

# LOUISIANA CARPENTERS PENSION PLAN

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## NOTICE OF CRITICAL STATUS

July 22, 2009

EIN: 51-0163535

Plan No.: 001

To: Participants, Beneficiaries, Participating Unions and Contributing Employers

This notice is to inform you that on July 17, 2009 the Board of Trustees of the Louisiana Carpenters Pension Plan ("Trustees") requested that the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") revoke the election to "freeze" the status of the Louisiana Carpenters Pension Plan ("Plan"). You previously received a notice on April 27, 2009 indicating that although the Plan was in critical status for the 2009 Plan Year, the Trustees elected to "freeze" the status at the prior year's funding level and that no changes to the Plan's benefit structure would be required under the law for the 2009 Plan Year.

Since that time, the IRS has issued guidance explaining this election to freeze, provided additional time to make such determination, and clarified the Plan's ability to elect an additional three years to improve the funding status of the Plan. Because the Trustees have determined that the additional three years to improve the funding status of the Plan is extremely beneficial to improving the Plan's financial health, the Trustees have revoked the previous election filed with the IRS. Revoking this election causes the Plan to be in critical status for the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2009. Federal law requires that you receive this notice and be advised of the Plan's classification of critical status.

### CRITICAL STATUS

The Plan is considered to be in critical status because it has funding or liquidity problems, or both. More specifically, the Plan's actuary has determined that the sum of the Plan's normal cost and interest on the unfunded benefits for the current Plan Year exceeds the present value of all expected contributions for the year; the present value of vested benefits of inactive participants is greater than the present value of vested benefits of active participants; and over the current plan year and the next four plan years, the Plan is projected to have an accumulated funding deficiency for the 2013 Plan Year.

### REHABILITATION PLAN AND POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTION IN BENEFITS

Federal law requires pension plans in critical status to adopt a rehabilitation plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the plan. As part of the rehabilitation plan, the law permits pension plans to reduce, or even eliminate, benefits called "adjustable benefits." If the Trustees determine that benefit reductions are necessary, you will receive a separate notice in the future identifying and explaining the effect of those reductions. Any reduction of adjustable benefits will not reduce the level of your basic benefit payable at normal retirement age. The reduction or elimination of

adjustable benefits will apply to Participants and beneficiaries whose benefit commencement date is on or after September 1, 2009.

But you should know that whether or not the Plan reduces adjustable benefits in the future, effective as of July 22, 2009, the Plan is not permitted to pay lump sum benefits (or any other payment in excess of the monthly amount paid under a single life annuity) while it is in critical status. Consequently, the Plan will not pay the lump sum payment of the Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Pension, the remaining portion of the 36 month guarantee lump sum payment, or the lump sum pre-retirement death benefit, except as otherwise permitted under law.

## **ADJUSTABLE BENEFITS**

The Plan offers the following adjustable benefits which may be reduced or eliminated as part of any rehabilitation plan as determined by the bargaining parties in collective bargaining:

1. Disability benefits (if not yet in pay status);
2. The Rule of 85 and the Early Retirement Benefit;
3. Other similar benefits, rights or features under the Plan.

## **EMPLOYER SURCHARGE**

The law requires that all contributing employers pay to the Plan a surcharge to help correct the plan's financial situation. The amount of the surcharge is equal to a percentage of the amount an employer is otherwise required to contribute to the Plan under the applicable collective bargaining agreement. With some exceptions, a 5% surcharge is applicable in the initial critical year and a 10% surcharge is applicable for each succeeding plan year thereafter in which the Plan is in critical status, until the employer agrees to a collective bargaining agreement or similar agreement that implements schedules consistent with the rehabilitation plan. The 5% surcharge is payable on work performed on or after August 21, 2009 until December 31, 2009, and the 10% surcharge is payable with respect to work performed after that, until a collective bargaining agreement that satisfies the rehabilitation plan goes into effect.

The surcharges will be disregarded in determining benefits and withdrawal liability, as required by law.

## **WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about this Notice, you may contact the Administrative Manager at the Fund Office at 8875 Greenwell Springs Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70814 or call (888) 922-3002 ext 110 or 108 or (225) 927-6068 ext 110 or 108. You have a right to receive a copy of the rehabilitation plan adopted by the Trustees.

**PLEASE CALL THE FUND OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS NOTICE.**