AGC-International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701 Trust Funds

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Administered by
Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc.

April 19, 2023

TO: **Participants, Beneficiaries, Contributing Employers and Bargaining Parties**
Defined Benefit Pension Plan of AGC-International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701 Pension Trust Fund

RE: **2022 Annual Funding Notice**

Dear Members:

The enclosed Annual Funding Notice is required by law and applies to the **2022** plan year. It compares the Plan's assets to its liabilities (basically, how much the Plan's cash and investments are worth divided by how much it is expected to pay out in the future) at the *beginning* of the Plan Year. As of January 1, 2022, the Plan was 108% funded.

The funded percentages above, and shown on page 1 of the enclosed notice, are based on the actuarial value of assets, which smooths out market fluctuations and is the basis upon which the Plan's zone status is determined under federal law.

Projection Looks Strong Despite Volatile Investment Markets in 2022

Preliminary numbers for 2022 are mixed:

- We had a **record high number of 3.3 million hours** during 2022 – great news for the health of the Plan.
- However, 2022 was a **rocky year for investments** – the return for the year is estimated to be about negative 11%.

For the 2023 Plan Year, the Plan was certified in the "green zone," reflecting a healthy plan.

When we smooth out market fluctuations, the estimated funded percentage for the Plan as of January 1, 2023 is 108%. On a market value basis, which reflects the value of assets on hand as of January 1, 2023 without smoothing, the Plan's funded percentage is estimated to be 92%.

We expect these kinds of ups and downs in the market value. Even with the negative investment return in 2022, the Plan is on track to be over 100% funded on a market basis in only a few years – if hours and investment returns match the assumptions.

Stronger funding let us make important improvements

Because of the work we've done together over the last decade to ensure regular increases to the Basic Contribution Rate plus continuing strong hours, we were able to make the following important improvements *again*:

- December 2022 – **13th check of $500 for all retirees**, surviving spouses, and beneficiaries receiving guaranteed payments, who were in pay status as of June 1, 2022
- Extension of **temporary suspension of return to work limit** through 2023 (while this suspension is in effect, retirees may work up to 1800 hours annually while continuing to receive their pension benefit).

These improvements are in addition to the **40% increase in the hourly benefit accrual rate** that we were able to make last year for hours worked in 2022 and later.

What does the future hold?

We've come a long way and our Plan's funding has improved significantly despite continuing turbulence in the investment market. While the U.S. economy continues to look strong, some are concerned about the impact of rising interest rates.

As 2022 proved once again, we can't rely on investment returns alone. That's why we will continue to focus on our long-term plan to ensure strong fundamentals that can carry the Plan through difficult periods and we will continue to make improvements when it's fiscally responsible to do so.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the Administration Office at (503) 657-9740, or (866) 697-5750.

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ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE
For
Defined Benefit Pension Plan of AGC-International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701 Pension Trust Fund

Introduction

This notice includes important information about the funding status of your multiemployer Pension Plan (the "Plan"). It also includes general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC"), a federal insurance agency. All traditional Pension Plans (called "defined benefit Pension Plans") must provide this notice every year regardless of their funding status. This notice does not mean that the Plan is terminating. It is provided for informational purposes and you are not required to respond in any way. This notice is required by federal law. This notice is for the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022 ("Plan Year").

How Well Funded Is Your Plan

The law requires the administrator of the Plan to tell you how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the "funded percentage." The Plan divides its assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date for the Plan Year to get this percentage. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the Plan. The Plan's funded percentage for the Plan Year and each of the two preceding Plan Years is shown in the chart below. The chart also states the value of the Plan's assets and liabilities for the same period.

Funded Percentage			
	2022	**2021**	**2020**
Valuation Date	1/1/2022	1/1/2021	1/1/2020
Funded Percentage	108.3%	94.2%	89.3%
Value of Assets	$362,802,077	$312,050,491	$295,101,827
Value of Liabilities	$335,003,177	$331,120,461	$330,171,087

Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date. They also are "actuarial values." Actuarial values differ from market values in that they do not fluctuate daily based on changes in the stock or other markets. Actuarial values smooth out those fluctuations and can allow for more predictable levels of future contributions. Despite the fluctuations, market values tend to show a clearer picture of a Plan's funded status at a given point in time. The asset values in the chart below are market values and are measured on the last day of the Plan Year. The chart also includes the year-end market value of the Plan's assets for each of the two preceding Plan Years.

