

Checklist Item #21	Application for Approval of a Suspension of Benefits Under MPRA
Iron Workers Local 17 Pension Fund	EIN: 51-0161467 Plan No.: 001
<p>Does the application describe how the plan sponsor took into account - or did not take into account - in the determination that all reasonable measures have been taken to avoid insolvency the impact of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefit and contribution levels on retaining active participants and bargaining groups under the plan, and • past and anticipated contribution increases under the plan on employer attrition and retention levels. <p>See section 5.03.</p>	<p>The Board of Trustees for the Iron Workers Local 17 Pension Fund did consider the impact of making changes to the contribution rate and determined that this was not a reasonable measure to take at this time to avoid insolvency. Specifically, the Board of Trustees determined that the potential increase in contributions is detrimental to the continuing support of the active participants. These participants, if allowed to invest their current contribution in a defined contribution plan, would have \$19,000 per year invested. Even in the unlikely event of a 50% loss in the market, they would end up with an \$8,000 contribution to their own accounts, not merely a \$50.00 credit. While this argument does not reflect the long term value of the defined benefit plan over the defined contribution plan, it is one faced by the Board of Trustees in communicating with the participants and beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Trustees believe that the current contribution rates are even detrimental to attracting new active participants; however, if the Suspension Plan is approved, at least the participants and beneficiaries will have the ability to receive the benefits and not be subject to the reductions that will occur upon insolvency.</p> <p>The Trustees believe that the current contribution rates are sustainable for the contributing employers; however, increases will continue to erode the employer base. In 2013, the Board of Trustees received notice from several employers that they were terminating their Collective Bargaining Agreement and obligation to contribute to the Pension Fund. Several of these employers are no longer performing iron work, but others have continued performing iron work under a new National Agreement entered into with the Iron</p>

	<p>Workers International Union. Others have reassigned the work to other trades with lower pension contributions. The increase of the contribution rate will only cause more employer to withdraw in 2018 upon the expiration of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement. It is the hope of the Trustees, that the implementation of the Suspension Plan will reassure the contributing employers so they continue to support this Pension Fund.</p>
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