



SOCIAL SECURITY
Office of Management

Office of Disability Adjudication and Review
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 700
Falls Church, Virginia 22041
August 7, 2009

Mr. George H. Wienold
Chief Executive Officer
Bear Construction Company
1501 Rohlwing Road
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008

Dear Mr. Wienold:

From September 2008 (project inception) through May 2009, Bear Construction Company outstandingly managed and constructed a project for the Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review's National Hearing Center (NHC) at 200 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois. Establishment of SSA's NHCs is one of Commissioner Michael Astrue's relatively new initiatives to expedite disability hearings by connecting, via video-teleconference, to remote sites across the country. Because of our large backlog of cases and desire to better serve the public, there is an urgency to get NHCs established and operational.

The Chicago NHC project was fast-tracked to build-out over 21,000 usable square feet of space. Considering the tight timeframe, I was somewhat concerned about inferior workmanship or missteps; however, I could not have been more pleased with the outcome. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Mr. Michael Schultz, Project Executive with Bear Construction, for his superior management of this project, as well as the Bear team and all their sub-contractors.

Mr. Schultz never failed to demonstrate a tremendous positive, "can do" attitude and eagerness to satisfy the customer. He high-jumped over every hurdle and resolved a few inevitable construction challenges in addition to willingly changing course with late client revisions to the computer room. He always kept faith in the team. The final omissions and deficiencies list was made up primarily of minor items that were resolved quickly. Bear's workmanship is superb and the finished space is beautiful!

On July 29, Commissioner Astrue and other Agency upper-level executives attended an open house at the NHC and commended those who worked hard to prepare this space. The successful completion of the project was only the result of a great team. Please express my immense appreciation to Mr. Schultz and Bear's sub-contractors.

Sincerely,

Carole P. Hoffman
Sr. Project Manager

cc:
Michael D. Schultz
Project Executive, Bear Construction Company