

## CATOOSA COUNTY PENSION PLAN

SPECIAL TAX NOTICE REGARDING PLAN PAYMENTS  
(FOR PARTICIPANT)

This notice explains how you can continue to defer federal income tax on your retirement plan savings in the Plan and contains important information you will need before you decide how to receive your Plan benefits. All references to "the Code" are references to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. This notice summarizes only the federal (not state or local) tax rules which apply to your distribution. Because these rules are complex and contain many conditions and exceptions which we do not discuss in this notice, you may need to consult with a professional tax advisor before you receive your distribution from the Plan.

## A. TYPES OF PLAN DISTRIBUTIONS

**Eligibility for rollover.** The Code classifies distributions into two types: (1) distributions you may roll over ("eligible rollover distributions") and (2) distributions you may not roll over. (See "Distributions not eligible for rollover." below.) You may also receive a distribution where part of the distribution is an eligible rollover distribution and part is not eligible for rollover. A rollover is a payment by you or the Plan Administrator of all or part of your benefit to another plan or IRA that allows you to continue to postpone taxation of that benefit until it is paid to you (except for a rollover from a pre-tax account to a Roth IRA, described in the last paragraph of Section B below). The Plan Administrator will assist you in identifying which portion of your distribution is an eligible rollover distribution and which portion is not eligible for rollover.

**Plans that may accept a rollover.** You may roll over an eligible rollover distribution either to a Roth IRA (provided that for distributions before January 1, 2010, your adjusted gross income for the taxable year of the distribution does not exceed \$100,000 and you are not married filing a separate income tax return), a traditional IRA or an eligible employer plan that accepts rollovers. An "eligible employer plan" includes a plan qualified under Code Section 401(a), including a 401(k) plan, profit sharing plan, defined benefit plan, stock bonus plan (including an ESOP), and money purchase plan; a Section 403(a) annuity plan; a 403(b) plan; and an eligible Section 457(b) plan maintained by a governmental employer (governmental 457 plan). Special rules apply to the rollover of after-tax contributions. See "After-tax contributions" below. **YOU MAY NOT ROLL OVER ANY DISTRIBUTION TO A SIMPLE IRA OR A COVERDELL EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT (FORMERLY KNOWN AS AN EDUCATIONAL IRA).**

**Deciding where to roll over a distribution.** An eligible employer plan is not legally required to accept a rollover. Before you decide to roll over your payment to another employer plan, you should find out whether the plan accepts rollovers and, if so, the types of distributions it accepts as a rollover. Even if a plan accepts rollovers, it might not accept rollovers of certain types of distributions, such as after-tax amounts. If this is the case, and your distribution includes after-tax amounts, you may wish instead to roll over your distribution to an IRA or to split your rollover amount between the employer plan in which you will participate and an IRA. You should also find out about any documents you must complete before a "receiving" plan or IRA sponsor will accept a rollover. If an employer plan accepts your rollover, the plan may restrict subsequent distributions of the rollover amount or may require your spouse's consent for any subsequent distribution. A subsequent distribution from the plan that accepts your rollover may also be subject to different tax treatment than distributions from this Plan. Check with the administrator of the plan that is to receive your rollover, regarding subsequent distributions and taxation of the amount you will roll over, prior to making the rollover.

**Distributions not eligible for rollover.** An eligible rollover distribution means any distribution to you of all or any portion of your account balance under the Plan except the following:

*Required minimum distributions.* Beginning in the year in which you retire or reach age 70 1/2 (whichever is later), the Code may require the Plan to make "required minimum distributions" to you. You may not roll over the required minimum distributions. Special rules apply if you own more than 5% of the Employer.

*Corrective distributions.* You may not roll over a distribution from the Plan to correct a failed nondiscrimination test or because legal limits on certain contributions were exceeded.

*Substantially equal periodic payments.* You may not roll over a distribution if it is part of a series of substantially equal payments made at least once a year and which will last for: (1) your lifetime (or your life expectancy), (2) your lifetime and your beneficiary's lifetime (or life expectancies), or (3) a period of 10 years or more.

