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## ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

For  
 North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters' Pension Fund  
*Plan Year Beginning January 1, 2018*

### 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, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018 ("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.

<b>Funded Percentage</b>			
	2018	2017	2016
Valuation Date	January 1, 2018	January 1, 2017	January 1, 2016
Funded Percentage	74.3%	71.7%	74.8%
Value of Assets	\$1,267,563,309	\$1,213,882,497	\$1,170,261,746
Value of Liabilities	\$1,706,422,389	\$1,691,861,557	\$1,571,536,394

### 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, 2018	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$1,243,893,833	\$1,326,934,931*	\$1,177,118,564

\* Revision to figure listed on previous Annual Funding Notice which was estimated.

### 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 in "endangered" status in the Plan Year because of an estimated funded ratio of 75.0%, no projected funding deficiency in the funding standard account within 10 years and no projected insolvency within 30 years. In an effort to improve the Plan's funding situation, the trustees adopted a funding improvement plan on March 30, 2018. The funding improvement period is January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2030 or the date the Fund's Actuary certifies it has emerged from endangered status.

The Trustees adopted a new funding improvement plan during the plan year. The key features of the schedules contained in this plan are:

1. Maintain a contribution rate of at least the rate that is set forth in each employer's current Collective Bargaining Agreement for every year that the Fund is in endangered status, and
2. Maintain the Plan of benefits in effect as of the day before the date of certification of endangered status (March 30, 2018), for all current and future active participants and for every year that the Fund is in endangered status.

Federal law requires the Board of Trustees to monitor the progress toward achieving the objectives and annual standards of the funding improvement plan. The Board of Trustees remains committed to the proper funding of your pension benefits and assures you that they will

take appropriate actions to meet this goal. The funding improvement plan and its objectives and annual standards are based on a number of assumptions about future experience and may have to be adjusted if those assumptions are not met. Additional contribution rate increases and/or benefit reductions might be required. You will receive a separate notice identifying and explaining any additional changes in benefits, if necessary, and you will receive an annual notice, like this one, identifying any event that has a material effect on Plan assets or liabilities.

You may get a copy of the Plan's funding improvement plan, any update to such plan, and the actuarial and financial data that demonstrate any action taken by the plan toward fiscal improvement. You may get this information by contacting the plan administrator. You may also obtain this information at [www.ncscbf.com](http://www.ncscbf.com).

If the Plan is in endangered, critical or critical and declining status for the plan year ending December 31, 2019, separate notification of that status has or will be provided.

### Participant Information

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the valuation date of January 1, 2018 was 17,912. Of this number, 8,620 were current employees, 5,466 were retired and receiving benefits, and 3,171 were retired or no longer working for the employer and have a right to future benefits, and 655 were beneficiaries who are receiving or entitled to receive 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 designed to achieve investment results that will culminate in promised plan benefits being ultimately paid to plan participants and their beneficiaries. The Plan is funded by contributions made by employers pursuant to collective bargaining agreements with the Unions representing the Plan's Participants. The Trustees of the Plan monitor contributions with the assistance of the Plan's actuary to determine whether the contributions remain adequate to fund benefits in accordance with the law.

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 is to maximize the total rate of return subject to the preservation of capital. Preservation of capital encompasses two goals--minimizing the risk of loss of principal for the Plan as a whole and minimizing the erosion of principal value through inflation. The primary means by which capital preservation is to be achieved is through diversification of the Plan's investments across various asset classes. The appropriate level of risk for the Plan is determined by examining the risk and reward of numerous asset allocation alternatives as suggested by the Plan's Investment Consultant. Within each asset group, further diversification is to be achieved through investment in securities across numerous industries and sectors as determined by the investment managers in accordance with the investment policy and with manager specific guidelines.

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:

<b>Asset Allocations</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1. Cash (Interest bearing and non-interest bearing)	1.14%
2. U.S. Government securities	6.87%
3. Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	4.83%
All other	
4. Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	
Common	27.53%
5. Partnership/joint venture interests	15.72%
6. Real estate (other than employer real property)	
7. Loans (other than to participants)	
8. Participant loans	
9. Value of interest in common/collective trusts	21.95%
10. Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	
11. Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1.53%
12. Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	3.26%
13. Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	
14. Employer-related investments:	
Employer Securities	
Employer real property	0.01%
15. Buildings and other property used in plan operation	
16. Other	17.16%

For information about the Plan's investment in any of the following types of investments—common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts or 103-12 investment entities – contact the Fund Office at P.O. Box 4002, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54702, (715) 835-3174.

#### 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](http://www.efast.dol.gov) and using the search tool. Annual reports are also available from the US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, 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 ( $.75 \times \$33$ ), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 ( $\$35.75 \times 10$ ).

*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 ( $.75 \times \$9$ ), or \$17.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 ( $\$17.75 \times 10$ ).

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](http://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 About Your Plan," below.

#### Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact Fund Office at P.O. Box 4002, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54702 or by calling (715) 835-3174. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor's name and employer identification number or "EIN" is the Board of Trustees of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters' Pension Fund and 39-6079856.