

**Notice of Critical Status  
Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Plan**

This is to inform you that on March 29, 2024, the plan actuary certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and also to the plan sponsor, that the plan is in critical status for the plan year beginning January 1, 2024. Federal law requires that you receive this notice.

**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 determined that the plan has an accumulated funding deficiency for the current plan year, and pursuant to section 4262(m) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and the regulations thereunder, the plan is deemed to be in critical status through 2051 due to its receipt of Special Financial Assistance (SFA).

The plan's application for SFA under the ARPA was approved by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), and on January 12, 2023, the plan received \$35,764,910,109.99 in SFA. Due to the receipt of the SFA, the plan projects that it will no longer become insolvent, but instead will be funded well into the future.

**Rehabilitation Plan**

Federal law requires pension plans in critical status to adopt a rehabilitation plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the plan. This is the second year the plan has been in critical status after the prior eight years of being in critical and declining status (such status was added by the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA)). The seven years before that the plan was in critical status. The law permits pension plans to reduce, or even eliminate, benefits called "adjustable benefits" as part of a rehabilitation plan. If your adjustable benefits were reduced or eliminated, you would have received a separate notice. On April 8, 2008, the plan sent notification that, as of April 8, 2008, 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. If the trustees of the plan determine that further 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 (other than a repeal of a recent benefit increase, as described below) will not reduce the level of a participant's basic benefit payable at normal retirement. In addition, the reductions may only apply to participants and beneficiaries whose benefit commencement date is on or after April 8, 2008.

**Adjustable Benefits**

The plan offers the following adjustable benefits which may be reduced or eliminated as part of any rehabilitation plan the pension plan may adopt:

- Post-retirement death benefits;
- Sixty-month payment guarantees;
- Disability benefits (if not yet in pay status);
- Early retirement benefit or retirement-type subsidy;
- Benefit payment options other than a qualified joint-and survivor annuity (QJSA);
- Recent benefit increases (i.e., occurring in past 5 years);
- 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.

#### **Where to Get More Information**

For more information about this Notice, you may contact Thomas C. Nyhan, Executive Director, Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Plan, 8647 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, phone number 1-800-323-5000. You have a right to receive a copy of the rehabilitation plan from the plan.