

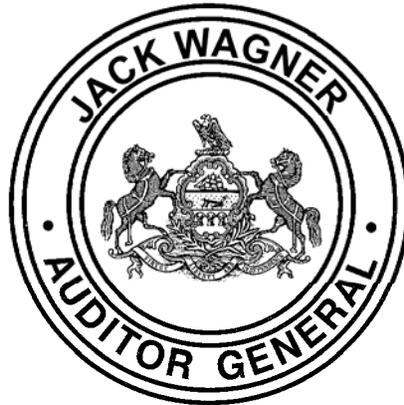
SWISSVALE BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2009



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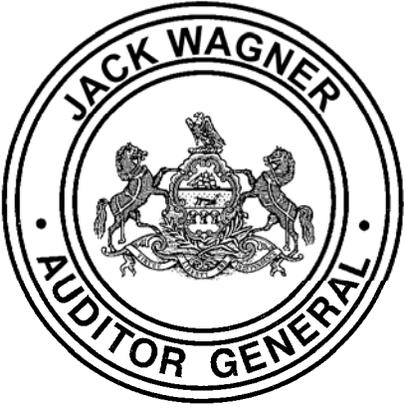
BACKGROUND

On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.). The act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state aid to Pennsylvania's public pension plans. Section 402(j) of Act 205 specifically requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to make an audit of every municipality which receives general municipal pension system State aid and of every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system State aid is deposited.

Pension plan aid is provided from a 2 percent foreign casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign fire insurance tax designated for paid firefighters and any investment income earned on the collection of these taxes. Generally, municipal pension plans established prior to December 18, 1984, are eligible for state aid. For municipal pension plans established after that date, the sponsoring municipality must fund the plan for three plan years before it becomes eligible for state aid. In accordance with Act 205, a municipality's annual state aid allocation cannot exceed its actual pension costs.

In addition to Act 205, the Swissvale Borough Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes.

As further described in the Letter from the Auditor General included in this report, the borough's nonuniformed union employees participate in the Western Pennsylvania Teamsters and Employers Pension Fund. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its nonuniformed union employees. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute \$114 per week per member.



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council
Swissvale Borough
Allegheny County
Swissvale, PA 15218

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Swissvale Borough Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2009. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was to determine if the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objective identified above. The borough's nonuniformed union employees participate in the Western Pennsylvania Teamsters and Employers Pension Fund, a Taft-Hartley Act collectively bargained, jointly trustee, multi-employer pension plan, which is governed primarily by the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides for substantial federal government oversight of the operating and reporting practices of employee benefit plans subject to its provisions. Accordingly, the scope of our audit was restricted to the activities of the Swissvale Borough Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan and did not extend to the activities of the multi-employer pension plan.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Swissvale Borough Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. In conducting our audit, we obtained an understanding of the borough's internal controls as they relate to the borough's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of our audit objective, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures and interviewed selected officials to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Swissvale Borough Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following finding further discussed later in this report:

Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Swissvale Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

February 25, 2011

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

SWISSVALE BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

Condition: The borough failed to certify one eligible nonuniformed union employee (1 unit) in 2010 on Certification Form AG 385.

Criteria: Pursuant to Act 205, at Section 402(e)(2), an employee who has been employed on a full-time basis for at least six consecutive months and has been participating in a pension plan during the certification year is eligible for certification.

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data certified.

Effect: The data submitted on this certification form is used, in part, to calculate the state aid due to the municipality for distribution to its pension plans. Because the borough’s state aid allocation was based on unit value, the borough received an underpayment of state aid of \$3,235 as identified below:

<u>Units</u> <u>Understated</u>	<u>Unit</u> <u>Value</u>	<u>State Aid</u> <u>Underpayment</u>
1	\$3,235	\$ 3,235

Although the borough will be reimbursed for the underpayment of state aid due to the borough’s certification error, the full amount of the 2010 state aid allocation was not available to be deposited timely and therefore was not available to pay operating expenses or for investment.

Recommendation: We recommend that plan officials establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure compliance with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data.

Management’s Response: Municipal officials agreed with the finding without exception.

SWISSVALE BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2004	\$ 35,646	\$ 20,322
2005	None	58,656
2006	None	62,400
2007	None	63,388
2008	None	61,218
2009	None	66,462

SWISSVALE BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Swissvale Borough Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan
Allegheny County
7560 Roslyn Street
Swissvale, PA 15218

The Honorable Deneen Swartzwelder	Mayor
Mr. David Petrarca	Council President
Ms. Amanda J. Ford	Borough Secretary

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, Room 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter, you may contact the Department of the Auditor General by accessing our website at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us.