Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

Washington, DC 20224

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Contact Person:

Telephone Number:

In Reference to:
CC:DOM:FI&P:2 PLR-116685-99

Date:
December 28, 1999

City =

Trust =

State =

Dear :

This is in response to a letter dated October 12, 1999, and prior correspondence, requesting a private letter ruling that Trust is an integral part of City.

FACTS

City is a political subdivision of State. City currently maintains one or more post-retirement welfare benefit plans (collectively, the "Plan") that provide its eligible employees ("Participants") and their beneficiaries ("Beneficiaries") with life, sickness, medical, disability, severance and other similar benefits through insurance and self-funded reimbursement plans.

City intends to establish Trust to hold assets and income of the Plan for the exclusive benefit of Participants and their Beneficiaries.

Trust's Declaration defines "Beneficiaries" to include a Participant's spouse, any child of the Participant or the Participant's spouse who is a minor or a student within the meaning of section 151(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, any other minor child residing with the Participant, and any other individual who is a person described in section 152(a) of the Code. Death benefits may be provided to any Beneficiary designated by a Participant under the terms of a death benefit program or an insurance contract forming part of the Plan. Trust

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may provide benefits by cash payment, and may reimburse a Participant, City, or Trust's Administrator for insurance premiums or other payments expended for permissible benefits under the Plan.

Under Trust's Declaration, City will be the Administrator of Trust. City may appoint one or more investment managers to manage and control all or part of the assets of Trust. Under Trust's Declaration, the Trustee will hold assets only as titleholder. Persons having custody or possession of assets may include City, the Administrator of Trust, the investment manager, and their agents and subagents, but not the Trustee. The Trustee will have no discretion or authority with regard to the investments of Trust and will act solely as a directed Trustee with respect to the assets to which it holds title.

The Trustee will not be responsible or liable for any loss or expense that may arise or result from complying with any direction from the City, the Administrator, the investment manager, or such agents to take title to any assets, or from the Trustee's refusal or failure to comply with any direction to hold title, unless it involves or results from the Trustee's negligence or intentional misconduct. The Trustee may refuse to comply with any direction if it deems such direction illegal.

City indemnifies and holds the Trustee harmless from any actions, claims, demands, liabilities, losses, damages or reasonable expenses of any kind in connection with or arising out of (i) any action taken or omitted in good faith in accordance with its directions, (ii) any disbursements made in accordance with directions, or (iii) any action taken by or omitted by the Trustee with respect to an investment managed by an investment manager in accordance with any direction of the investment manager or any inaction regarding any investment in the absence of directions from the investment manager. City, however, has no responsibility to the Trustee under the indemnification if the Trustee fails negligently, intentionally, or reckless to perform its duties.

City will contribute to Trust such amounts as specified in the Plan or by resolution. No other person or persons will be permitted to make any contributions.

The Plan must provide a formula for determining the value of a Participant's accrued vacation leave, sick leave, or both, in excess of a threshold number of hours of such leave. City may contribute amounts so determined to Trust. The Plan will contain a forfeiture provision that will prevent Participants and their Beneficiaries from receiving cash in lieu of a contribution to Trust in their behalf. Contributions, investment income, realized and unrealized gains and losses, and forfeitures will be deposited into an account in Trust in the name of the Participant

for the exclusive benefit of the Participant and his or her Beneficiaries. A Participant may direct the investment of amounts in her or his account among investments selected by City. No amount in any account will be subject to transfer, assignment, or alienation, whether voluntary or involuntary, in favor of any creditor, transferee, or assignee of City, the Trustee, Participant or Beneficiary.

City or the Administrator, investment manager, or other agent designated by City will receive contributions and will hold, invest, and administer contributions without distinction between principal and income. The Trustee will not be responsible for the calculation or collection of contributions, but will hold title to property received as directed by City or its designee. The Trustee will not be required to keep accounts of the investments, receipts, disbursements, and other transaction of Trust except as necessary to perform its title-holding function. City or its designee will maintain all books and records.

City reserves the right to alter, amend, or terminate Trust at any time for any reason without the consent of any person. No amendment affecting the Trustee is effective without the Trustee's consent, and no termination can result in any part of Trust's assets being used for or diverted to purposes other than the exclusive benefit of Participants and Beneficiaries.

If City adopts other plans providing life, sickness, accident, medical, disability, severance, or other benefits and designates Trust as part of such plan, City or its agent will hold contributions to such plan in Trust. The contributions may be commingled for investment purposes, but the books and record of Trust must show the portion of Trust allocable to each plan.

Upon the satisfaction of all liabilities under the Plan to provide benefits, any amounts remaining in any account must be returned to City.

LAW & ANALYSIS

Income of an integral part of a state or political subdivision of a state is not taxable absent specific statutory authorization. See Rev. Rul. 87-2, 1987-1 C.B. 18; section 511(a)(2)(B) of the Code, GCM 14407, C.B. XIV-1, 103 (1935), superseded by Rev. Rul. 71-131, 1971-1 C.B. 28. Whether an enterprise is an integral part depends on facts and circumstances such as the state's degree of control over the enterprise and its financial commitment to the enterprise. If an enterprise is an integral part of a state or political subdivision of a state, it will not be treated as a separate entity for federal tax purposes, though it may have been formed as a separate entity

under state law. Section 301.7701-1(a)(3) of the Procedural and Administrative Regulations.

City has made a substantial financial commitment to Trust by providing all of its funding. City retains complete control over Trust because it may amend or terminate Trust at any time. City retains control over the daily operation of Trust by its power to appoint or remove agents who manage daily operation. The Trustee is merely a title holder with no power to manage Trust.

CONCLUSION

Provided that City is the only person that makes contributions to Trust, and Trust accepts or holds only amounts of money contributed by City, Trust will be an integral part of City, and any income earned on amounts in Trust will not be subject to federal income tax.

This ruling is directed only to the taxpayer that requested it. Section 6110(k)(3) of the Code provides that it may not be used or cited as precedent.

Except as specifically provided otherwise, no opinion is expressed on the federal income tax consequences of the transaction described above.

In accordance with the terms of a power of attorney on file in this office, a copy of this letter is being sent to your authorized representative.

Sincerely,

Assistant Chief Counsel
(Financial Institutions & Products)

By: William Coppersmith_____
William E. Coppersmith
Chief, Branch 2

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