



# NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Acting Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 28, 2012

---

## **NYPA Security Sergeant Charged With Abusing a Government-Issued Credit Card**

ALBANY, NY - Acting Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced today the arrest of a New York Power Authority employee on charges that he used a New York State-issued credit card to purchase gasoline for his personal vehicle and falsified records to cover up his theft.

Michael Perry, age 46, of Clinton, New York, was arrested by investigators from the New York State Office of the Inspector General and Office of the Oneida County District Attorney. Perry was charged with a felony count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and a misdemeanor count of Petit Larceny. Perry faces up to four years in prison, if convicted.

Perry worked full time as a Security Sergeant with the New York Power Authority ["NYPA"] at the Clark Energy Center ["CEC"] in Marcy, New York, since November 2007, currently earning an annual salary of \$60,410. As Security Sergeant, Perry was responsible for supervising and overseeing the night shift security force at CEC. The CEC campus housed a fleet of NYPA vehicles available to security staff during the course of their business; each of these vehicles had a fuel credit card, to be used solely with that vehicle. The Inspector General's investigation revealed that on multiple occasions Perry allegedly removed the NYPA credit card assigned to CEC fleet vehicles, drove his personal vehicle from the CEC campus to a nearby gas station, and allegedly filled up his vehicle using the CEC vehicle fuel credit card. In addition, the Inspector General found that Perry allegedly entered false information during the transaction in order to cover up the improper use of the NYPA fuel credit card and his theft of the fuel. Perry admitted to investigators from the Inspector General's and District Attorney's offices that he used the State credit card to purchase several thousands of dollars of gasoline for his personal use since 2008.

"State employees are entrusted to utilize State-issued credit cards for official business, not for personal expenses. The unauthorized taking and misappropriating of state resources will not be tolerated," said Acting Inspector General Scott. "Taxpayers deserve utmost integrity from all state employees, especially those entrusted with state funds. I will continue to work with agencies and authorities to ensure policies and procedures are in place to prevent these types of thefts."

“Rigorous investigation and prosecution of cases such as this are necessary to not only punish wrongdoing, but also to preserve the faith of the public that taxpayer dollars are being safeguarded through deterrence of future thefts,” said Oneida County District Attorney Scott D. McNamara. “Cases such as this are excellent examples of what is possible when agencies work together cooperatively to achieve a just result.”

Perry is scheduled for arraignment in Utica City Court on July 24, 2012.

Based on the findings of the Inspector General’s investigation, NYPA has suspended Perry without pay and commenced disciplinary proceedings against him.

Acting Inspector General Scott thanked District Attorney McNamara and his staff for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution of this matter.

The Defendant is innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

###

Additional releases available at [www.ig.ny.gov](http://www.ig.ny.gov)  
For more information contact (518) 474-1010