#### **MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS**

# WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY WORKSHOP

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# WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION OF

**SPEAKERS** 

AND

**PROGRAM** 



#### **OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION**

- · Legal Roadmap
- · Actuarial Issues
- Enforcement
- · Case Study



#### **LEGAL ROADMAP**

- Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980.
- Protect asset base of pension plan from withdrawing employers
- Exit fee, payment of share of unfunded vested liabilities



#### **BASIC RULES**

- Complete Withdrawal (§4203)
  - Permanently ceases to have an obligation to contribute, or
  - Permanently ceases all covered operations under plan.



#### **BASIC RULES**

- Partial Withdrawal (§4205)
  - 70% decline in contribution base units (usually measured in hours), or
  - · Partial cessation of contribution obligation, either
    - · Under some but not all CBAs, or
    - For work performed at some but not all covered facilities.
  - · Transfer of work to employer controlled entity



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#### **BASIC RULES**

- When Does Withdrawal Occur
  - · Sale of Business
  - Downsizing
  - Going Non-Union
  - · Negotiating Plan out of CBA
  - · Union Won't Agree to New CBA



#### **BASIC RULES**

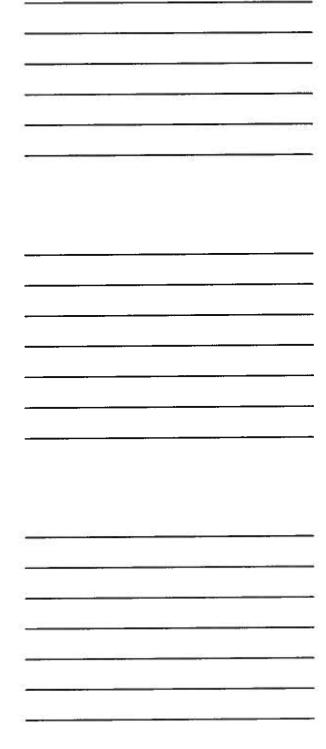
- · Who Pays?
  - Signatory Employer
  - Controlled Group Members
    - Be Careful
      - All Trades or Businesses under Common Control or Ownership
      - Internal Revenue Code §§414(b) and (c)



#### BASIC RULES

- Estimates of Withdrawal Liability
  - Contributing employer entitled to receive, within 180 days of a written request:
    - Estimated amount of employer's withdrawal liability, if employer withdrew from plan on last day of preceding year, and
    - An explanation of how the estimated liability was determined.





#### **BASIC RULES**

- Estimates of Withdrawal Liability
  - Have Right to Request Every 12 Months
  - Timing of Request Critical
  - Official Estimate or Spreadsheet
  - Confirm Plan is Construction Industry Plan and Construction Exemption Applies



#### **EXCEPTIONS**

- Sale of Assets Exemption (§4204)
  - · May apply if:
    - Purchaser obligated to contribute at same level as Seller, and
    - · Purchaser posts bond, and
    - Seller remains secondarily liable.



#### **EXCEPTIONS**

- Free Look Rule (§4210)
  - Employer Has No Withdrawal Liability Upon Withdrawal if Obligation to Contribute Lasts No Longer than Number of Years Required for Vesting.
  - Must Satisfy Numerical Tests
  - Plan Trustees Must Adopt Rule.



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#### **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RULES**

- Construction Industry Exemption (§4203(b))
  - · Applies If:
  - Substantially All (285%) of the Employees for whom Employer made contributions to Plan are in the Building and Construction Industry, and
  - Plan Must Primarily Cover Building and Construction Industry Employees or Plan Must Adopt Exemption.



#### **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RULES**

- Construction Industry Exemption
  - Effect:
  - Complete Withdrawal unless Employer ceases to have obligation to contribute, and does not continue to work or resume work in the jurisdiction within 5 years.
  - Partial Withdrawal unless Employer's obligation to contribute continues for no more than an insubstantial portion of its work in the jurisdiction.



#### **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RULES**

- Construction Industry Exemption
  - · Project Labor Agreements
    - Is there Protection?
    - ERISA Section 4203(b)(2)(B)

\*continues or resumes covered work in the jurisdiction of the collective bargaining agreement for which contributions are not made\*



#### **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RULES**

- Project Labor Agreements
  - Avoid Agreeing to Incorporation of Trust Agreements
  - · Free Look Rule
  - De Minimis Exception
  - Confirm CBA is PLA: Work outside PLA should never violate CIE
  - Underlying Funds Have Right to Make Determination/Assessment
  - · Right or Wrong; May Have to Arbitrate



#### MASS WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY

- All Employers in the Plan Withdraw (the obligation to contribute ceases), or
- Substantially All Employers Withdraw pursuant to an Agreement to Withdraw



#### MASS WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY

- Three types of Mass Withdrawal Liability
  - Initial
  - Redetermination
  - Reallocation



#### MASS WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY

- Liability is calculated under the normal withdrawal liability rules, except:
  - · 20 year cap lifted
  - Ability to Use De Minimis Reduction for Prior Withdrawals Curtailed (3 year lookback)



#### **OTHER ISSUES**

- ERISA Section 4235
  - Union Decertified/Thrown Out
  - New Union/New Plan
  - Can Avoid Withdrawal Liability Assessment
  - Must Follow Specific Procedures and New Plan Must be Financially Solid



#### **OTHER ISSUES**

- Get Union to Indemnify Employer for Liability in Excess of Contractual Contribution Amounts
  - 3rd Circuit Says OK
    - Pittsburgh Mack Truck Sales v. Int'l Union of Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 66, 07-3938, 9-4-09
  - 6th Circuit Says OK
    - Shelter Distribution, Inc. v. Gen'l Drivers, Warehouseman & Helpers Local Union No. 89, No. 11-5450, 3-16-12



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# Calculating Withdrawal Liability





#### **Actuarial Standards**

- Actuaries practicing in the US are governed by different standards promulgated by the American Academy of Actuaries (AAA)
- · The AAA:
  - Establishes professional standards of actuarial qualification, practice, and conduct
  - Advances actuarial practice by informing and educating its members on public policy and professionalism issues and current and emerging practices



