

NORTH BUFFALO TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2010



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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background	1
Letter from the Auditor General	3
Finding and Recommendation	
Finding – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement	5
Supplementary Information	7
Report Distribution List	9

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 North Buffalo Township 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 North Buffalo Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer cash balance pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 07-01, effective January 1, 2007, adopted pursuant to Act 15. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its nonuniformed employees. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan; however, members may contribute up to, but no more than, 10 percent of compensation. The municipality is required to contribute 6 percent of each member's compensation.



Board of Township Supervisors
North Buffalo Township
Armstrong County
Kittanning, PA 16201

We have conducted a compliance audit of the North Buffalo Township 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 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 North Buffalo Township 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.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the North Buffalo Township 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 township's internal controls as they relate to the township'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 North Buffalo Township Nonuniformed 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 – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

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 North Buffalo Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

August 12, 2011

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

NORTH BUFFALO TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

Condition: In 2010, the township received state aid in excess of the plan’s annual pension costs for full-time employees due to the failure to apply a terminated member’s forfeiture, as illustrated below:

State aid allocation	\$ 4,415
Employee forfeiture available	2,114
Actual municipal pension costs for full-time employees	<u>(3,132)</u>
Excess state aid received	<u>\$ 3,397</u>

On May 2, 2011, municipal officials withdrew \$4,042 from the pension plan to reimburse the Commonwealth for the excess state aid received, which was \$645 more than the amount due for the state aid overpayment.

Criteria: Section 402(f)(2) of Act 205 states:

No municipality shall be entitled to receive an allocation of general municipal pension system State aid in an amount which exceeds the aggregate actual financial requirements of any municipal pension plans for police officers, paid firefighters or employees other than police officers or paid firefighters maintained by the municipality, less the amount of any aggregate annual member or employee contributions during the next succeeding plan year, as reported in the most recent complete actuarial report filed with the commission.

Cause: Prior to 2009, pursuant to the plan agreement with PMRS, the township allocated available employee forfeitures to active plan participants. The municipality was notified by PMRS in 2009 that PMRS will not authorize the reallocation of any forfeiture in 2009 or for any years in the future. Consequently, the forfeiture must be used to satisfy the employer contribution due to the plan in the year it becomes available.

NORTH BUFFALO TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Effect: It is the department’s opinion that because the entire proceeds of the insurance premium tax on foreign casualty insurance companies are distributed annually to each eligible recipient municipality, it is inappropriate to use state aid in one year to offset pension costs in other years.

However, since the township made an excess reimbursement to the Commonwealth, \$645 will be reimbursed to the township.

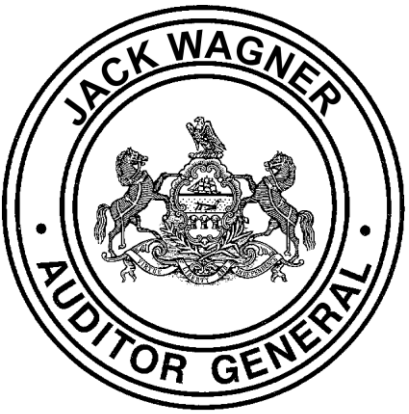
Recommendation: We recommend that plan officials establish adequate internal control procedures to annually reconcile the township’s state aid allocation and any available employee forfeitures with the plan’s annual pension costs for full-time employees and reimburse the correct amount of any excess state aid received to the Commonwealth.

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

NORTH BUFFALO TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2005	\$ 1,391	\$ 20
2006	831	966
2007	1,468	2,831
2008	1,704	3,049
2009	2,916	1,708
2010	1,018	2,977



NORTH BUFFALO TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

North Buffalo Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Armstrong County
149 McHaddon Road
Kittanning, PA 16201

Mr. Richard Adams	Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors
Ms. Pamela L. Bowser	Secretary/Treasurer
Ms. Kristine M. Cline	Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

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.