



**PENSION TRUST FUND • WELFARE FUND • RETIREE WELFARE PLAN  
VACATION SAVINGS PLAN • RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT FUND**

6150 JOLIET ROAD, COUNTRYSIDE, IL 60525-3994

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**JAMES M. SWEENEY, CHAIRMAN / DAVID M. SNELTEN, SECRETARY-TREASURER**

July 2024

To All Participants and Beneficiaries of the Midwest Operating Engineers Pension Trust Fund:

As you know, the **Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006 and the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA)** requires us to put in place several safeguards to measure the financial health of our pension plan and to certify the financial status each year.

Starting with the 2008-2009 Plan Year, the Fund's actuary determined our Plan's financial condition under these new funding standards and certified our Plan's status accordingly – and you have been receiving PPA-required notices regarding the Plan's funding status since that time. Actuarial certifications for meeting PPA funding standards include:

- **Green zone** pension plans are considered to be in good financial health
- **Yellow zone** pension plans are considered to be in endangered status or seriously endangered status
- **Red zone** pension plans are considered to be in critical status or critical and declining status.

For compliance purposes, Trustees of plans in the yellow or red zones must take corrective action to restore the financial health of the plan (i.e., adopting Funding Improvement Plan or Rehabilitation Plan, respectively). Trustees for plans in the green zone are not required by law to take any action although the Trustees may need to address funding issues at some point in the future.

Trustees must also provide written notification to all plan participants, beneficiaries, participating unions, and contributing employers if the Plan's status is in the yellow or red zone.

This notice provides an update on our Plan's funding status and background on the Fund's Annual Funding Notice.

### **Our Plan's Funding Status – Green Zone**

We are pleased to announce that our Plan continues to be certified as being Green/in good financial condition for the 2024-2025 Plan Year.

As you know, Pension plans with a funding status of good financial health must have a funded percentage of at least 80% and meet other conditions as well. We continue to meet these requirements.

## **Annual Funding Notice**

As in past years, the Trustees have provided an Annual Funding Notice that provides detailed information about the Fund for the prior 2023-2024 Plan Year. The Annual Funding Notice also provides additional information regarding Plan assets and liabilities. Please note that the Annual Funding Notice is for the prior 2023-2024 Plan Year while this Green Zone notice is for the current 2024-2025 Plan Year.

## **Next Steps**

The Fund's actuary will review and certify our Plan's funding status each year, as specified by the PPA. Although our objective is to maintain the "green zone" status, there are a number of variables, beyond our control, that our advisors will monitor from year to year. Examples of these variables include investment market volatility, as well as changes in employment levels.

## **A Final Note**

As your Trustees, we work diligently to ensure the Fund's financial health, and we use professional advisors such as actuaries, investment consultants, administrators, and legal advisors, to evaluate the Plan on an ongoing basis. Our continuing commitment is to provide you and your family with secure retirement benefits – to ensure that the Plan has the necessary assets to fund benefits when you retire. We believe that our Fund will continue to do so in the future.

Please take some time to review the enclosed notices. If you have any questions, contact the Midwest Operating Engineers Fringe Benefit Funds' office (6150 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois 60525-3956; 708-482-7300).

Sincerely,

*The Board of Trustees*

Midwest Operating Engineers Pension Fund

**ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE**  
**FOR**  
**MIDWEST OPERATING ENGINEERS 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 April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 (“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, are 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>			
	2023 Plan Year	2022 Plan Year	2021 Plan Year
Valuation Date	<b>April 1, 2023</b>	<b>April 1, 2022</b>	<b>April 1, 2021</b>
Funded Percentage	91.7%	92.5%	91.0%
Value of Assets	\$5,699,285,224	\$5,541,030,193	\$5,316,842,683
Value of Liabilities	6,216,754,542	5,987,067,750	5,839,785,140

## 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.

	March 31, 2024*	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$5,604,301,136	\$5,171,292,367	\$5,589,711,738

\* Preliminary Value

## 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.

As of April 1, 2023, the Plan was certified as neither critical nor endangered (that is, in the Green Zone).

As of April 1, 2024, the Plan was also certified as neither critical nor endangered (that is, in the Green Zone).

## Participant Information

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the valuation date was 31,102. Of this number, 12,949 were current employees, 12,367 were retired and receiving benefits, and 5,786 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 the Plan is funded by contributions made by contributing employers pursuant to the terms of collective bargaining agreements, and other agreements, to which the contributing employers and unions representing Plan participants are signatory. Participant contributions are not permitted under the Plan and therefore are not a source of funding Plan benefits. The investment earnings on the contributions made to the Plan are also a source of funding.

Pension plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions given to the plan's fiduciaries for making investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan is to manage the investments of the Plan with the primary focus being preservation of capital. Emphasis will be placed on participation with the fixed income and equity broad market averages during times of rising markets and preservation of capital during periods of market contraction. Additionally, given the decision to seek out and retain investment managers, it is the Plan's desire to earn total returns (income plus capital gains) in excess of major indices of each asset class over a typical market cycle.

The portfolio will be rebalanced on a regular basis to bring the asset allocation of the Fund in line with the minimum and maximum ranges.

The performance objective of the Plan is to meet or exceed the Plan's actuarial interest rate assumption of 7.0% on a fiscal year basis over a rolling five-year period.

Secondarily, the performance objective of the Plan is to outperform the risk-adjusted return net of fees of a composite mix outlined below. This objective should be met over a market cycle, typically defined as a period not less than three years or more than five years.

- 43% Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate (Fixed Income, Infrastructure)
- 35% Wilshire 5000 Index (US Equity)
- 10% MSCI ACWI ex US (International Equity)
- 12% NCREIF (Real Estate)

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)	1.59
2.	U.S. Government securities	3.06
3.	Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preferred</li> <li>• All other</li> </ul>	0.00 11.46
4.	Corporate stocks (other than employer securities): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preferred</li> <li>• Common</li> </ul>	0.00 5.23
5.	Partnership/ joint venture interests	9.75
6.	Real estate (other than employer real property)	13.17
7.	Loans (other than to participants)	0.00
8.	Participant loans	0.00
9.	Value of interest in common/ collective trusts	55.13
10.	Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	0.00
11.	Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	0.00
12.	Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	0.00
13.	Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	0.61
14.	Employer-related investments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employer Securities</li> <li>• Employer real property</li> </ul>	0.00 0.00
15.	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	0.00
16.	Other	0.00

For information about the Plan's investment in any of the common/collective trusts, contact Mr. Thomas Bernstein, Administrative Manager at Midwest Operating Engineers Fringe Benefit Funds, 6150 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois 60525-3994 or call (708) 482-7300.

### **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 also are 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 <https://www.pbgc.gov/prac/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 the individual below.

Mr. Thomas Bernstein  
Administrative Manager  
Midwest Operating Engineers Fringe Benefit Funds  
6150 Joliet Road  
Countryside, Illinois 60525-3956  
(708) 482-7300

For identification purposes, the official Plan number is 001 and the Plan sponsor's employer name and employer identification number or "EIN" is Trustees of the Midwest Operating Engineers Pension Trust Fund and 36-6140097.

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