#### Actuarial Standards (cont'd)

- · Selected Standards of Practice
  - Measuring Pension Obligations (#4)
  - Data Quality (#23)
  - Selection of Economic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations (#27)
  - Selection of Demographic and Non-Economic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations (#35)



#### Actuarial Standards (cont'd)

- · Selected Standards of Practice (contd)
  - · Actuarial Communications (#41)
  - Selection and use of Asset Valuation Methods for Pension Valuations (#44)
- Qualification Standards for Actuaries Issuing Statements of Actuarial Opinion in the US
- · Code of Professional Conduct



#### Assumptions/Methodology

- MPPAA stipulates that PBGC may promulgate regulations regarding the determination of WB
  - 30 years later—no regulations
  - · "Actuary's best estimate" applies otherwise
- · Identify/understand your Plan's methodology



#### Assumptions/Methodology continued

- Ongoing valuation assumptions for liabilities and actuarial value of assets
- "Segal Blend" assumptions for liabilities and market value of assets
  - · Has withstood all challenges to date
- PBGC-based interest assumptions only with either asset value



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#### Assumptions/Methodology continued

- · Assumptions beyond the interest rate
  - Mortality
  - · Retirement ages/rates
  - · Plan-specific assumptions



#### Assumptions/Methodology continued

- Supreme Court decision: Concrete Pipe and Products of California, Inc. v. Construction Laborers Pension Trust for Southern California 113 S.Ct. 2264 (1993) ("Concrete Pipe")
  - Ongoing valuation assumptions and actuarial value of assets may be alternative method to compute LIVB
  - If adopted by the Board, not necessarily the actuary's "best estimate"



#### **Procedural Requirements**

- For each Plan Year that a "pool" exists, required information is:
  - Total dollars of contributions for that year and prior 4 years
  - · Total "contribution base units" (typically hours)
  - · Highest contribution rate during last ten years



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#### **Allocation Method for Construction Funds**

#### **Presumptive Method**

- •Each year's change in UVB creates a "pool" of liability
- Pools can be positive or negative
- •Each pool is allocated based on contribution history over 5 years
- •Pools written down 5% per year from inception
- •Maximum of 20 pools can apply
- •Only method available to construction industry plans



#### Presumptive Method - Example

• Develop the pools of liability for each year

			Po	ools	
12/31:	Plan Wide UVB for W/L	2008	2009	2010	2011
2007	\$0				i
2008	\$8,800,000	\$8,800,000	\$8,360,000	\$7,920,000	\$7,480,000
2009	\$112,000,000	N/A	\$103,640,000	\$98,458,000	\$93,276,000
2010	\$100,000,000	N/A	N/A	-\$6,378,000	-\$6,059,100
2011	\$40,000,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	-\$54,696,900
Total		\$8,800,000	\$112,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$40,000,000



#### Presumptive Method-Example continued

Allocate the unfunded vested benefit liability pools

- 1	5-Year Con	tributions		For a 2012 V	Vithdrawal
	Plan	Employer	Percentage	Pools	Allocated Amount
2008	\$25,000,000	\$2,579,250	10.317%	\$7,480,000	\$771,712
2009	\$27,000,000	\$2,754,270	10.201%	\$93,276,000	\$9,515,085
2010	\$30,000,000	\$3,124,500	10.415%	-\$6,059,100	-\$631,055
2011	\$28,000,000	\$3,251,640	11.613%	-\$54,696,900	-\$6,351,951
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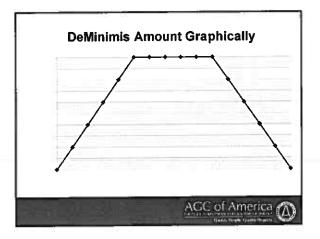
#### **DeMinimis Amount**

- Subtracted from Allocated Amount of UVB
- Amount based on Allocated Amount
  - Total UVB if UVB < \$50,000</li>
  - \$50,000 if \$50,001 < Allocated Amount < \$100,000</li>
  - If Allocated Amount > \$100,000
    - \$50,000 minus excess over \$100,000
  - \$0 if Allocated Amount > \$150,000

#### Example:

- Allocated Amount = \$120,000
- DeMinimis = \$50,000 \$20,000 = \$30,000
- Withdrawal Liability = \$120,000 \$30,000 = \$90,000





#### **Payment Amount**

- Uses highest contribution rate in last 10 years
- Uses highest 3-consecutive year contribution base units in last 10 years

Year:	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Hours:	31,200	35,360	39,520	37,939	30,421	34,964	33,565	32,222	30,933	29,696
Rate:	\$1.00	\$1.05	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$1,15	\$1.20	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1,35	\$1.40
Contributions	\$31 200	\$37 128	\$43,472	\$41 733	\$41.884	\$41.957	\$41 956	\$40,278	\$41,760	\$41,574

Highest 3-consecutive year average (2004 – 2006) = 37,960 Highest contribution rate = \$1,40 Annual payment amount = \$53,144

- NOT a function of Withdrawal liability
- · 20-year payment cap applies



#### Payment Cap - Example

- Suppose employer is allocated \$1 million of total Unfunded Vested Benefits (UVB)
- Suppose annual payment amount is \$53,144
  - Not based on UVB amount allocated but past hours and contribution rate history
- Present Value of 20 years of annual payments of \$53,144 is \$582,409
- Employer's liability is "effectively" limited to \$582,409



#### **Partial Withdrawal**

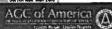
- Triggered by
  - · Transfer of work out of CBU to employer
  - · Expiration of one, but not all, collective bargaining agreements
  - · Work at some, but not all, covered facilities
  - A 70% decline in contribution base units (CBUs)
- 70% decline "trigger"
  - . Examine CBUs in "3-year testing period"
  - · Compare to "high base year" CBUs
  - Partial withdrawal if CBUs in 3-year testing period is not greater than 30% of CBUs in high base year



