Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 502 & 633
Pension Trust Fund

Since the inception of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) and the requirement by the government to change accounting standards on certain calculations, your pension fund has continuously been and remained certified in the Green Zone through 2012 while other Taft-Hartley Funds dropped into the Endangered (Yellow) Zone or Critical (Red) Zone. This is to inform you that the enrolled actuary for this Fund recently certified to the US Department of the Treasury, and also to the Plan sponsor, that the Fund is in endangered status for the Plan Year beginning August 1, 2012.

Because of PPA, federal law requires that you receive this notice. Please note that "endangered" as used in this notice is a legal term with a very specific and narrow meaning and is not at all the same as the dictionary definition of "endangered". We understand that legally required notices like this one can create concern about the Fund; however, the Board of Trustees remains committed to provide the participants with secure retirement benefits. They anticipate that the Fund will emerge from endangered status and continue to see improved funding percentages. The Trustees maintain their commitment to provide a retirement benefit on which you can rely on to pay a lifetime benefit that will play a significant role in your overall retirement planning.

Endangered Status

Due in part to investment losses in a volatile market and in part to the way the Pension Protection Act requires the enrolled actuary to calculate the funding status of the Fund, the Fund's status for the 2012 Plan year has been certified as endangered. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) requires the Fund to have a funding ratio of 80% or greater and no accumulated funding deficiency in that Plan Year or the subsequent six (6) Plan Years to remain in the Green Zone. Your Fund still maintains a funding ratio of greater than 80% but it is projected to have an accumulated funding deficiency in the fourth (4th) year after the current Plan Year.

The Board of Trustees is in the process of developing a Funding Improvement Plan (FIP) to improve the Fund's funding status as required by the PPA. Although the funding status is expected to improve, the guidelines in the FIP as outlined by the government may force the Trustees to reduce future benefit accrual rates and/or certain forms of benefits, and employer contributions may be increased. The FIP will be finalized and provided to the necessary parties as soon as it is completed. It is the Fund's goal to remain on track with the FIP; however, there are several variables beyond the Fund's control, including but not limited to market volatility and changes in participation and/or employers that will be monitored by the Board of Trustees and that could require a change to the FIP. The PPA requires the funding status be reviewed and certified annually, and notices explaining the status like this one will be sent each year as necessary.

Please note the Trustees have not made any decision to reduce your pension benefits nor have they decided to increase employer contributions. This notice is sent as a requirement of the PPA and is meant as informational only.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact American Benefit Corporation at (304) 525-0331, ext. 321 or email kwood@abcwv.com.

For identification purposes, the official Plan number is 001 and the Plan sponsor's employer identification number or "EIN" is 61-6078145.