

# Puget Sound Electrical Workers Trust Funds

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Administered by  
Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc.

September 27, 2018

## 2017-2018 ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE For Puget Sound Electrical Workers Pension Plan

### Introduction

This notice includes important information about the funding status of your multiemployer pension plan (the “Plan”). It also includes general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”), a federal insurance agency. All traditional pension plans (called “defined benefit pension plans”) must provide this notice every year regardless of their funding status. This notice does not mean that the Plan is terminating. It is provided for informational purposes and you are not required to respond in any way. This notice is required by federal law. This notice is for the plan year beginning June 1, 2017 and ending May 31, 2018 (“Plan Year”).

### How Well-Funded Is Your Plan

The law requires the administrator of the Plan to tell you how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the “funded percentage.” The Plan divides its assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date for the plan year to get this percentage. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The Plan’s funded percentage for the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years is shown in the chart below. The chart also states the value of the Plan’s assets and liabilities for the same period.

<b>Funded Percentage</b>			
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Valuation Date	June 1, 2017	June 1, 2016	June 1, 2015
Funded Percentage	88.4%	87.5%	89.2%
Value of Assets	\$732,464,379	\$691,864,978	\$674,431,328
Value of Liabilities	\$828,665,977	\$791,079,762	\$756,281,254

### Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date. They also are “actuarial values.” Actuarial values differ from market values in that they do not fluctuate daily based on changes in the stock or other markets. Actuarial values smooth out those fluctuations and can allow for more predictable levels of future contributions. Despite the fluctuations, market values tend to show a clearer picture of a plan’s funded status at a given point in time. The asset values in the chart below are market values and are measured on the last day of the Plan Year. The chart also includes the year-end market value of the Plan’s assets for each of the two preceding plan years.

	<b>May 31, 2018*</b>	<b>May 31, 2017</b>	<b>May 31, 2016</b>
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$ 795,406,912	\$729,566,211	\$647,814,145

\*The May 31, 2018 fair market value of assets figure is an estimate based on the Plan’s unaudited financial statements. The final figure may differ from this estimate once the Plan’s regular audit is issued for the Plan Year.

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**Endangered, Critical, or Critical and Declining Status**

Under federal pension law, a plan generally is in “endangered” status if its funded percentage is less than 80 percent. A plan is in “critical” status if the funded percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). A plan is in “critical and declining” status if it is in critical status and is projected to become insolvent (run out of money to pay benefits) within 15 years (or within 20 years if a special rule applies). If a pension plan enters endangered status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a pension plan enters critical status or critical and declining status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Funding improvement and rehabilitation plans establish steps and benchmarks for pension plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time. The plan sponsor of a plan in critical and declining status may apply for approval to amend the plan to reduce current and future payment obligations to participants and beneficiaries.

As of June 1, 2017, the Plan was not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the Plan Year.

**Participant Information**

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the valuation date was 6,874. Of this number, 4,174 were current employees, 1,621 were retired and receiving benefits, and 1,079 were retired or no longer working for the employer and have a right to future benefits.

**Funding and Investment Policies**

Every pension plan must have a procedure to establish a funding policy for plan objectives. A funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The funding policy of the Plan is to confirm that the minimum funding requirements of ERISA are being satisfied and to determine that anticipated employer contributions will not exceed the amounts deductible under the Internal Revenue Code.

Pension plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions for making investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan is to seek total return, defined as all income and gains and losses, whether realized or unrealized. Consistency of returns on an annual basis, as contrasted with individual year gains, will be emphasized. At a minimum, the Total Return necessary on Trust assets should exceed the actuarial interest rate assumption, presently 6.75%, over the long term, (five years and beyond) by an amount greater than the estimated fee structure of approximately .50% (50 basis points). An additional long-term goal is to exceed the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by 3% per year. In addition, investments shall be made in accordance with the fiduciary responsibility provisions of ERISA, as amended.