**After-tax contributions.**

*After-tax/rollover into an IRA.* You may roll over after-tax contributions, if any, to an IRA either directly or indirectly. For distributions before January 1, 2010, you may roll over your after-tax contributions to a Roth IRA, provided your adjusted gross income for the taxable year of the distribution does not exceed \$100,000. The Plan Administrator will assist you in identifying how much of your payment is the taxable portion and how much is the after-tax portion. If you roll over after-tax contributions to an IRA, it is your responsibility to keep track of, and report to the IRS on the applicable forms, the amount of these after-tax contributions. This will enable you to determine the nontaxable amount of any future distributions from the IRA. Once you roll over your after-tax contributions to an IRA, you may NOT later roll over those amounts to an employer plan, but may roll over your after-tax contributions to another IRA.

*After-tax/rollover into an employer plan.* You may DIRECTLY roll over after-tax contributions, if any, from the Plan to another qualified plan (including a defined benefit plan) or to a 403(b) plan if the other plan will accept the rollover and provides separate accounting for amounts rolled over, including separate accounting for the after-tax employee contributions and earnings on those contributions. You may NOT roll over after-tax contributions from the Plan to a Section 403(a) annuity plan, or to a governmental 457 plan. If you want to roll over your after-tax contributions to an employer plan that accepts these rollovers, you cannot have the after-tax contributions paid to you first. You must instruct the Plan Administrator to make a direct rollover on your behalf. Also, you may not first roll over after-tax contributions to an IRA and then roll over that amount into an employer plan.

**30-Day Notice Period/Waiver.** After receiving this notice, you have at least 30 days to consider whether to receive your distribution or have the distribution directly rolled over. If you do not wish to wait until this 30-day notice period ends before your election is processed, you may waive the notice period by making an affirmative election indicating whether or not you wish to make a direct rollover. Your distribution then will be processed in accordance with your election as soon as practical after the Plan Administrator receives your election.

## B. DIRECT ROLLOVER

**Direct rollover process.** You may elect a direct rollover of all or any portion of an eligible rollover distribution. If you elect a direct rollover, the Plan Administrator will pay the eligible rollover distribution directly to your IRA or to another eligible employer plan which you have designated. Alternatively, for the cash portion of your distribution, if any, the Plan Administrator may give you a check negotiable by the trustee or custodian of the recipient eligible employer plan or IRA. To complete the direct rollover, you must deliver the check to that trustee/custodian. A direct rollover amount is not subject to taxation at the time of the rollover, unless the direct rollover is from a pre-tax account to a Roth IRA. Except for a direct rollover of a pre-tax amount to a Roth IRA, the taxable portion of your direct rollover will be taxed later when you take it out of the IRA or the eligible employer plan. Depending on the type of plan, the later distribution may be subject to *different tax treatment* than it would be if you received a taxable distribution from this Plan. If you elect a direct rollover, your election form must include identifying information about the recipient IRA or plan.

**Treatment of periodic distributions.** If your Plan distribution is a series of payments over a period of less than ten years, each payment is an eligible rollover distribution. Your election to make a direct rollover will apply to all payments unless you advise the Plan Administrator of a change in your election. The Plan might not let you choose a direct rollover if your distributions for the year are less than \$200.

**Splitting a distribution/small distributions.** If your distribution exceeds \$500, you may elect a direct rollover of only a part of your distribution, provided the portion directly rolled over is at least \$500. If your distribution is \$500 or less, you must elect either a direct rollover of the entire amount or payment of the entire amount. The Plan might not let you choose a direct rollover if your distributions for the year are less than \$200.

**Change in tax treatment resulting from a direct rollover.** The tax treatment of any payment from the eligible employer plan or IRA receiving your direct rollover might be different than if you received your benefit in a taxable distribution directly from the Plan. For example, if you were born before January 1, 1936, you might be entitled to ten-year averaging or capital gain treatment, as explained below. However, if you roll over your benefit to a Section 403(b) plan, a governmental 457 plan, or an IRA, your benefit will no longer be eligible for that special treatment. See the sections below entitled "10% penalty tax if you are under age 59 1/2" and "Special tax treatment if you were born before 1936."

**Taxation of direct rollover of pre-tax distribution to Roth IRA.** If you directly roll over a pre-tax distribution to a Roth IRA, the taxable portion of the distribution is subject to taxation for the taxable year in which the distribution occurs (except that a special taxation rule applies to distributions during 2010 that you roll over to a Roth IRA, under which the distribution is subject to taxation ratably during 2011 and 2012). For distributions before January 1, 2010, you may not roll over a distribution from a pre-tax account to a Roth IRA if your adjusted gross income for the taxable year exceeds \$100,000. However, the adjusted gross income limit on direct rollovers from a pre-tax account to a Roth IRA does not apply to distributions you roll over after December 31, 2009.

