

## ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

For

### **IBEW Local Union No. 22/NECA Defined Benefit Pension Fund, Plan "A"**

#### **Introduction**

This notice includes important information about the funding status of your multiemployer pension plan ("the Plan") and 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, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 ("Plan Year").

#### **How Well Funded Is Your Plan**

Under federal law, the plan must report how well it is funded by using a measure called the "funded percentage." This percentage is obtained by dividing the Plan's assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date for the plan year. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. Your Plan's funded percentage for the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years is set forth in the chart below, along with a statement of the value of the Plan's assets and liabilities for the same period.

<b>Funded Percentage</b>			
	2017	2016	2015
Valuation Date	January 1	January 1	January 1
Funded Percentage	97.1%	94.7%	96.4%
Value of Assets	\$110,166,078	\$102,314,956	\$94,018,357
Value of Liabilities	\$113,497,753	\$108,018,414	\$97,566,185

#### **Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets**

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date for the plan year and 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, 2017	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2015
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$121,198,394	\$106,396,853	\$100,543,885

### **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. Rehabilitation and funding improvement 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 not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the Plan Year.

### **Participant Information**

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the valuation date was 2,068. Of this number, 992 were active participants, 641 were retired and receiving benefits, and 435 were retired or no longer working for an employer and entitled to future benefits.

### **Funding & Investment Policies**

Every pension plan must have a procedure for establishing a funding policy to carry out plan objectives. A funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The funding policy of the Plan is based on contributions to the Plan by participating employers in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement. The collective bargaining agreement requires that each participating employer contribute to the Plan a certain amount for each hour worked by a collectively bargained employee in covered employment. The current contribution rates under the collective bargaining agreements are intended to pay for the benefits promised under the Plan when taking into consideration projected annual investment returns on Plan assets and projected Plan liabilities.

Once money is contributed to the Plan, the money is invested by plan officials called fiduciaries, who make specific investments in accordance with the Plan's investment

policy. Generally speaking, an investment policy is a written statement that provides the fiduciaries who are responsible for plan investments with guidelines or general instructions concerning investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan includes the overall investment objectives of the Plan which is to preserve the assets of the Plan and to maintain a reasonable probability that the assets of the Plan will generate sufficient returns while assuming a prudent amount of risk to meet the future obligations of the Plan over a long-term time horizon. All investment-related decisions are made in the best interests and for the benefit of the Plan's participants. Diversification of assets is the primary tool that the Plan's Board of Trustees uses to manage risk. By allocating investments across a variety of asset classes and strategies, the variability (i.e. volatility) of returns is reduced. Over time, reducing this variability results in higher portfolio value and improves the likelihood that its investment objectives are met. The portfolio's current target asset allocation mix is 50% equity, 40% fixed income and 10% real estate. The equity allocation is further diversified by market capitalization, investment style and geography, while the fixed income portfolio is further diversified by maturity, sector and industry exposure and the real estate allocation is diversified by property type, geography and industries. The assets can be held in common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts as well as privately managed separate accounts. The Plan's asset allocation mix is continually monitored and reviewed to ensure that it is appropriate given the Plan's investment objectives and guidelines, the current size of the portfolio, the Plan's liability stream and risk tolerances.

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)	3.52%
2. U.S. Government securities	16.33%
3. Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	12.01%
All other	
4. Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	
Common	
5. Partnership/joint venture interests	
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	8.37%
10. Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	
11. Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	
12. Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	12.07%
13. Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	20.26%
14. Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	
15. Employer-related investments:	
Employer Securities	

Employer real property	_____
16. Buildings and other property used in plan operation	_____
17. Other	_____17.44%_____

For information about the plan's investment in any of the following types of investments as described in the chart above – common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trust investment accounts, or 103-12 investment entities – contact BeneSys Inc., at 402-592-3753, 8960 “L” Street, Suite 101 Omaha NE 68127.

### **Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report**

A pension plan is required to file with the US Department of Labor an annual report called the Form 5500 that contains financial and other information about the plan. Copies of the annual report 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. For 2009 and subsequent plan years, you may obtain an electronic copy of the plan's annual report by going to [www.efast.dol.gov](http://www.efast.dol.gov) and using the Form 5500 search function. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan's annual report by making a written request to the plan administrator or downloading the report from the Plan's website at [www.22benefits.com](http://www.22benefits.com). Individual information, such as the amount of your accrued benefit under the plan, is not contained in the annual report. If you are seeking information regarding your benefits under the plan, contact the plan administrator 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 can not be forfeited (called vested benefits) are guaranteed. 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 \$500, 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 ( $\$500/10$ ), which equals \$50. The guaranteed amount for a \$50 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 surviving 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 the 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" below.

## **Where to Get More Information**

For more information about this notice, you may contact BeneSys, Inc. at 402-592-3753, 8960 "L" Street, Suite 101, Omaha NE 68127. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001, the plan sponsor's name is the IBEW Local Union No. 22/NECA Joint Board of Trustees, and the plan sponsor's employer identification number or "EIN" is 47-6061061.