# Partial Withdrawal—Example | Contain | Property | Prop

#### Sample Withdrawal Liability Spreadsheet

	ring 5 Year Period Pool Established	Contributions Du Enging With Date		Unamo Balance	W-	
Liability Allocated: (6) divided by (4), times the sum of [3] and [3]	Obligated Employer Pension Plan Contributions	Total Pension Plan Contributions	Reallocated Pools	Basic Pools	Year Ended December 31	
- F	- 1	4	3	2	1	- 9
\$1,714	\$16,218	\$9,761,887	10	\$1,031,438	1995	1
(1.57-6)	21,197	10,001,470	0	735,641	1996	2
(1.95%)	158,045	13.857.043	. 0	-171,449	2003	3
289,948	109,812	15,819,950	0	22,450,978	2004	4
21,176	239.988	10,002,171	0	4,823,667	2006	5
79,414	237,685	17,401,723	0	5,620,306	2008	
9.015	303,361	17,664,231	. 0	521,745	2007	7
(127,643)	375,873	17,581,443	0	-5.570.510	2008	
(3.991)	484,663	18,721,787	. 0	-150,717	2009	
150 1150	516,823	21,058,605	0	8,252,544	2910	10
585 788	858,727	22,454,548	D	19,569,680	2011	11
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#### **Documentation**

- What documents should an employer have to evaluate the withdrawal liability assessment?
  - · Plan document
  - · Summary Plan Description
  - · Withdrawal Liability procedures
  - Valuation report/withdrawal liability report



**Enforcement of** Withdrawal Liability



# Enforcement of Withdrawal Liability Assessments

- Assessment to be issued "as soon as practicable" [§4219(b)(1)]
  - · Statement of Business Affairs ("SOBA") form
  - SOBA is to be returned within 30 days of demand [§4219(a)]
  - "as soon as practicable" is NOT a limitations period
- Controlled Group rules (notice to one = notice to all) [§4001(b)(1)]



#### Enforcement of WL Assessments continued

- · Form of Notice:
  - · the total due
  - · a demand for payment
  - a schedule for payments (starting 60 days after demand - 20 year cap)
  - · a lump sum option
  - a worksheet showing the calculations, rules for review, etc.



#### **Enforcement of WL Assessments** continued

- Pay-as-you-go statute [§4219(c)(5) & 4221(d)]
  - · 60-day notice letters after first missed payment
  - Failure to cure accelerates the entire debt for all Controlled Group members
  - · Even while review/arbitration/litigation is ongoing.



#### **Procedural Requirements**

- "Request for Review" must be made within 90days of receipt of the WL assessment
- Deadline applies to all Controlled Group members as well
  - Claims of "not or no longer in the Controlled Group as of the withdrawal date"

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· Claims of "never in the Controlled Group"



#### Procedural Requirements continued

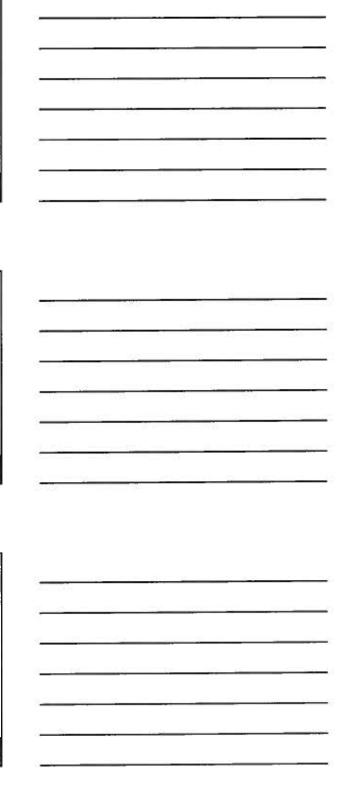
- Request information needed early on to be able to meet the 90-day limit
- Be specific in your Request for Review, to avoid potential waiver issues
- PBGC Opinion Letter 91-7 (additional issues may be raised during review but do not toll the period for demanding arbitration)
- Trustees must issue written response to Request



#### Procedural Requirements continued

- Arbitration follows review, and is mandatory [§4221]
  - Failure to Request Review may = no right to arbitration
- Employer (including Controlled Group members) must file arbitration demand
  - within 60 days after Trustees notify of their disposition of the Request for Review, or
  - within 120 days of the filing of the Request if no response has been received





#### Procedural Requirements continued

- Check Plan rules for applicable arbitration rules and venue
- · PBGC rules (29 CFR Part 4221)
- · AAA rules (www.adr.org)
- PBGC Opinion Letter 91-7 (issues may be raised in arbitration demand that were not in the Request for Review – ability to raise additional issues at an even later date is a determination for the arbitrator)



#### **Failure to Initiate Arbitration**

- The entire assessment becomes due and owing as a matter of law. There are virtually no defenses to its enforcement.
  - Controlled Group members are foreclosed from litigating their own liability except where they are able to assert that they were never in the Controlled Group.
  - Evade or avoid determinations must be arbitrated challenges cannot be presented first in litigation.



#### **Analysis of Assessment**

- · Are there "unnotified" controlled group members?
- Has there been a complete ("C") or partial ("P") withdrawal?
  - · Termination of CBA and obligation to contribute C
  - · Withdrawal of recognition C
  - · Cessation of operations C
  - · Cessation of contributions over time C or P
  - Decline of contributions (P for non-construction plans) or Insubstantial union v. non-union work (P for construction plans)
  - Disclaimer of representation C or P (PBGC Op. 95-2)



#### Analysis of Assessment continued

- · When was the withdrawal?
- Is the plan a construction industry plan or has it adopted the construction industry exemption?
  - . Teamster Plans some have and many have not
- if "yes" are the employees for whom contributions have been made, engaged in the construction industry?
  - · Primarily a Teamster Plan issue
- If "yes", the construction industry exemption applies.



#### Analysis of Assessment continued

- Has the construction industry exemption been violated (continuation or resumption of covered work within the jurisdiction within 5 years)
  - · Nonunion v. other union
  - Subcontracting
  - · Controlled Group members
    - Date of entry into common control
  - PLAs



#### Analysis of Assessment continued

- · What information should be requested?
  - The most recent annual valuation reports
  - Does it show the assumptions for WL? If not, ask for them.
  - The current SPD and Plan document, with all the benefits described.
  - · What benefits are included in the UVB analysis?
    - · Only non-forfeitable benefits may be included.
    - If the Report does not show, ask for this too and then consult your actuary.