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020
Fair Market Value of Assets	$316,300,000	$362,802,077	$325,382,661

Endangered, Critical, or Critical and Declining Status

Under federal pension law, a Plan generally is in "endangered" status if its funded percentage is less than 80 percent. A Plan is in "critical" status if the funded percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). A Plan is in "critical and declining" status if it is in critical status and is projected to become insolvent (run out of money to pay benefits) within 15 years (or within 20 years if a special rule applies). If a Pension Plan enters endangered status, the Trustees of the Plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a Pension Plan enters critical status or critical and declining status, the Trustees of the Plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Funding improvement and rehabilitation plans establish steps and benchmarks for Pension Plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time. The plan sponsor of a Plan in critical and declining status may apply for approval to amend the Plan to reduce current and future payment obligations to participants and beneficiaries.

The Plan was not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the Plan Year.

Participant Information

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the valuation date was 5,120. Of this number, 1,794 were current employees, 2,396 were retired and receiving benefits, and 930 were retired or no longer working for the employer and have a right to future benefits.

Funding & Investment Policies

Every Pension Plan must have a procedure to establish a funding policy for Plan objectives. A funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The funding policy of the Plan is to contribute at a level consistent with applicable bargained and special agreement contracts.

Pension Plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions for making investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan focuses on fully funding the accrued liability of the Plan, and achieving maximum returns at a reasonable risk for pension assets over a full market cycle and to maintain sufficient liquidity to meet benefit payment obligations.

Under the Plan's investment policy, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocations	Percentage:
Stocks	37%
Investment grade debt	14%
instruments	17%
High-yield debt instruments	20%
Real estate	12%
Other	

Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

Pension Plans must file annual reports with the US Department of Labor. The report is called the "Form 5500." These reports contain financial and other information. You may obtain an electronic copy of your Plan's annual report by going to www.efast.dol.gov and using the search tool. Annual reports also are available from the US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N1515, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling (202) 693-8673. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan's annual report by making a written request to the Plan Administrator. Annual reports do not contain personal information, such as the amount of your accrued benefit. You may contact your Plan Administrator if you want information about your accrued benefits. Your Plan Administrator is identified below under "Where To Get More Information."

Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal. The Plan Administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. A Plan is insolvent for a Plan Year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that Plan Year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC, below), the Plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the Plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the Plan's financial condition improves.

A Plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only benefits that you have earned a right to receive and that cannot be forfeited (called vested benefits) are guaranteed. There are separate insurance programs with different benefit guarantees and other provisions for single-employer plans and multiemployer plans. Your Plan is covered by PBGC's multiemployer program. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first $11 of the Plan's monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next $33 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited service. The PBGC's maximum guarantee, therefore, is $35.75 per month times a participant's years of credited service.

Example 1: If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of $600, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant's years of service ($600/10), which equals $60. The guaranteed amount for a $60 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of $11 plus $24.75 (.75 x $33), or $35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is $357.50 ($35.75 x 10).

Example 2: If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of $200, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be $20 (or $200/10). The guaranteed amount for a $20 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of $11 plus $6.75 (.75 x $9), or $17.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit would be $177.50 ($17.75 x 10).

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In addition, the PBGC guarantees qualified preretirement survivor benefits (which are preretirement death benefits payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies before starting to receive benefit payments). In calculating a person's monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under a plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan's termination or insolvency (or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency). Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

For additional information about the PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees, go to the Multiemployer Page on PBGC's website at www.pbgc.gov/multiemployer. Please contact your employer or Plan Administrator for specific information about your Pension Plan or pension benefit. PBGC does not have that information. See "Where to Get More Information," below.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact:

WPAS, Inc of Oregon
15 82nd Drive, Suite 110
Gladstone, Oregon 97027

Phone: (503) 657-9740
Toll Free: (866) 697-5750

For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor's name and employer identification number or "EIN" is Board of Trustees, AGC-International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701 Pension Trust Fund and 93-6075580.