

**NECA-IBEW
PENSION TRUST FUND
2120 HUBBARD AVENUE
DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62526-2871**

**PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, IL
PERMIT # 800**



NECA-IBEW PENSION TRUST FUND

DECATUR, ILLINOIS



NOVEMBER 2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARTICIPANTS NOVEMBER 2021

As required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Board of Trustees has prepared this Summary of Material Modifications (“SMM”) to notify you of material changes to the Summary Plan Description of the NECA-IBEW Pension Plan.

TEMPORARY WAIVER OF SUSPENSION OF BENEFIT RULES – CALENDAR YEAR 2022

The Trustees, in response to a shortage of electrical workers, approved a temporary waiver of the Pension Fund’s Suspension of Benefits rules for calendar year 2022. As you are aware, the Pension Fund’s rules generally provide for a Suspension of Benefits for a retiree who returns to employment for forty (40) or more hours per month in certain employment described in the Pension Fund’s Suspension of Benefits rules. Employment that results in a suspension of pension benefits is generally referred to as Disqualifying Employment. The temporary waiver of the Pension Fund’s Suspension of Benefits rules permits certain eligible retirees to return to covered and contributory employment for a period of time without a loss or suspension of pension benefits from the Pension Fund. The following is a summary of the features of the temporary waiver:

- **The temporary waiver is effective from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.** This waiver automatically expires on December 31, 2022.
- **The temporary waiver is available to all normal or early retirees with a pension effective date of December 2021 or earlier.**
- **Normal or early retirees with a pension effective date of December 2021 or earlier will be permitted to return to “covered and contributory employment” only and will be permitted to work for up to 600 hours during the above period without a loss of pension benefits.** “Covered and contributory employment” includes work or service for which an employer is required to make contributions to the Pension Fund under a collective bargaining agreement.
- Once a retiree has worked 600 hours in “covered and contributory employment” during the term of the temporary waiver, the retiree will no longer be able to take advantage of this waiver and the normal Suspension of Benefits rules (which permit work in the electrical industry for less than forty (40) hours per month) will apply.
- This temporary waiver does not apply to retirees who work for covered employers where no contributions are required, retirees who work for covered employers where contributions are required by a participation agreement, retirees who work for non-covered employers in the electrical industry, or retirees who work in employment that is not covered and contributing employment as described above.
- Disability pensioners are not eligible under this temporary waiver.
- To be eligible for the temporary waiver, retirees MUST complete and submit the Temporary Return to Work Notification to the Fund Office. **If a retiree returns to work in Disqualifying Employment and fails to submit the form the Retiree’s pension benefits will be suspended.**
- It is the **retiree’s responsibility to monitor** the amount of hours worked. **The Pension Fund will not notify you before you exceed the 600-hour limit.**

More information regarding the temporary waiver, including the Notice to Retirees and a copy of the Temporary Return to Work Notification form, can be found on the Pension Fund’s website (www.neca-ibew.org) under the “Documents and Forms” tab.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact the Fund Office at 217-875-0254.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees

This SMM provides only highlights of recent changes to the NECA-IBEW Pension Trust Fund’s Plan Documents. Full details are contained in the Plan Documents (which include the Plan Document and Summary Plan Description). If there is a discrepancy between the wording here and the wording in the Plan Documents, the wording in the Plan Documents will control and govern.