

**ETNA BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN**

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

**JANUARY 1, 2005, TO DECEMBER 31, 2007**





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## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background .....	1
Letter from the Auditor General .....	3
Finding and Recommendation:	
Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A Net Underpayment Of State Aid .....	5
Supplementary Information .....	7
Report Distribution List .....	11



## BACKGROUND

On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.). The act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state aid to Pennsylvania's public pension plans. Section 402(j) of Act 205 specifically requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to make an audit of every municipality which receives general municipal pension system State aid and of every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system State aid is deposited.

Pension plan aid is provided from a 2 percent foreign casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign fire insurance tax designated for paid firefighters and any investment income earned on the collection of these taxes. Generally, municipal pension plans established prior to December 18, 1984, are eligible for state aid. For municipal pension plans established after that date, the sponsoring municipality must fund the plan for three plan years before it becomes eligible for state aid. In accordance with Act 205, a municipality's annual state aid allocation cannot exceed its actual pension costs.

In addition to Act 205, the Etna Borough Police Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes including, but not limited to, the following:

Act 600 - Police Pension Fund Act, Act of May 29, 1956 (P.L. 1804, No. 600), as amended, 53 P.S. § 761 et seq.

The Etna Borough Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 1294, as amended, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its police officers.





The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council  
Etna Borough  
Allegheny County  
Etna, PA 15223

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Etna Borough Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2005, to December 31, 2007. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was to determine if the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. Our audit was limited to the areas related to this objective.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the Etna Borough Police Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. To assist us in planning and performing our audit, we obtained an understanding of the borough's internal control structure as it relates to the borough's compliance with those requirements. Additionally, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures and interviewed selected officials to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Etna Borough Police Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following finding further discussed later in this report:

Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A  
Net Underpayment Of State Aid

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Etna Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

October 22, 2008

JACK WAGNER  
Auditor General

ETNA BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A Net Underpayment Of State Aid

Condition: The borough certified 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) in 2005 on Certification Form AG 385. The borough certified 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee and overstated payroll by \$8,567, and understated payroll by \$20,662 for a police officer in 2006 on Certification Form AG 385. In addition, the borough understated payroll by \$7,401 for a police officer in 2007 and understated payroll by \$11,521 for a nonuniformed employee in 2008 on Certification Form AG 385.

Criteria: Pursuant to Act 205, at Section 402(e)(2), an employee who has been employed on a full-time basis for at least six consecutive months and has been participating in a pension plan during the certification year is eligible for certification.

Cause: Plan officials were unaware of the applicable Act 205 guidelines for the certification of eligible employees.

Effect: The data submitted on these certification forms is used, in part, to calculate the state aid due to the municipality for distribution to its pension plans. Since the borough’s state aid allocations were based on unit value for 2005 and based on pension costs for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008, the effect of the incorrect certification of pension data on the borough’s state aid allocations is identified below:

Year	Type Of Plan	Units Overstated (Understated)	Unit Value	Normal Cost	Payroll Overstated (Understated)	State Aid Overpayment (Underpayment)
2005	Nonuniformed	1	\$ 2,927	-	\$ -	\$ 2,927
2006	Police	-	-	18.0177%	\$ (20,662)	(3,723)
	Nonuniformed	-	-	6.1418%	\$ 8,567	526
						(3,197)
2007	Police	-	-	18.0177%	\$ (7,401)	(1,333)
2008	Nonuniformed	-	-	5.9684%	\$ (11,521)	(688)
						Net Underpayment Of State Aid \$ (2,291)

ETNA BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Although the borough will be reimbursed for the underpayment of state aid due to the borough's certification errors, the full amount of the 2006, 2007 and 2008 state aid allocations were not available to be deposited timely and therefore were not available to pay operating expenses or for investment.

Recommendation: We recommend that, in the future, plan officials comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension plan data.

Management's Response: Municipal officials agreed with the finding without exception.

ETNA BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Historical trend information about the plan is presented herewith as supplementary information. It is intended to help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating assets to pay benefits when due, and make comparisons with other state and local government retirement systems.

The actuarial information is required by Act 205 biennially, except for distressed pension plans, for which annual reporting was required through January 1, 2003. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2003, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Entry Age (b)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability (b) - (a)	Funded Ratio (a)/(b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability as a % of Payroll [(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-03	\$ 1,521,065	\$ 1,326,739	\$ (194,326)	114.6%	\$ 206,068	(94.3%)
01-01-05	1,737,393	1,542,813	(194,580)	112.6%	337,712	(57.6%)
01-01-07	1,817,150	1,627,357	(189,793)	111.7%	295,698	(64.2%)

ETNA BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

The comparability of trend information is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies, and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements and in ratios that use the actuarial accrued liability as a factor.

Analysis of the dollar amount of the actuarial value of assets, actuarial accrued liability, and unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the actuarial value of assets as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability (Column 4) provides one indication of the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage, over time, indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan.

Trends in unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability as a percentage of annual covered payroll (Column 6) approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the plan's progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, where there is an unfunded actuarial accrued liability, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan. However, when assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

ETNA BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER  
 AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2002	None	N/A
2003	None	N/A
2004	None	N/A
2005	\$ 29,936	100.0%
2006	24,229	100.0%
2007	26,032	100.0%

ETNA BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES  
(UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at the date indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation date follows:

Actuarial valuation date	January 1, 2007
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	N/A
Remaining amortization period	N/A
Asset valuation method	Fair value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.5%
Projected salary increases *	5.0%
* Includes inflation at	3.0%



ETNA BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Etna Borough Police Pension Plan  
Allegheny County  
437 Butler Street  
Etna, PA 15223

The Honorable Thomas Rengers	Mayor
Mr. Peter F. Ramage	Council President
Ms. Mary Ellen Ramage	Borough Manager

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, Room 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter, you may contact the Department of the Auditor General by accessing our website at [www.auditorgen.state.pa.us](http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us).