

**NEWCOM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NONUNIFORMED
PENSION PLAN**

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2003, TO DECEMBER 31, 2005



**NEWCOM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NONUNIFORMED
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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, 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 NEWCOM Emergency Communications 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.

The NEWCOM Emergency Communications Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 96-1, as amended.



Board of Delegates
NEWCOM Emergency Communications
Allegheny County
Glenshaw, PA 15116

We have conducted a compliance audit of the NEWCOM Emergency Communications (NEWCOM) Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2003, to October 31, 2005. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 of 1984 and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

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. NEWCOM contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at NEWCOM's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

The Department of the Auditor General (Department) is mandated by state statute to calculate state aid provided to municipal pension funds and to audit municipal pension funds having received such aid. State aid is calculated by an administrative unit that is not involved in the audit process. The Department's Comptroller Office then pre-audits the calculation and submits requests to the Commonwealth's Treasury Department for the disbursement of state aid to the municipality. The Department has implemented procedures to ensure that Department audit personnel are not directly involved in the calculation and disbursement processes. The Department's mandatory responsibilities are being disclosed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

NEWCOM officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the NEWCOM Emergency Communications Nonuniformed Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. To assist us in planning and performing our audit, we obtained an understanding of NEWCOM's internal control structure as it relates to the organization's compliance with those requirements. 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 NEWCOM Emergency Communications 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 NEWCOM and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

December 6, 2006

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

NEWCOM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

NEWCOM has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

- Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid

On March 31, 2003, NEWCOM reimbursed the Commonwealth \$1,224 for the excess state aid received in 2001 and 2002.

NEWCOM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Historical trend information about the plan is presented herewith as supplementary information. It is intended to help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating assets to pay benefits when due, and make comparisons with other state and local government retirement systems.

The actuarial information is required by Act 205 biennially, except for distressed pension plans, for which annual reporting was required through January 1, 2003. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2001, is as follows:

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| Actuarial Valuation Date | Actuarial Value of Assets (a) | Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Entry Age (b) | Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability (b) - (a) | Funded Ratio (a)/(b) | Covered Payroll (c) | Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability as a % of Payroll [(b-a)/(c)] |
| 01-01-01 | \$ 444,362 | \$ 445,650 | \$ 1,288 | 99.7% | \$ 612,363 | 0.2% |
| 01-01-03 | 411,938 | 462,877 | 50,939 | 89.0% | 641,200 | 7.9% |
| 01-01-05 | 558,042 | 508,413 | (49,629) | 109.7% | 727,681 | (6.8%) |

NEWCOM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

The comparability of trend information is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies, and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements and in ratios that use the actuarial accrued liability as a factor.

Analysis of the dollar amount of the actuarial value of assets, actuarial accrued liability, and unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the actuarial value of assets as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability (Column 4) provides one indication of the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage, over time, indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan.

Trends in unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability as a percentage of annual covered payroll (Column 6) approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the plan's progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, where there is an unfunded actuarial accrued liability, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan. However, when assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

NEWCOM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

| Year Ended December 31 | Annual Required Contribution | Percentage Contributed |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2000 | \$ 13,566 | 123.0% |
| 2001 | 15,797 | 127.3% |
| 2002 | 18,831 | 100.0% |
| 2003 | 11,162 | 132.5% |
| 2004 | 11,393 | 172.6% |
| 2005 | 13,930 | 154.7% |

NEWCOM EMERGENCY NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
(UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at the date indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation date follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Actuarial valuation date | January 1, 2005 |
| Actuarial cost method | Entry age normal |
| Amortization method | N/A |
| Remaining amortization period | N/A |
| Asset valuation method | Fair value |
| Actuarial assumptions: | |
| Investment rate of return * | 7.5% |
| Projected salary increases * | 5.0% |
| * Includes inflation at | 3.0% |

NEWCOM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
COMMENTS

Termination of the Pension Plan

Effective June 24, 2005, NEWCOM discontinued dispatching operations. The dispatch services are now provided by Allegheny County. As a result of the discontinuance of operations, NEWCOM terminated the pension plan and refunded the nonvested employees their accumulated contributions with interest. In addition, plan officials purchased retirement annuities from Principal Financial Group to provide monthly pension benefits to the two retirees of the plan. As of December 31, 2005, plan assets held in PNC Bank Trust totaled \$143,117. Legal Counsel of NEWCOM is researching state laws to determine the appropriate disposition of the remaining plan assets.

NEWCOM EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

NEWCOM Emergency Communications Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Allegheny County
300 Wetzel Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mr. Jim Boyle | President, Board of Delegates |
| Mr. Timothy Rodgers | President, NEWCOM Advisory Board |
| Mrs. Judy Kording | 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.