## C. DISTRIBUTIONS YOU RECEIVE

**Taxation of eligible rollover distributions.** The taxable portion of an eligible rollover distribution which you elect to receive is taxable to you in the year you receive it unless, within 60 days following receipt, you roll over the distribution to an IRA or to another eligible employer plan.

**Withholding on eligible rollover distributions.** The taxable portion of your eligible rollover distribution is subject to 20% federal income tax withholding. You may not waive this withholding. For example, if you elect to receive a taxable eligible rollover distribution of \$5,000, the Plan will pay you only \$4,000 and will send to the IRS \$1,000 as income tax withholding. You will receive a Form 1099-R from the Plan reporting the full \$5,000 as a distribution from the Plan. The \$1,000 withholding amount applies against any federal income tax you may owe for the year. The direct rollover is the *only* means of avoiding this 20% withholding.

**60-day rollover option.** The direct rollover explained in Section B above is not the only way to make a rollover. If you receive payment of an eligible rollover distribution, you may still roll over all or any portion of the distribution to an IRA or to another eligible employer plan that accepts rollovers. If you decide to roll over the distribution, *you must make the rollover within 60 days of your receipt of the payment.* The portion of your distribution which you elect to roll over is not subject to taxation until you receive distributions from the IRA or eligible employer plan, except that a rollover of a distribution from a pre-tax account to a Roth IRA is subject to taxation in the taxable year in which the distribution occurs.

You may roll over 100% of your eligible rollover distribution even though the Plan Administrator has withheld 20% of the distribution for income tax withholding. If you elect to roll over 100% of the distribution, you must obtain *other money* within the 60-day period to contribute to the IRA or eligible employer plan to replace the 20% withheld. If you elect to roll over only the 80% which you receive, the 20% withheld will be subject to taxation.

*Example.* Assume the taxable portion of your eligible rollover distribution is \$5,000, and you do not elect a direct rollover. The Plan pays you \$4,000, withholding \$1,000 for income taxes. However, assume within 60 days after receiving the \$4,000 payment, you decide to roll over the entire \$5,000 distribution. To make the rollover, you will roll over the \$4,000 you received from the Plan and you will contribute \$1,000 from other sources (your savings, a loan, etc.). In this case, you will not have any tax liability with respect to the Plan distribution. The Plan will report a \$5,000 distribution for the year and you will report a \$5,000 rollover. When you file your income tax return, you may receive a refund of the \$1,000 withheld. If you roll over only the \$4,000 paid from the Plan, the \$1,000 you do not roll over is taxable. In addition, the \$1,000 you do not roll over may be subject to a 10% penalty tax. See "10% penalty tax if you are under age 59 1/2" below. When you file your income tax return, you still may receive an income tax refund, but the refund likely will be smaller because \$1,000 of the distribution is taxable.

**Withholding on distributions not eligible for rollover.** The 20% withholding described above does not apply to any taxable portion of your distribution that is *not* an eligible rollover distribution. You may elect whether to have federal income tax withholding apply to that portion. If you do not wish to have any income taxes withheld on that portion of your distribution, or if you wish to have an amount other than 10% withheld, you will need to sign and date IRS Form W-4P, checking the box opposite line 1. The Plan Administrator will provide you with Form W-4P if your distribution includes an amount that does not constitute an eligible rollover distribution. If you do *not* return the Form W-4P to the Plan Administrator prior to the distribution, the Plan Administrator will treat the failure to return the form as an *affirmative election* to have 10% withholding apply.

**10% penalty tax if you are under age 59 1/2.** If you receive a distribution from the Plan before you reach age 59 1/2 and you do not roll over the distribution, the taxable portion of your distribution is subject to a 10% penalty tax in addition to any federal income taxes unless an exception applies. For example, the 10% penalty tax does not apply if you separate from service with the Employer during or after the year in which you attain age 55, and then receive a distribution. See IRS Form 5329 for more information on the 10% penalty tax.

The 10% penalty tax will not apply to distributions from a governmental 457 plan, except to the extent the distribution (including earnings) is attributable to an amount you rolled over *to* that plan from another type of eligible employer plan or IRA. Any amount rolled over *from* a governmental 457 plan to another type of eligible employer plan or to a traditional IRA will become subject to the additional 10% tax if it is distributed to you before you reach age 59 1/2, unless one of the exceptions applies.