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Under the Plan’s investment policy, the Plan’s assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

<b>Asset Allocations</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1. Cash (interest bearing and non-interest bearing)	1.1%
2. U.S. Government securities	_____
3. Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	_____
Preferred	_____
All other	_____
4. Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	_____
Preferred	_____
Common	_____
5. Partnership/joint venture interests	_____
6. Real estate (other than employer real property)	19.0%
7. Loans (other than to participants)	_____
8. Participant loans	_____
9. Value of interest in common/collective trusts	31.4%
10. Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	10.2%
11. Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	_____
12. Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	38.3%
13. Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	_____
14. Employer-related investments:	_____
Employer Securities	_____
Employer real property	_____
15. Buildings and other property used in plan operation	_____
16. Other	_____

For information about the Plan’s investment in any of the following types of investments as described in the chart above – common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, or 103-12 investment entities – contact the plan administrator by phone at (206) 441-4667, or by mail at Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc., P. O. Box 34203, Seattle, Washington 98124.

**Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report**

Pension plans must file annual reports with the US Department of Labor. The report is called the “Form 5500.” These reports contain financial and other information. You may obtain an electronic copy of your Plan’s annual report by going to [www.efast.dol.gov](http://www.efast.dol.gov) and using the search tool. Annual reports also are available from the US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling 202.693.8673. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan’s annual report by making a written request to the plan administrator. Annual reports do not contain personal information, such as the amount of your accrued benefit. You may contact your plan administrator if you want information about your accrued benefits. Your plan administrator is identified below under “Where to Get More Information.”

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### **Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans**

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal.

The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see "Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC" below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and the PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option.

### **Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC**

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only benefits that you have earned a right to receive and that can not be forfeited (called vested benefits) are guaranteed. There are separate insurance programs with different benefit guarantees and other provisions for single-employer plans and multiemployer plans. Your Plan is covered by the PBGC's multiemployer program. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11 of the Plan's monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited service. ***The PBGC's maximum guarantee, therefore, is \$35.75 per month times a participant's years of credited service.***

*Example 1:* If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$500, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant's years of service ( $\$500/10$ ), which equals \$50. The guaranteed amount for a \$50 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus  $\$24.75$  ( $.75 \times \$33$ ), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 ( $\$35.75 \times 10$ ).

*Example 2:* If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of \$200, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20 (or  $\$200/10$ ). The guaranteed amount for a \$20 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus  $\$6.75$  ( $.75 \times \$9$ ), or \$17.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 ( $\$17.75 \times 10$ ).

**If a participant has 10 years of service — PBGC's maximum guarantee *cannot exceed* \$4,290 per year and may be less.**

*Example 3:* If a participant with 30 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$5,000, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant's years of service ( $\$5,000/30$ ), which equals \$166.67. The guaranteed amount for a \$166.67 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus  $\$24.75$  ( $.75 \times \$33$ ), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$1,072.50 ( $\$35.75 \times 30$ ).

**If a participant has 30 years of service — PBGC's maximum guarantee *cannot exceed* \$12,870 per year and may be less.**

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The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In addition, the PBGC guarantees qualified preretirement survivor benefits (which are preretirement death benefits payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies before starting to receive benefit payments). In calculating a person's monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under a plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan's termination or insolvency (or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency). Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

For additional information about the PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees, go to the Multiemployer Page on the PBGC's website at [www.pbgc.gov/multiemployer](http://www.pbgc.gov/multiemployer). Please contact your employer or plan administrator for specific information about your pension plan or pension benefit. The PBGC does not have that information. See "Where to Get More Information" about your Plan, below.

**Where to Get More Information**

For more information about this notice, you may contact the plan administrator by phone at (206) 441-4667, or by mail at Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc., P. O. Box 34203, Seattle, Washington 98124. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor's employer identification number or "EIN" is 91-6180333. For more information about the PBGC, go to PBGC's website, [www.pbgc.gov](http://www.pbgc.gov).

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