



August 2018

**Pipeline Industry Pension Fund
Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund**

***Important Information to the Membership
Summary of Material Plan Modifications***

The Board of Trustees of Pipeline Industry Pension Fund and Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund met on August 28, 2018, and approved plan changes summarized below. These important pension plan and health and welfare plan changes will affect active participants, spouses, children, and retirees.

Board of Trustees:

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Danny Hendrix
Justin Wallace
Grant Sample

Management Trustees

Paul Somerville
Ronnie Wise
Steven Rooney

Director

Renée Vause

Pipeline Industry Pension Fund

The following pension improvements and changes will be implemented for plan participants earning pension credits and retired participants in the Pipeline Industry Pension Fund (PIPF):

1. Increase the accrual rate retroactive for all Journeyman participants' past years to \$205.00 provided the participant does not have a break in service of two years or more and increase the Helper rate for all Helper participants to \$136.00 provided the participant does not have a break in service of two years or more. This benefit increase is retroactive for anyone retiring January 1, 2018, or later. Future year accrual rates will be \$205.00 for Journeymen and \$136.00 for Helpers.
2. PIPF will issue a 13th check which will be 260% of the pension payment as of January 1, 2018. This will be issued in 2018 for participants that retired prior to January 1, 2018, who are in pay status on December 31, 2017. If the participant dies before January 1, 2018, and his designated beneficiary is in pay status on January 1, 2018, the beneficiary will get a 13th check based on their beneficiary amount.

Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund

The following benefit improvements and changes will be implemented for plan participants and retired participants in the Pipeline Industry Benefit Fund (PIBF):

Plan Modifications

1. The cap of \$1,500 for a tubal ligation has been removed, and the benefit will no longer be considered a stand-alone benefit but will be subject to the annual medical deductible and co-insurance.
2. The cap of \$100 for cervical or spinal x-rays as listed under chiropractic benefits has been removed and will no longer be considered a stand-alone benefit but will be subject to the annual medical deductible and co-insurance.



3. Effective September 1, 2018, physical therapy benefits for non-surgical physical therapy, biofeedback or pulmonary rehab will increase from \$25 per visit to \$50 per visit.
4. Expenses for speech therapy or any other service due to developmental delay will no longer be excluded. Speech therapy due to developmental delay will be subject to a 20 visit per year limit.

Retiree Health Coverage

1. As previously stated, effective January 1, 2017, plan participants will no longer be required to earn 20 years of credited service prior to retirement to be eligible for retiree health coverage. Any plan participant who retires with less than 20 years of credited service can earn the additional years needed to get to 20 years of credited service after retirement. The Trustees have expanded this to allow plan participants with over 20 years of credited service at retirement who did not qualify for retiree coverage at retirement (because they did not meet the requirement of two vesting years earned within the five years immediately preceding retirement) to earn coverage by working two vesting years after retirement. Other rules to obtain retiree coverage remain in effect.
2. Retirees can now add dependents for retired employee health care coverage after initial retirement.

Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)

1. The Trustees have again approved the continuance of the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for 2019. The HRA benefit will continue to be \$4,000.00 per year for active members for single or family coverage. Active members on COBRA will continue to be \$4,000.00 per year for single or family coverage. Separate coverage for spouses and children who are on COBRA is \$2,000.00 per year. The HRA amount for a retired member with covered dependents is \$4,000.00 per year and single retired members, and retired widows is \$2,000.00 per year.
2. The HRA filing deadline for 2018 and future calendar years has been extended from March 31st to April 15th.