

CIPRIANI & WERNER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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October 24, 2023

Via Email

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
idtheft@oag.state.md.us

RE: Data Breach Notification

To Whom It May Concern:

We serve as counsel for Dollar Energy Fund ("DEF") located at 15 Terminal Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 and write to provide notification of a recent data breach. DEF is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for households experiencing hardship by providing utility assistance and other services that lead to self-sufficiency. DEF works with its utility company partners to provide these important services. By providing this notice, DEF does not waive any rights or defenses under Maryland law, including the data breach notification statute.

On February 5, 2023, DEF experienced a network disruption and immediately began an investigation, which included working with third-party specialists. The investigation determined that certain information stored on DEF's network was accessed by an unauthorized third-party between January 31, 2023 and February 5, 2023. Therefore, DEF engaged an additional vendor to assist in the review of potentially affected information.

On August 15, 2023, DEF completed its review and began confirming address information for potentially impacted individuals. The type of personal information involved included name and Social Security number. DEF identified approximately 15 Maryland residents who may have been impacted by this incident. Beginning on August 23, 2023, DEF notified its affected utility company partners of this incident.

DEF conducted individual notice on a rolling basis as its utility company partners approved the notices. On September 28, 2023, DEF began providing written notice to the potentially impacted individuals via U.S. mail, and DEF completed mailing individual notices on October 19, 2023. A copy of the notice is attached as **Exhibit A**. In an abundance of caution, DEF is offering the potentially impacted individuals complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services. Additionally, in response to this incident, DEF conducted an investigation, notified the FBI, changed network passwords, and reviewed its policies and procedures related to data protection.

Very truly yours,

CIPRIANI & WERNER, P.C.

By:



Michael J. Bonner, Esq.

EXHIBIT A

Dollar Energy Fund
c/o Cyberscout
PO Box 1286
Dearborn, MI 48120-9998



NAME
ADDRESS 1
ADDRESS 2
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE



DATE

Dear NAME:

Dollar Energy Fund works with its partners to provide vital utility assistance and other services to families in our communities. We write to notify you of an incident that may affect the privacy of certain information provided to us. This letter includes information about the incident, our response, and resources we are making available to you.

What Happened: On February 5, 2023, we experienced a network disruption that impacted our ability to access certain files on our network. We immediately reported the incident to law enforcement and began working with computer specialists. Our investigation determined that certain information stored on our network was accessed between January 31, 2023 and February 5, 2023. Therefore, in an abundance of caution, we are notifying potentially impacted individuals.

What Information Was Involved: The type of information potentially impacted may have included your name and the following: [VARIABLE TEXT- DATA ELEMENTS]

What We Are Doing: Upon discovering this incident, we immediately began an investigation and took steps to further protect our network. We are also providing potentially impacted individuals with access to complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services.

What You Can Do: We encourage you to enroll in the credit monitoring and identity protection services we are making available to you. Information about how to enroll in these services along with additional resources available to you are included in the attached *Steps You Can Take To Protect Your Information*.

For More Information: We understand you may have questions about this incident. You may contact our dedicated assistance line at 1-844-982-3714, 8 am to 8 pm ET (excluding major U.S. holidays) or write to us at 15 Terminal Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

We sincerely regret any concern this incident may cause you. The privacy and security of information is important to us, and we will continue to take steps to protect information in our care.

Sincerely,

Chad Quinn, CEO
Dollar Energy Fund

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STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

Enroll in Credit Monitoring / Identity Protection

In response to the incident, we are providing you with access to Credit Monitoring/Credit Report/Credit Score services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for twenty-four (24) months from the date of enrollment when changes occur to your credit file. This notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. Finally, we are providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions that you might have or in event that you become a victim of fraud. These services will be provided by Cyberscout through Identity Force, a TransUnion company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services.

To enroll in credit monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/dollarenergy> and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: [CODE]. In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. The enrollment requires an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

Monitor Your Accounts

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports/account statements for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. Once you receive your credit report, review it for discrepancies and identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting bureau.

You have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a one-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, you have the right to place a credit freeze on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without your express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a credit freeze may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a credit freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Address for the prior two to five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility or telephone bill;

6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (e.g., state driver's license or identification card); and
7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft, if you are a victim of identity theft.

Should you wish to place a fraud alert or credit freeze, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289 www.transunion.com	Experian 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com	Equifax 1-888-298-0045 www.equifax.com
TransUnion Fraud Alert P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016-2000	Experian Fraud Alert P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	Equifax Fraud Alert P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069
TransUnion Credit Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094	Experian Credit Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	Equifax Credit Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788

Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the credit reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or your state Attorney General. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The FTC may be reached at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement, your state Attorney General, and the FTC. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023; and www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov. Dollar Energy Fund, Inc. may be contacted at 15 Terminal Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

For New Mexico residents, you have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act: (i) the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; (ii) the consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; (iii) access to your file is limited; (iv) you must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; (v) you may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; (vi) and you may seek damages from violators. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active-duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage



you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, FTC, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For New York residents, the New York Attorney General may be contacted at Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; or <https://ag.ny.gov>.

For North Carolina residents, the North Carolina Attorney General may be contacted at 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000; and www.ncdoj.gov.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be contacted at 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; 1-401-274-4400; and www.riag.ri.gov. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are [#] Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.

For Washington, D.C. residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at 400 6th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-442-9828, and <https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection>. Dollar Energy Fund, Inc. may be contacted at 15 Terminal Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.