



OFFICE OF  
COUNSEL

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

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GL-801165-00

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (COLLECTION) OP:CO

FROM: Gary D. Gray   
Assistant Chief Counsel (Collection, Bankruptcy and  
Summonses) CC:PA:CBS

SUBJECT Application of Surplus Levy Proceeds to Unlevied Periods

This advice is in response to your memorandum concerning the above subject. We have reconsidered our position taken in our April 19, 2000, memorandum and are now of the view that the surplus proceeds can be offset since a Collection Due Process notice is not required under I.R.C. § 6330(a)(1).

ISSUE:

Whether the Internal Revenue Service ("Service") may apply surplus levy proceeds to a tax period not included on the levy where such tax period is a period in which the taxpayer has not received a Collection Due Process Hearing Notice ("CDP notice"), or whether the Service must refund the surplus proceeds to the taxpayer.

CONCLUSION:

The Service may apply surplus levy proceeds to a tax period not included on the levy where such tax period is a period in which the taxpayer has not received a CDP Notice.

FACTS:

In a hypothetical factual situation, a levy served on intangibles lists a specific amount of tax liability for a specific tax period. Between the time of the levy and the receipt of the levy proceeds, a payment is posted to the tax period listed on the levy. The levy proceeds are received thereafter in an amount equal to that shown on the levy. The levy proceeds are posted to the tax period shown on the levy, and because of the intervening payment a credit now exists for the tax period. The taxpayer has another tax liability for a tax period not included on the levy in which the taxpayer has not received a CDP notice.

PMTA: 00382

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LAW AND ANALYSIS:

This is in response to your memorandum dated March 23, 2000, requesting our office to review an attached advisory opinion from the Pacific Northwest District Counsel regarding the application of surplus proceeds pertaining to the upcoming Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Levy Program.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In our memorandum we concluded that pursuant to section 6330(a)(1) the Service could not apply the surplus levy proceeds to the tax period not included on the levy. We stated that the Service was in effect levying the taxpayer's property to satisfy a tax liability for a tax period in which the taxpayer had not received a pre-levy CDP notice. After reconsidering the requirements of sections 6330 and 6402, we now believe that section 6330 does not apply to the application of surplus proceeds in this case because such application is not a levy. Pursuant to section 6342(b), surplus levy proceeds constitute an overpayment. Section 6402(a) provides that the Secretary may credit "any overpayment . . . against any liability . . ." In the hypothetical case scenario, the requirements for a CDP notice in section 6330(a)(1) were satisfied for the liabilities listed on the levy. Applying the surplus levy proceeds to a tax and tax period not included on the levy does not constitute an additional levy, but rather, an offset. Accordingly, the advice given in the April 19, 2000, memorandum is rescinded.

We note that the Service has procedures in place to minimize the occurrence of situations such as the one described here. See generally IRM 5.11.2.2.1, 21.9.4.4.1.11-13, 21.9.4.4.1.16 (provide conditions for releasing levies and issuing multiple simultaneous levies). For example, IRM section 21.9.4.4.1.12 provides that a partial levy release should be issued to avoid potential over collection in situations where payments or adjustments will reduce, but not fully pay, a liability

1: Section 6402(a) provides as follows:

(a) General Rule. – In the case of any overpayment, the Secretary, within the applicable period of limitations, may credit the amount of such overpayment, including any interest allowed thereon, against any liability in respect of an internal revenue tax on the part of the person who made the overpayment and shall, subject to subsections (c), (d), and (e) refund any balance to such person.

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for a tax period on which a levy is outstanding. In addition, this section provides the procedures for issuing partial levy releases in situations where multiple simultaneous levies were used. Another example is IRM section 21.9.4 4.1 16 which provides the limitations and controls for issuing multiple simultaneous levies. This section provides that Customer Service Field Operations must approve all Automated Collection System ("ACS") plans governing the use of multiple simultaneous levies to ensure that the ACS support function implements and adheres to procedural safeguards that minimize instances of over collection. Moreover, this section provides that all instances of over collection resulting from multiple simultaneous levies must be reported to management in order to determine if procedural improvements are necessary.

If you have any further questions, please contact Collection, Bankruptcy and Summonses, Branch 1 at (202) 622-3610.

cc. Assistant Regional Counsel (GL), Western Region