
Under §4204.22 of the regulation, PBGC shall approve a request for a variance or exemption if it determines that approval of the request is warranted, in that it:

(1) Would more effectively or equitably carry out the purposes of Title IV of the Act; and

(2) Would not significantly increase the risk of financial loss to the plan.

Section 4204(c)(1) of ERISA and §4204.22(b) of the regulation requires PBGC to publish a notice of the pendency of a request for a variance or exemption in the Federal Register, and to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the proposed variance or exemption.

The Request

PBGC has received a request, dated September 9, 2010, from Rangers Baseball Express, LLC (the “Purchaser”) for an exemption from the bond/escrow requirement of section 4204(a)(1)(B) with respect to its purchase of Texas Rangers Baseball Partners (the “Seller”). In the request, the Purchaser represents, among other things, that:

1. The Seller was obligated to contribute to the Major League Baseball Players Pension Plan (the “Plan”) for certain employees of the purchased operations.

2. The Purchaser has agreed to assume the obligation to contribute to the Plan for substantially the same number of contribution base units as the Seller.

3. The Seller has agreed to be secondarily liable for any withdrawal liability it would have had with respect to the purchased operations (if not for section 4204) should the Purchaser withdraw from the Plan and fail to pay its withdrawal liability.

4. The estimated amount of the withdrawal liability of the Seller with respect to the operations subject to the Plan is $4,068,868, which is to be posted if the Seller with respect to the operations subject to the Plan without passing through the hands of any of the Clubs. Therefore, the Plan enjoys a substantial degree of security with respect to contributions on behalf of the Clubs. A change in ownership of a particular Club does not affect the obligation of the Central Fund to fund the Plan out of the Revenues. As such, approval of this exemption request would not significantly increase the risk of financial loss to the Plan.

5. The amount of the bond/escrow established under section 4204(a)(1)(B) is $4,068,868, which is to be posted if PBGC has not acted on the request by the end of the plan year of the request.

6. The Major League Baseball Clubs (the “Clubs”) have established the Major League Central Fund (the “Central Fund”) pursuant to the Major League Baseball Constitution. Under this Constitution, the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball pays contributions to the Plan from the Central Fund on behalf of each participating employer in satisfaction of the employer’s pension liability under the Plan’s funding agreement. The monies in the Central Fund are derived directly from (i) gate receipts from All-Star games; (ii) radio and television revenue from World Series, League Championship Series, Division Series, All-Star Games, and (iii) certain other radio and television revenue, including revenues from foreign broadcasts, regular, spring training, and exhibition games (“Revenues”).

7. In support of the exemption request, the Purchaser asserts that “[t]he Plan is funded from the Revenues which are paid from the Central Fund directly to the Plan without passing through the hands of any of the Clubs. Consequently, the Plan enjoys a substantial degree of security with respect to contributions on behalf of the Clubs. A change in ownership of a particular Club does not affect the obligation of the Central Fund to fund the Plan out of the Revenues. As such, approval of this exemption request would not significantly increase the risk of financial loss to the Plan.”

8. A complete copy of the request was sent to the Plan and to the Major League Baseball Players Association by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Issued at Washington, DC on December 17, 2010.

Joshua Gotbaum,
Director.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Curry, Deputy Associate Director for Partnership and Labor Relations, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 7H28-E, Washington, DC 20415. Phone (202) 606–2930; FAX (202) 606–2613; or e-mail at PLR@opm.gov.

For the National Council.

John Berry,
Director.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations Meeting

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations plans to meet on the following dates—

Wednesday, January 19, 2011.

Wednesday, February 16, 2011.

The meetings will start at 10 a.m. and will be held in the AIA Gallery Room at the American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20006. Interested parties should consult the Council Web site at http://www.mrcouncil.gov for the latest information on Council activities, including changes in meeting dates.

The Council is an advisory body composed of representatives of Federal employee organizations, Federal management organizations, and senior government officials. The Council was established by Executive Order 13522, entitled, “Creating Labor-Management Forums to Improve Delivery of Government Services,” which was signed by the President on December 9, 2009. Along with its other responsibilities, the Council assists in the implementation of Labor Management Forums throughout the government and makes recommendations to the President on innovative ways to improve delivery of services and products to the public while cutting costs and advancing employee interests. The Council is co-chaired by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget.

At its meetings, the Council will continue its work in promoting cooperative and productive relationships between labor and management in the executive branch, by carrying out the responsibilities and functions listed in Section 1(b) of the Executive Order. The meetings are open to the public. Please contact the Office of Personnel Management at the address shown below if you wish to present material to the Council at the meeting. The manner and time prescribed for presentations may be limited, depending upon the number of parties that express interest in presenting information.

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
Aeronautics Science and Technology Subcommittee; Committee on Technology; National Science and Technology Council

ACTION: Notice of Meeting—Public input is requested on the National Aeronautics Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) Infrastructure Plan.

SUMMARY: The Aeronautics Science and Technology Subcommittee (ASTS) of the National Science and Technology Council’s (NSTC) Committee on Technology will hold a public meeting...