#### **Defenses to Withdrawal Liability**

- Challenge the Plan determinations (the fact of withdrawal, the date of withdrawal, application of an exemption, evade or avoid, controlled group member, etc.)
- Such determination are presumptively correct [§4221(a)(3)(A)]
- Burden on the Employer to show by a preponderance of the evidence that a challenged determination was unreasonable or clearly erroneous



#### Defenses to a Withdrawal Liability continued

- UVB calculations are also presumptively correct [§4221(a)(3)(B)(i)(ii)]
- Employer must show by a preponderance of the evidence that either
  - (a) the actuarial assumptions and methods used were unreasonable in the aggregate [meaning a combination of methods and assumptions "not acceptable to a reasonable actuary" Concrete Pipe, 508 U.S. 602, 634 (1993)], or
  - (b) the actuary made a significant error in applying the actuarial assumptions or methods.



#### Defenses to a Withdrawal Liability continued

- · Laches available but unlikely to succeed
- Defined as inexcusable delay AND undue prejudice to the Employer (delays of up to 12 years have been found acceptable – based on the specific facts of the case)



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#### **Actions to Vacate an Arbitration Award**

- Must be filed within 30 days of the issuance of the aware [§4221(b)(2)]
- Presumption of correctness to the arbitrator's findings of fact [§4221(c)] – rebuttable only by a clear preponderance of the evidence
- Beware attorneys fees and costs generally not recoverable in arbitration (absent bad faith, etc.) – will be recoverable in litigation when you do not prevail



#### **Civil Actions - Statute of Limitations**

- Statute of Limitations §4301(f)] civil action may not be brought after the later of
- 6 years after the date the cause of action arose –but the cause of action only arises with the first missed payment
- 3 years after the earliest date when the Plan knew or should have known of the cause of action, except that fraud or concealment extends that time to 6 years after the date of discovery of the existence of the cause of action



**CASE STUDY** 



CASE STUDY	
Request for Estimate of Withdrawal Liability (Attachment A)	
AGC of America	
CASE STUDY	
Statement of Business Affairs (Attachment B)	
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CASE STUDY	
• Assessment (Attachment C)	
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CASE STUDY	
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# SAMPLE REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT ON COMPANY LETTERHEAD

(DATE)

Fund Administrator [or Board of Trustees] Name of Fund Address City, State Zip

Re: Name of Company
Account No.

Dear [or Fund Ti	rustees]:			
As you know, _ employer to the Fund.		is	a	contributing

Pursuant to Section 101(I) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended, we are hereby requesting that the Fund provide an estimate of the Company's potential withdrawal liability, if any, on the assumption that the Company were to withdraw from the Fund as of the date of this letter. We would like to receive a statement showing how the amount was calculated and showing the actuarial assumptions and methods used. If there is a monetary charge or fee for providing this information and estimate, please advise me of that number before acting on this request.

Alternatively, if you have a worksheet we can utilize to determine the Company's estimate of potential withdrawal liability, please provide a copy for our use. Please also provide a copy of the Plan, now in effect, and the Plan's most recent actuarial report and audit report.

Finally, please confirm for me that the Plan is a Building and Construction Industry Plan within the meaning of Section 4203(b) of ERISA, or if not, whether the Plan has otherwise been amended to incorporate the provisions of Section 4203(b) concerning the Building and Construction Industry.

If you have any questions, please call.

DISCLAIMER: This form does not represent Legal Advice. It may not be appropriate for all situations and should be modified as needed to address specific circumstances. If you have any questions about appropriate revisions for a particular situation, please contact the Ogletree Deakins lawyer with whom you normally work.



# STATEMENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS Reporting Business Form

RE: INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL COMPLETE OR PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL

BILLING NAME: ACCOUNT NO.:

#### COMPLETION OF THIS STATEMENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS IS REQUIRED BY LAW

Section 4219(a) of ERISA {29 USC 1399(a)} provides that an employer SHALL FURNISH the information requested in this statement. Failure to furnish this information within 30 days will subject the employer to penalties authorized by federal law.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

The RESPONDENT is the entity to whom the letter which accompanied this Statement of Business Affairs is addressed. If RESPONDENT is <u>not</u> also the entity which reports/reported employee work history to the Fund under the above account number (the REPORTING BUSINESS), please contact the undersigned immediately so that an additional/alternative Statement of Business Affairs can be sent to you for completion.

If the Respondent is a partnership or corporation, the questions shall be deemed to be addressed to, and shall be answered on behalf of, the partnership or corporation.

Each question should be answered by a responsible individual (e.g., partner, principal, trustee, officer, etc.) of the Respondent who is authorized to answer such question. These questions shall be deemed continuing so as to require supplemental responses when and if you obtain further information subsequent to the return of this Statement of Business Affairs.

The failure to answer any question must be explained. If the correct answer is "Not Applicable" or "None," so indicate.

Your answer to each question should be correct and complete. Attach copies of documentary evidence in support of your responses. After due diligence in securing correct and complete answers, this Statement of Business Affairs shall be verified by the responsible individual who is authorized to answer such questions.

Return the completed Statement of Business Affairs with supporting documentary evidence to the Fund at the following address:

Attach continuation sheets as needed to complete your responses. Please identify each continuation sheet as follows:

Attachment to Statement of Business Affairs (identify Respondent) (identify question(s) being answered) (identify date of completion)

# What is the Respondent's full name and address? 1. Name: Address: List any assumed names used by Respondent. 2. What is Respondent's IRS Employer Identification Number? 3. What type of business is the Respondent? Check one. 4. Sole Proprietorship Partnership \_\_\_ Limited Partnership Business Trust \_\_ Governmental Unit Association Corporation "S" Corporation Limited Liability Corporation Other - Please explain. If Respondent is a sole proprietorship, partnership or limited partnership, 5. list the names and addresses of all of the principals of Respondent. Name: Relationship to Respondent:

IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENT.

A.