**Special tax treatment if you were born before 1936.** If your distribution is a "lump-sum distribution," and you were born before 1936, you may elect special tax treatment, but only if you do not roll over any part of the lump-sum distribution. If you roll over only a portion of your distribution to an IRA, a governmental 457 plan, or a Section 403(b) plan, this special tax treatment is not available for the rest of the payment. A lump-sum distribution is payment of your entire vested account balance (including any nontaxable portion of your distribution) under the Plan (and certain similar plans maintained by the Employer) that is made within one calendar year. If you are not a self-employed individual, the distribution must occur after you attain age 59 1/2 or after you have separated from service with the Employer. For a self-employed individual, a lump-sum distribution must occur after the self-employed individual attains age 59 1/2 or becomes disabled.

*Ten-year averaging.* If you receive a lump-sum distribution and you were born before 1936, you can make a one-time election to figure the tax on the lump-sum distribution under "10-year averaging" using 1986 tax rates. Ten-year averaging often reduces the tax you owe.

*Capital gain treatment.* If you receive a lump-sum distribution, you were born before 1936 *and* you were a participant in the Plan before 1974, you may elect to have the part of your lump-sum distribution attributable to your pre-1974 participation taxed as long-term capital gain at a rate of 20%.

*Income averaging election and limitations.* You must have completed at least five years of active participation in the Plan for special tax treatment to apply to the lump-sum distribution election. You may elect special tax treatment, known as income averaging, by filing IRS Form 4972 with your income tax return. The instructions to Form 4972 provide further details regarding the reporting of your lump-sum distribution and describe the rules for determining whether a distribution qualifies as a lump-sum distribution. As a general rule, you may not elect income averaging for a lump-sum distribution if you elected income averaging with respect to a prior lump-sum distribution you received after December 31, 1986, or after you had attained age 59 1/2. You may not elect this special tax treatment if you rolled amounts into this Plan from a Section 403(b) plan, from a governmental 457 plan or from an IRA not originally attributable to a qualified employer plan. You also may not elect income averaging if you previously rolled over another distribution from the Plan. Finally, you may not elect income averaging if you roll over your distribution to an IRA, a governmental 457 plan or a 403(b) plan, and then take a distribution from the IRA, plan or annuity.

**Government publications.** IRS Publication 575 and IRS Publication 590 provide additional information about the tax treatment of plan distributions and rollovers. These publications are available from your local IRS office, on the IRS's Internet Website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORMS.

**Employer Securities.** The Code provides a special rule for a distribution which includes Employer securities (*i.e.*, stock of the Employer). In order to take advantage of this special rule: (1) the distribution must qualify as a lump-sum distribution; or (2) the Employer stock must be attributable to after-tax employee contributions. Under this special rule, you have the option of not paying the tax on the "net unrealized appreciation" of the stock until you sell the stock. Net unrealized appreciation generally is the increase in the value of the Employer stock while the Plan held the stock. For example, if the Employer contributed Employer stock to your account when the stock was worth \$500 but the stock is worth \$800 when you receive it, you could elect not to pay the tax on the \$300 increase in value until you later sold the stock.

*Election against special rule.* You may elect not to have the special rule apply to net unrealized appreciation. If you elect not to apply the special rule, your net unrealized appreciation is taxable in the year of distribution, unless you roll over the stock. You may roll over the stock to an IRA or to another eligible employer plan in a direct rollover or a rollover which you make yourself. Generally, you no longer will be able to use the special rule for net unrealized appreciation if you roll over the stock to an IRA or to another eligible employer plan.

*Withholding requirements.* If you receive only Employer stock in a distribution that is eligible for rollover, withholding will not apply to the distribution. If you receive cash or property other than Employer stock, as well as Employer stock, in a distribution that is eligible for rollover, the Plan will base the 20% withholding amount on the entire taxable amount paid to you (including the value of the Employer stock determined by excluding the net unrealized appreciation). However, the amount withheld will not exceed the cash or property (excluding Employer stock) paid to you.

*Income averaging.* If you receive Employer stock in a distribution which qualifies as a lump-sum distribution, the income averaging election also may apply. See IRS Form 4972 for additional information on these rules.