity and its customers of the honest services of Ingram.

Tommy L. Walton, II, 39, of Waxhaw, North Carolina, was found guilty in January 2013 by a federal court jury of nine counts of honest services mail fraud and seven counts of honest services wire fraud. He was sentenced on August 5, 2013 to serve 48 months in prison, followed by 24 months of incarceration in a halfway house and 24 months of home confinement. He was ordered to pay restitution to the Clarksville Department of Electricity in the amount of \$95,211.38.

Tommy L. Walton, Sr., 76, of Greenville, South Carolina, pleaded guilty to eight counts of honest services mail fraud and to five counts of honest services wire fraud on January 14, 2013. He was sentenced on August 26, 2013 to 30 days in prison, followed by 18 months of incarceration in a halfway house and 18 months of home confinement. He was ordered to pay restitution to the Clarksville Department of Electricity in the amount of \$32,150.

This case was investigated by the Tennessee Valley Authority Office of Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Byron Jones and John Webb.

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