Address:	1222		
Name:			W.
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Entity's Name:			
Address:			
Entity's Employer Identification Nu	mber:		
Description of relationship/interest:			
Percent of ownership:	Time Period: _		
Entity's Name:	- 10		
Address:		<del></del> -	
Entity's Employer Identification No	ımher:		

... . - \*<sub>5</sub> ... =

22

	hip:	Time Period:	to
Did Respondent consolidated tax	or any oth	er entity on behalf ime after September 2	of Respondent f 6, 1980?
	Yes:	No:	_
List all other acc	ount numbers the Fund.	under which Respond	dent makes or has
Name:			
Account No.:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Name:			
Account No.:			
**			
Name:			
Name: Account No.:	ner entities	involved in any me ted, with Respondent.	rger, consolidatio
Name:  Account No.:  Identify all other reorganization, l	ner entities	involved in any me ted, with Respondent.	rger, consolidatio

Date:	
Name:	<u> </u>
Address:	
Entity's En	nployer Identification Number:
Relationshi	p to Respondent:
Date:	/
	ii (1)
Name:	
Address:	
-	
-	nployer Identification Number:
Relationshi	p to Respondent:
Date:	// Type of Event:
within the	dent part of a group of trades or businesses under common controller meaning of ERISA Section 4001(b) [29 USC 1301(b)]? In whether such a relationship exists, refer to Treasury Regulation 114(c).
	Yes? No?
If you ans	wered "Yes" to this question, identify the entities which are undentrol with Respondent.

12.

	Related Entity's Name:
	Address:
	Employer Identification Number:
	Related Entity's Name:
	Address:
	Employer Identification Number:
	Related Entity's Name:
	Address:
	Employer Identification Number:
•	List the names and account numbers under which the related entitionentified in your answer to question 18 make or have made contributions the Fund.
	Name:
	Account No.:
	Name:
	Account No.:

		Name:
		Account No.:
В.	with r	E OF CONTRIBUTION CESSATION/DECREASE. Complete this section espect to the account number(s) listed on the front page of this Statement of ess Affairs.
	1.	When did Reporting Business stop making contributions to the Fund?
		Date:/
	2.	When did Reporting Business cease to be obligated to make contributions to the Fund under its collective bargaining agreement?
		Date:/
	3.	Please describe why Reporting Business ceased making contributions to the Fund.
		¥ = ==================================
C.	TYPE respon	OF WORK PERFORMED BY THE BARGAINING UNIT. Please limit your uses to the employees for whom Reporting Business made contributions to the
	1.	What is the principal product made or service performed by the employees of Reporting Business?

<u> </u>	
What proportion of Reporting the activities described in your specify by activity.	g Business' total income is derived from ir answer to question 1 of this section?

Statement of questionnaire of its attachments	TION OF STATEME Business Affairs, I con behalf of Responder , were prepared under he best of my knowled	ertify that I hav t, and that the Sta my supervision a	e the author itement of Bu	ity to isiness A	answer thi Affairs, with
Signature:			Date:	/	_/
Printed Name:			Phone:	(A)	
Title:					
Address:		9			
Subscribed and	sworn to before me at				-
State of	, this da	y of			
	, 20				
Notary Public:				····	

1-6969	EXHIBIT	
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### WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY NOTIFICATION

Dear Employer and all related Controlled Group Members:

228

The Board of Trustees of the ("Fund") has determined that ') incurred a complete withdrawal from the ("Plan") in Accordingly, this constitutes notice and demand for payment of the withdrawal liability set forth below.

#### WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY

When a complete withdrawal from a multiemployer plan occurs, ERISA requires that the Board of Trustees assess withdrawal liability. This letter supplies a notice of the Employer's estimated liability, resulting from a withdrawal from the Plan. You are required to make payments as outlined in this Notice. The Fund also reserves the right to revise this assessment at any time due to new information, which may alter the employer's liability. Also, please be advised that any payroll audits that are finalized after the date of this assessment may also result in a revision of the withdrawal liability assessment and/or payment schedule.

• The amount of withdrawal liability allocable to one of withdrawal) is may pay this quarterly with installments each in the amount

of \$28,830 and a final installment of \$6,710. The first installment is due by

10. may prepay the outstanding amount of withdrawal liability plus accrued interest at any time without penalty. The present value of these payments is \$441,825.

### INSTALLMENT SCHEDULE

A copy of the withdrawal liability calculation and payment schedule determination is attached. The following information with respect to the installment schedule for payment of the withdrawal liability is also provided

- 1. The average number of contribution base units for which the Employer contributed to the Plan during the last 10 plan years was highest during the three consecutive years ending in 2002, 2003, and 2004. The average annual number of contribution base units during those years was 31,167.
- 2. The highest contribution rate at which the Employer contributed to the Plan during the last 10 plan years was \$3.70 per unit.
- 3. The amount of the annual withdrawal payments to the Plan is determined by multiplying the highest contribution rate by the average contribution unit figure. The annual withdrawal payment as so computed is \$115,318.
- The quarterly withdrawal payment equals \$28,830 plus interest on the unpaid balance at 7% per annum.
- 5. The amount of the Employer's withdrawal liability is payable in 17 quarterly installments of \$28,830, plus a final payment of \$6,710. These quarterly installments are due by the 20th of each third month. The first payment is due by December 20, 2010, and applies whether or not the Employer requests a review or disputes the liability amount or payment schedules.
- Withdrawal liability payments should be sent to the

#### DEFAULT

- 1. The failure to make any withdrawal liability payment in accordance with the installment schedule may result in a default, within the meaning of ERISA Section 4219 (c)(5). In which event, the total outstanding amount of withdrawal liability, plus accrued interest on the total outstanding liability from the due date of the first payment that is not timely made, shall become due immediately. The failure to make scheduled withdrawal liability payments also subjects the Employer to additional statutory liabilities under ERISA. Interest on payments not made shall accrue from the due date until the date on which payment is received. Interest shall be charged at rates based on prevailing market rates for comparable obligations, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.
- 2. As permitted by ERISA Section 4219(c)(5), the Plan's withdrawal liability payment rules provide that the total outstanding liability shall, and without notice or demand, become immediately payable if the Employer is the subject of bankruptcy proceedings, or the Board of Trustees of the Plan deems itself insecure with respect to such payments. In the event of such default, the Employer shall also become liable for the interest on the total outstanding liability from the due date of the first payment that is not timely made. Interest shall be charged at rates based on prevailing market rates for comparable obligations in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

RIGHT OF REVIEW

The Employer has a right to request a review of the calculations described in this letter. In this regard, within 90 days of your receipt of this notice and demand, the Employer may in writing:

- Ask the Plan's Board of Trustees to review any specific matters relating to the determination of the Employer's liability and schedule of payments;
- Identify any inaccuracy in the determination of the amount of the unfunded vested benefits (UVB) liability allocable to the Employer (for your reference, a copy of the UVB used in the calculation is enclosed); and
- 3. --- Furnish any-additional information relevant to the determination of withdrawal liability or the payment schedule.

