

**NOTICE OF CRITICAL STATUS
FOR THE PLAN YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2010
FOR THE NORTHWEST OHIO UFCW UNION AND
EMPLOYERS' JOINT PENSION FUND**

April 1, 2010

TO: Participants, Beneficiaries, Retirees, Participating Employers and United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 75.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("PPA"), a Federal law, amended ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code to, among other things, impose additional funding rules for multiemployer pension plans, that are based upon the actuarial status of the plan. These new rules require multiemployer pension plans to be evaluated by actuaries in order to assess the long-term financial health of the plan, including whether the pension plan has a current or projected funding deficiency. If certain conditions are present, the multiemployer pension plan will be required by law to implement a plan to improve the funding. Generally, the multiemployer pension plan's actuary must certify to the Secretary of Treasury and the plan sponsor whether or not the multiemployer pension plan's funding status is "Endangered" or "Seriously Endangered", commonly referred to as in the "Yellow Zone", or "Critical", commonly referred to as in the "Red Zone" for the plan year.

For the Northwest Ohio UFCW Union and Employers' Joint Pension Fund ("Pension Fund"), these new rules took effect for the Pension Fund's plan year beginning January 1, 2008. As you are aware, the Board of Trustees for the Northwest Ohio UFCW Union and Employers' Joint Pension Fund ("Trustees"), as the plan sponsor, has taken steps in the past several years to bring the Pension Fund's liabilities into balance with its assets through increases in contribution rates and reduction or elimination of certain benefits. Despite these efforts, there still remains a funding shortfall that must be addressed in order for the Pension Fund to comply with requirements of the PPA.

The Pension Fund's Actuarial Status for 2010

The purpose of this Notice is to inform you that on March 31, 2010, the Pension Fund's actuary certified to the Secretary of Treasury and the Trustees that the Pension Fund is in Critical Status for the plan year beginning January 1, 2010. The PPA requires that as an interested party you receive this Notice.

The actuary has certified that the Pension Fund is in the Red Zone for the 2010 plan year because the Pension Fund is projected to have an accumulated funding deficiency for the plan year beginning January 1, 2013.

Based upon this determination that the Pension Fund is in the Red Zone, in order to comply with the PPA, the Trustees are required to take additional steps to improve the funding of the Pension Fund in order to exit the Red Zone as described further in the next section.

The Pension Fund's Rehabilitation Plan and Changes in Adjustable Benefits

Once the Pension Fund is certified in the Red Zone, the Trustees must develop a plan to restore the financial health of the Pension Fund, referred to as a "Rehabilitation Plan." The PPA allows the Pension Fund to reduce, or even eliminate, benefits called "Adjustable Benefits" as part of the Rehabilitation Plan. This Rehabilitation Plan must include at least one schedule that describes the benefit adjustments or the combination of benefit adjustments and contribution rate increases that are necessary for the Pension Fund to emerge from the Red Zone. While the Trustees have the ability to develop multiple schedules, the PPA requires that the Trustees develop a schedule called the "Default Schedule" which reduces all Adjustable Benefits to the maximum extent allowable by law, prior to requiring any contribution rate increases. The law also permits the Trustees to develop an Alternative Schedule. The Trustees have adopted the Rehabilitation Plan containing Default Schedules and Alternative Schedules. The Trustees are hereby providing a summary of the Rehabilitation Plan, containing these Schedules, to United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 75 and Contributing Employers (collectively referred to as "bargaining parties"). The bargaining parties must negotiate either a Default Schedule or an Alternative Schedule, which then becomes part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Even after the Rehabilitation Plan is adopted by the Trustees and negotiated by the bargaining parties, the Trustees must review the Rehabilitation Plan annually and make adjustments as necessary to keep the Pension Fund on track to emerge from the Red Zone. This may require future changes to the Rehabilitation Plan which may include new Schedules that require additional reductions to Adjustable Benefits (described below) and/or contribution rate increases.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the interpretation of Internal Revenue Code Section 432(e)(1) regarding adjustable benefits, there are two Default Schedules. If the bargaining parties cannot agree on a Default Schedule or Alternative Schedule, and the uncertainty surrounding the interpretation of Internal Revenue Code Section has not been resolved, then the issue of which of the two Default Schedules to be imposed by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Code Section 432(c)(7) will be subject to arbitration.

The PPA defines certain types of benefits that are considered "Adjustable Benefits" which can be reduced or even eliminated as part of the Rehabilitation Plan even if they might otherwise be protected under ERISA's anti-cutback rules. The term Adjustable Benefits generally includes all of the following:

1. Any right to receive a retirement benefit prior to Normal Retirement Age; and
2. Any early retirement benefit or retirement type subsidy including the Early Retirement Benefit and the age 55/30 Year-and-Out Service Pension under the Pension Fund; and

3. All disability benefits not yet in pay status; and
4. All post-retirement death benefits that are not part of an annuity form of payment; and
5. All pro rata pensions to the extent that they are contingent on eligibility to receive one of the adjustable benefits under this Pension Fund; and
6. Any benefit payment form other than the qualified joint and survivor annuity; and
7. All benefits, rights and features under the plan that are not otherwise referenced above; and
8. All benefit increases that would not be eligible for a guarantee under ERISA Section 4022A on the first day of Pension Fund's critical year because the increase was adopted (or if later took effect) less than 60 months prior to January 1, 2010.

Any changes to Adjustable Benefits which are adopted as part of the Rehabilitation Plan **will not** reduce the level of any participant's accrued benefit payable at Normal Retirement Age, with the exception of a repeal of recent benefit increases, if any, as noted in item 8 above. Additionally, these reductions will not apply to the monthly pension check of any retiree or beneficiary that started receiving his or her benefits on or before April 1, 2010, the date of this Notice.

Notification that Employer Surcharges may be Required in Certain Circumstances

Once a multiemployer pension plan is certified in the Red Zone, the PPA requires that all contributing employers pay a surcharge to the Pension Fund to help improve the funding situation. Surcharges are additional contributions paid to the Pension Fund at the same time and in the same manner as the regular contributions. The amount of this surcharge is in addition to the amount an employer is otherwise required to contribute to the Pension Fund under the applicable collective bargaining agreement. With some exceptions, a 5% surcharge applies for the initial plan year that the Plan is in the Red Zone, and increases to 10% for succeeding plan years until it is no longer applicable. In the case of the bargaining parties for this Pension Fund, the 5% surcharge will apply to contributions under the collective bargaining agreement for work performed on and after May 1, 2010, which is 30 days after this Notice. The surcharge will increase to 10% as of January 1, 2011. Once the bargaining parties negotiate either the Default Schedule or the Alternative Schedule provided under the Rehabilitation Plan (with such negotiation to include the commencement of contributions consistent with the negotiated Schedule, pursuant to the requirements of the Rehabilitation Plan), the obligation for the Contributing Employer to pay the surcharges is eliminated.

Where to Get More Information

The PPA requires that the plan actuary determine the Pension Fund's status each year and that a Notice of such status be provided to all interested parties annually. The PPA also requires that this Notice be provided to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and the Secretary of Labor. A summary of the Rehabilitation Plan is enclosed. You have the right to receive a copy of the complete Rehabilitation Plan from the Pension Fund upon request.

For more information about this Notice, you may contact the Board of Trustees, Pension Fund office, 9970 Old Airport Highway, Monclova, Ohio 43542, phone number (419) 865-8041 or (800) 567-5899.