

The United States Attorney's Office of the Middle District of Tennessee issued a press release Tuesday, Feb. 14 about multiple cases the office is prosecuting. Two of the investigations have been led by the Tennessee Valley Authority Office of the Inspector General (TVA OIG). The sections of the press release that apply to these TVA OIG cases are below.

- *TVA OIG Case #1*

Ricky R. Ingram, Sr., 53, of Rembert, South Carolina, Tommy L. Walton, Sr., 74, of Greenville, South Carolina, and Tommy L. Walton, Jr., 32, of Huntersville, North Carolina, were indicted by a federal grand jury on January 19, 2012, on mail and wire fraud charges, based upon kickbacks paid by the Waltons to Ingram, while he served as the president of the Clarksville, Tennessee Department of Electricity, in exchange for consulting work that he awarded to them.

During the 10 months that he served as President of the Clarksville Department of Electricity, Ingram approved no-bid consulting work for various projects purportedly performed by Tommy L. Walton, Sr. and his son, Tommy L. Walton, Jr. The younger Walton submitted 14 invoices to the Clarksville Department of Electricity totaling \$156,139.39 during a period of six months. During that same time, Walton, Jr. wired funds totaling \$51,500 to Ingram's bank account and to a debt recovery firm collecting debts owed by Ingram. Walton, Sr. submitted eight invoices to the Clarksville Department of Electricity totaling \$32,150 during a period of seven months. During that time, Walton, Sr. issued checks to Ingram totaling \$16,015 and deposited those checks into Ingram's bank account.

- *TVA OIG Case #2*

Edward Shannon Polen, 41, of Greenbrier, Tennessee, was charged in a criminal information on January 9, 2012, with mail fraud, wire fraud, bank fraud and money laundering, after operating an investment Ponzi scheme that defrauded approximately 68 investors of more than \$15.3 million.

Polen's overall scheme to defraud involved three separate, but connected, investment programs in which victims were promised a return of their invested principal along with a substantial profit. All three investment programs were bogus, and Polen never invested any of the money he solicited from victims. Instead, he used investor funds to place bets with local bookies, pay gambling debts, and repay other investor-victims.

The bogus investment opportunities created by Polen were identified as the "John Deere Investment," a fictional opportunity to purchase repossessed tractor and farm equipment, which were then resold within 30 days for a profit; the "Greenway Investment," fictional construction of "greenways" by various governmental agencies, with Polen supposedly participating as a supplier of materials; and the "Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Coal Ash Cleanup Investment," related to the coal ash spill at TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant, with Polen offering investors the opportunity to participate in the clean-up process and be reimbursed by the government at a profit. Polen's use of the three investment opportunities was all part of the same

Ponzi scheme because he routinely “rolled-over” funds from one investment to the next, and used incoming funds designated for one investment to pay-off investors in another.

Polen was successful in soliciting investors for the schemes, in large part, because of his reputation in Robertson County, Tennessee for being a savvy and trustworthy businessman with “insider” political connections. Polen had been active in local and state politics, having served in a variety of elected or appointed public positions, including County Commissioner for Robertson County, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Robertson County and had been appointed during the administration of former Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen to serve as a member of the Tennessee Collection Services Board, an appointment that Polen still held at the time he was arrested in March, 2011. Polen’s victims were unaware that he had a serious gambling problem, and needed a continuous flow of cash to support his gambling activities.