After a reasonable review of such matters raised by the Employer in a timely manner, the Board of Trustees will have 120 days to notify the Employer of its decision, if any, the basis for the decision and the reason for any change in the determination of withdrawal liability or the payment schedule. Failure to request a review, in writing, within 90 days shall make the determination herein final.

In addition, any dispute that arises concerning the determination of withdrawal liability may be subject to arbitration. Arbitration can be initiated within 60 days following the earlier of: (1) the date the plan sponsor notifies the Employer of its decision after a reasonable review of any matter raised, or (2) 120 days after the date the Employer requests a review of the sponsor's determination of withdrawal liability. Under the terms of the Plan, disputes should be submitted to arbitration through the Chicago Office of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"), as provided in Section 4221 of ERISA, in accordance with the AAA's Rules for Withdrawal Liability Arbitration. Only those specific matters for which the Employer timely requested review may be submitted to arbitration.

### Withdrawai Liability Payment Schedule -

Due Date	Amount
12/20/2010	\$28,830.00
3/20/2011	\$28,830.00
6/20/2011	\$28,830.00
9/20/2011	\$28,830.00
12/20/2011	\$28,830.00
3/20/2012	\$28,830.00
6/20/2012	\$28,830.00
9/20/2012	\$28,830.00
12/20/2012	\$28,830.00
3/20/2013	\$28,830.00
6/20/2013	\$28,830.00
9/20/2013	\$28,830.00
12/20/2013	\$28,830.00
3/20/2014	\$28,830.00
6/20/2014	\$28,830.00
9/20/2014	\$28,830.00
12/20/2014	\$28,830.00
3/20/2015	\$6,710.00
	\$496,820.00

L. Unfunded	Vested Bezefits (a)	(p) (nab)	(c)	(d)	(e)	<b>(f)</b>	(g)	(b)	(1)
12	Five Year								
	Total Contributions						224		
	by All		Sum of		Unamortized				Unfunded Vest
	Employers	•	Employer's	Change in	Changes in		355		Benefits
	Adjusted for	Contributions	Last Five	Unfunded	Unfimded	Unamortized			Attributed to the
Plan Year	Withdrawn	by Individual	Years of	Vested	Vested	Reallocated	Total	Allocation	Employer = (g)
Ending	Employers	Employer	Contributions	Banofits	Benefits	Amounts	Unamortized	= (c) + (a)	(h)
12/31/1981 S	2,137,650 S	4,730 S	11,514 \$	(1,024,804) S	0 \$	0.5	0	0,5386% \$	
12/31/1982	3,252,704	7,576	19,090	(670,759)	0	. 0	0	0.5869%	2
12/31/1983	4,357,536	5,271	24,361	(779,114)	0	0	9.	0.5591%	
12/31/1984	4,987,932	10,400	31,369	(271,067)	0	0	0	0.6289%	
12/3]/1985	5,831,323	7,440	35,417	34,267	1,713	g	1,713	0.6074%	10
12/31/1986	6,915,169	12,272	42,959	35,980	3,598	108	3,706	0,6212%	2
12/31/1987	7,434,915	16,493	51,876	37,779	5,667	974	6,641	0.6977%	4
12/31/1988	8,262,793	13,187	59,792	39,668	7,934	ങ	8;297	0,7236%-	6
12/31/1989	9,138,402	26,663	76,055	1,824,727	456,182	4,316	460,498	0.8323%	3,83
12/31/1990	9,643,405	15,478	84,093	1,288,337	386,501	10,759	397,260	0.8720%	3,46
12/31/1991	9,095,020	15,118	86,939	2,802,866	981,003	104,535	1,085,538	0.9559%	10,37
12/31/1992	9,397,196	12,861	83,307	(5,206,638)	(2,082,655)	75,074	(2,007,581)	0.8865%	(17,79)
12/31/1993	9,624,300	17,752	87,872	77,116	34,702	4,364	39,066	0.9130%	351
12/31/1994	9,959,766	16,203	77,412	80,972	40,486	2,570	43,056	0.7772%	33:
12/31/1995	10,543,440	20,431	82,365	85,020	46,761	4,896	51,657	0.7812%	404
12/31/1996	10,919,653	21,493	88,740	89,271.	53,563	5,171	58,734	0.8127%	477
12/3 1/1997	11,944,030	30,157	106,036	93,735	60,928	1,741	62,669	0.8878%	550
2/31/1998	13,342,363	84,077	-172,361	98,422	68,895	4,143	73,038	1.2918%	944
2/31/1999	15,239,329	59,331	215,489	103,343	77,507	4,190	81,697	1.4140%	1,155
2/31/2000	16,950,634	59,479	254,537	1,912,746	1,530,197	6,424	1,536,621	1.5016%	23,074
2/31/2001	18,456,217	63,830	296,874	11,847,215	10,070,133	0	10,070,133	1,6085%	161,981
2/31/2002	20,132,642	76,257	342,974	18,775,642	16,898,078	0	16,898,078	L7036%	287,871
2/31/2003	21,641,672	104,745	363,642	(17,954,086)	(17,056,382)	Û	(17,056,382)	1.6803%	(286,596
	21,932,516 \$	109,382 \$	413,693 S	13,320,414 \$	13,320,414 \$	0.\$	13,320,414	1.8862% \$	251,251
•	• •	•	Total UVB:		24,905,225 S	229,628 S	25,134,853		
		Employer's St		104				- \$	441,825
De Minimis I								_	100 000
a .75% × 10								S	186,789
		n; lasser of 2(a) s							50,000
			0,000; not less th	18n \$0				N .	341,825
d. 2(b) less 2	(o); not less than	£ \$0						\$	0
	5. 80								
Employer Sh	A Cham D - 2.5	محصادة							

a. 1(1) 1000 Keys
 Columns (a), (b), (c), (d), (f) and (g), are as shown in the Allocation Report produced by United Acastrial Services, Inc.

