

NORTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN

WASHINGTON COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2006, TO DECEMBER 31, 2007



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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background	1
Letter from the Auditor General	3
Supplementary Information	5
Report Distribution List	7

ABBREVIATION

ERISA - Employee Retirement Income Security Act

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 Strabane Township 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 township's nonuniformed union employees participate in the Laborer's District Council of Western Pennsylvania Pension Plan. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its nonuniformed union employees. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality was required to contribute \$1.70 per hour for each member in 2006, and \$1.90 per hour for each member in 2007.



Board of Township Supervisors
North Strabane Township
Washington County
Canonsburg, PA 15317

We have conducted a compliance audit of the North Strabane Township Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2007. 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 conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our 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 township's nonuniformed union employees participate in the Laborer's District Council of Western Pennsylvania Pension Plan, 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 North Strabane Township Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan and did not extend to the activities of the multi-employer pension plan.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the North Strabane Township Nonuniformed Union 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 the township's internal control structure as it relates to the township'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 objective.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the North Strabane Township Nonuniformed Union 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 North Strabane Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

October 17, 2008

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

NORTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2002	\$ 15,616	\$ 6,064
2003	21,495	1,241
2004	6,730	19,211
2005	26,591	None
2006	29,825	1,561
2007	36,799	None



NORTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

North Strabane Township Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan
Washington County
1929 Route 519 South
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Mr. Brian Spicer Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. Frank R. Siffrinn Township Manager

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.