

**FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN**

**BEAVER COUNTY**

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

**JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2010**





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### ABBREVIATION

PMRS - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System



## 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 Freedom Borough Nonuniformed 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 including, but not limited to, the following:

Act 15 - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law, Act of February 1, 1974  
(P.L. 34, No. 15), as amended, 53 P.S. § 881.101 et seq.

The Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer cash balance pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 518, as amended, adopted pursuant to Act 15. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 10 percent of each member's compensation.





The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council  
Freedom Borough  
Beaver County  
Freedom, PA 15042

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010. 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 our audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit report; and
2. 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 objectives identified above. The Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan participates in the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS), which is an agent multiple-employer public employee retirement system that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating municipal pension plans. PMRS issues a separate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, copies of which are available from the PMRS accounting office. PMRS's financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Freedom Borough Nonuniformed 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 objectives, 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 objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

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 Freedom Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

May 3, 2011

JACK WAGNER  
Auditor General

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Freedom Borough has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

- Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

The borough reimbursed \$417 to the Commonwealth for the excess state aid received in 2006.

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID  
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2005	\$ 3,582	\$ 4,012
2006	7,162	872
2007	7,974	688
2008	8,603	None
2009	8,529	47
2010	8,516	388

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan  
Beaver County  
901 3rd Avenue  
Freedom, PA 15042

The Honorable Donald W. Zahn	Mayor
Mr. John Kaercher	Council President
Ms. Karen L.M. Willison	Secretary/Treasurer

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](http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us).