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### 4. Payment Amount and Length of Payment Period

		Employer	•	50	
		Contribution		0.37	
.•	Plan Year	Rate (per		3-Year	
	Ending	week)	Weeks Worked	Average	
1	1995	1.75	11,930	N/A.	
2	1996	. 2.00	11,093	N/A	
3	1997	2.20	14,026	12,350	
4	1998	2,40	35,778	20,299	
5	1999	2.60	23,192	24,332	
6	2000	2.80	21,834	26,935	
7	2001	2.80	22,789	22,605	
8	2002	3.00	2.506069	23,564	63
9	2003	3.20		27,459	
10	2004	3.30			
11	2005	3.70	N/A	N/A	
T/007 0		orked from 1996	to 2005	\$	31

a. Highest consecutive 3-year average weeks worked from 1996 to 2005	\$ 31,167
b. Highest contribution rate in the 10 year period including the year of withdrawal	3,70
c. Annual payment: 4(a) × 4(b)	115,318
d. Ouarterly payment	28,830
Number of full quarterly payments	17
f Final navment	\$ 6,710

### OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.

Attorneys at Law
155 N. Wacker Drive
Suite 4300
Chicago, IL 60606
Telephone: 312.558.1220
Facsimile: 312.807.3619

www.ogletreedeakins.com



RE:

Pension Fund Notice and Demand for Payment for
Withdrawal Liability due to cessation of pension contributions for
working at

Plant -- Request for Information

Dear Mr.

The undersigned represents \_\_\_\_\_\_ in labor and employment matters.

Your letter dated November 2, 2011 to has been forwarded to me for review.

As an initial matter, please confirm that the withdrawal liability calculation reflects a complete withdrawal, not a partial withdrawal, from the Fund by

In addition, please provide me with the following information and documents:

- 1. The withdrawal date, i.e., the date upon or by which the Fund has determined that withdrew from the Fund.
- 2. The last date for which the Fund has a record of any contributions by
- 3. Copies of all valuation reports for the Fund for the Plan years ending September 30, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.
- 4. To the extent not reflected in the valuation reports requested above, any other documents identifying the actuarial assumptions the Fund used to calculate the Fund's Vested Benefit Liabilities as utilized for calculation of the level of Unfunded Vested Benefits (UVB) underlying the withdrawal liability calculation for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Liabili	A §4001	Please provide a lis (a)(8) which were i tilized for the calcu	included in the cal	culation of the F	fund's total Ve	sted Benefit
which	6. include	Copies of the current the most current	rent trust agreeme withdrawal liabil withdrawal liability	lity rules used b	by the Fund to	o determine
letter.		(1)			G.	

I would appreciate your providing these documents in sufficient time to permit a review and determination as to whether a request for review is appropriate. If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,

## OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.

Attorneys at Law 155 N. Wacker Drive Suite 4300 Chicago, IL 60606 Telephone: 312 558 1

Telephone: 312.558.1220 Facsimile: 312.807.3619 www.ogletreedeakins.com

Thomas Vasiljevich 312.558.1224 thomas.vasiljevich@odnss.com



Re: Request for Review of Withdrawal Liability

#### Dear Board of Trustees:

The undersigned represents

(the "Company") in connection with the Withdrawal Liability Assessment issued by the Retirement Fund (the "Plan") by letter dated , a copy of which is enclosed as Exhibit A (the "Demand Notice") and which was received by the Company on or about . The Demand Notice states that the Company effected a complete withdrawal from the Plan on

On behalf of the Company and in accordance with Section 4219(b)(2)(A) of ERISA, the Company hereby requests review by the Board of Trustees of the Fund of the determination by the Fund as set forth in the Demand Letter of (i) the amount of the Company's withdrawal liability, (ii) the schedule of payments and (iii) other related matters, as set forth below.

Pursuant to Section 4203(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), a complete withdrawal only occurs when the employer either permanently ceases to have an obligation to contribute under the plan or ceases all covered operations under the plan. Neither of these events occurred on . I, as specified in the Demand Notice.

As noted above, the Company did not have a permanent cessation of its contribution obligation to the Plan until \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_, when the aforesaid collective bargaining agreement expired. Furthermore, the Company continued to maintain covered operations under the Plan until such time.

Accordingly, since the Demand Notice uses an incorrect complete withdrawal date for the Company, the calculation of the Company's purported withdrawal liability is also incorrect, as it is predicated on the Plan's unfunded vested benefits and contribution history as of the Plan's Plan Year ending.

The Company therefore requests that the Plan rescind its Demand Notice because a complete withdrawal did not occur on the date stated in the Demand Notice and as a result, the amount requested in the Demand Notice as the Company's withdrawal liability is erroneous.

Alternatively, if the request to rescind the Demand Notice is not granted by the Board of Trustees, the Company also requests review by the Board of Trustees of the following issues.

- 2) The Company contests the actuarial assumptions, methods and calculations used by the Plan and its actuary in determining the amount of the Plan's unfunded vested liability.
- 3) The Company contests whether the Plan has properly computed the value of its assets and liabilities.
- 4) The Company contests the amount of the Plan's unfunded vested liability allocable to the Company as calculated by the Plan, including the accuracy of each underlying component used by the Plan in making such a determination, such as, but not limited to, the amount of the Company's historical contributions to the Plan.

Furthermore, by this letter, we are requesting that the Plan and the Trustees provide us with the following documentation concerning the information and methods used in calculating the withdrawal liability:

5) The Plan's actuarial valuation report for the last four years;

- 6) Any additional actuarial reports or information from the Plan's actuaries regarding withdrawal liability, produced within the last six years;
- 7) Any additional actuarial reports or information from the Fund's actuaries regarding any increases in plan benefits or a decision on whether to reduce future benefits, produced within the last six years;
- 8) A copy of the current plan document, trust instrument and summary plan description;
- Any other plan provisions, rules or procedures pertaining to withdrawal liability;
   and
- 10) If not already contained in the foregoing, a detailed explanation of the actuarial assumptions and methods used in the calculation of withdrawal liability, including, without limitation how uncollected liabilities from other employers are reallocated.

By submission of this request for review and information, the Company does not waive its right to seek arbitration or judicial relief regarding any and all issues arising from the Demand Letter. The Company expressly reserves its right to seek arbitration or judicial relief with respect to any and all such issues.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If the Board of Trustees require any further information regarding the matters presented in this request for review, or have any questions regarding such matters, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Vasiljevich

TV/sb enclosures

# Ogletree Deakins

# **FILE COPY**

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.

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Thomas Vasiljevich 312.558.1224 thomas.vasiljevich@odnss.com

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#### VIA EMAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dear Mr.

As we discussed, I represent and am responding to the withdrawal liability assessment issued by the above referenced Plan by letter dated (the "Assessment Letter") and our subsequent telephone conversation regarding the propriety of such assessment.

You confirmed that the Plan has adopted the building and construction industry exemption as set forth in ERISA Section 4203(b) and that such exemption applies to Under the terms of that exemption, a withdrawal occurs only if:

- (A) an employer ceases to have an obligation to contribute under the plan, and
- (B) the employer
  - continues to perform work in the jurisdiction of the collective bargaining agreement of the type for which contributions were previously required, or
  - (ii) resumes such work within five (5) years after the date on which the obligation to contribute under the plan ceases, and does not review the obligation at the time of resumption.

As a threshold matter, the Assessment Letter does not provide any facts indicating when allegedly withdrew from the Plan, or the manner in which, if such withdrawal occurred, violated either prong of the building and construction industry exemption as set forth



above. Certainly, the Assessment Letter should inform of the circumstances by which the Plan determined that a withdrawal occurred and if the exemption does not apply, so as to trigger the assessment of withdrawal liability, the manner in which the terms of the exemption were violated by

You informally indicated in our telephone conversation that you believed the Plan was aware of covered work being performed in the jurisdiction of the collective bargaining agreement by a separate entity, for which contributions were required to be made to the Plan but were not made. You stated that the Plan's interpretation of the building and construction industry exemption would include in the definition of "employer" for purposes of ERISA Section 4203(b), all members of controlled group.

In response, we take exception to the factual assertion by the Plan that performed any covered work in the jurisdiction of the collective bargaining agreement for which contributions were required to be made to the Plan but were not made as not factually correct. If the Plan has evidence that such work was performed, they should advise us. As discussed below, however, whether or not a separate entity from the signatory employer performs such covered work is not relevant to determine whether the signatory employer violates the construction industry exemption.

A plain reading of ERISA Section 4203(b) would indicate a narrow definition of employer is used, not the controlled group definition which the Plan seeks to impose. The reference to employer in ERISA Section 4203 (b)(2)(A) refers to the signatory employer, i.e., the employer that has an obligation to contribute to the plan. Only the signatory employer can have an obligation to contribute to the plan. The definition of employer does not then change for purposes of applying ERISA Section 4203 (b)(2)(B). It is the same employer, i.e., the signatory employer, referred to in ERISA Section 4203 (b)(2)(A), that may not violate prohibitions against continuing to perform work or resuming work which the statute covers in this instance.

Separately, the term "obligation to contribute" is defined by ERISA Section 4212(a) as including signatory employers or employers who have a duty to contribute "as a result of a duty under applicable labor-management relations law, but does not include an obligation to pay withdrawal liability under this section". In other words, while a nonsignatory controlled group member may have an obligation to pay withdrawal liability to a plan, that type of obligation does not equal an "obligation to contribute" for other purposes.

While there is a paucity of decisions interpreting ERISA Section 4203(b), your attention is directed to the U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Circuit opinion in H.C. Elliot, Inc. v. Carpenters Pension Trust Fund for Northern California, 859 F2d 808, 10 EBC 1312 (10-21-1988) which after reviewing the legislative history and the statutory construction of ERISA Section 4203(b), stated, "The word 'employer' describes one who was a signatory employer with respect to the plan." (Elliot, at 813). In accordance with the previous paragraph, we believe this is the correct result and should be adhered to by the Plan.

Page 3



For the foregoing reasons, submits that it has not violated the building and construction industry exemption either by continuing to perform covered work or resuming covered work with the five year period so that the withdrawal liability assessment issued by the Plan is premature. respectfully requests that the withdrawal liability assessment be rescinded.

Please note that this letter is not intended to waive 's right to further request review of the withdrawal liability assessment within the time limits set forth in ERISA Section 4219(b)(2)(A), if necessary. Furthermore, I have been informed that has made its initial withdrawal liability installment payment to the Fund which should not be construed by the Fund as an admission as to the propriety of the assessment; rather, it was made, consistent with the installment payment schedule, in good faith thereof and request is hereby made for the return of any such payments made by together with applicable interest, consistent with the decision of the Trustees in this matter.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss, please contact me. We look forward to receipt of a favorable determination by the Trustees.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Vasiljevich

TV/sb

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# DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION

Claimant:

XYZ Construction Co.

Address

Counsel for Claimant:

Robert P. Casey, Esq.

<u>robert.casey@odnss.com</u> (312) 558-1250

Thomas Vasiljevich, Esq.

thomas.vasiljevich@odnss.com (312) 558-1224 Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.

155 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 4300

Chicago, IL 60606

Respondent:

Board of Trustees of the [NAME OF PLAN]

Address

Counsel for Respondent:

Demand is hereby made	to initiate arbitration of the withdrawal liabili	ty assessment in
the amount of \$	as set forth in the Demand for Withdrawal Li	ability Payments
dated issued	by the Respondent (attached as Exhibit 1).	The Claimant
requested review of two issues, a	as set forth in the attached letter dated	(attached
as Exhibit 2) and the Responder	nt issued its decision on review as set forth in	the letter dated
(attac	hed as Exhibit 3). The Claimant requests a	rbitration of the
decision of the Respondent with	respect to the issues raised by the Claimant.	
_		

attachments