



May 10, 2012

Mr. Sparb Collins  
Executive Director  
North Dakota PERA  
400 East Broadway, Suite 505  
PO Box 1657  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1657

Dear Sparb:

On behalf of Kirsten Steiert, Sr. Regional Client Care Manager please find below The Hartford's response to your recent inquiry regarding the sale of the Hartford's retirement plan business.

1. Please provide a description of the Hartford's plans to sell its retirement plan business:

(a) What are the business reasons for the sale?

On March 21, 2012, The Hartford announced its decision to sell its Retirement Plans business, along with several other businesses not considered core to The Hartford's future strategy.

(b) What are the current credit ratings for The Hartford?

As of May 8, 2012 our credit ratings were as follows: A.M. Best: A; Fitch: A-; Moody's: A3; Standard & Poor's: A-. We have a stable outlook Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's. For A.M. Best they have placed us on negative watch.

(c) What is being sold? Will the government segment be part of the sale?

The Hartford is selling its entire Retirement Plans business, including the government segment.

(d) What is the expected time frame for the sale?

We expect that any sale could take between 12 and 18 months to complete.

2. How will the sale impact current Hartford plan participants in the ND 457 program?

All group annuity contracts issued by Hartford Life Insurance Company to retirement plans will remain in force under the existing provisions, conditions, and terms after the sale.

Therefore, the plan participants will continue to have the same rights and privileges after the sale, for as long as the existing contract remains in place. The existing contract will continue until terminated or discontinued by either party in accordance with its provisions.

The Hartford  
200 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, CT 06089

"The Hartford" is The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including issuing company Hartford Life Insurance Company and Hartford Securities Distribution Company, Inc. ("HSD"). HSD (member FINRA and SIPC), a registered broker/dealer affiliate of The Hartford, has established certain service programs for retirement plans, including defined contribution employee retirement benefit plans, through which a sponsor or administrator of a Plan may invest in mutual funds on behalf of Plan Participants.

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3. Current Hartford plan participants in the ND 457 plan are in the group annuity contracts - individually allocated, therefore:
  - (a) Will participants in these contracts be able to keep ownership?
  - (b) How will any of these contracts be treated in the sale?
  - (c) Will product deferred sales charges, back-end loads, market value adjustment terms be impacted?

See response to #2 above; since the Hartford Life group annuity contract with the ND 457 plan will remain in force and unchanged after the sale, the plan participants will have the same rights, privileges - and will be subject to any existing deferred sales charge (based upon his/her individual participation in the Contract).

4. Will any current Hartford products be discontinued or modified as to their terms and conditions?  
It is anticipated that the Retirement Plans business will continue as usual during the transition period. Upon the completion of the sale, the buyer will determine what products will be continued, discontinued, or modified for its future new business.
5. How will guaranteed products (e.g., fixed and variable annuities) be impacted?  
As indicated above, all group annuity contracts and funding agreements issued by Hartford Life Insurance Company to retirement plans will remain in force under the existing terms and conditions after the sale.
6. How will the sale impact the current Hartford broker-agent distribution model and participant service model?  
The Hartford's Retirement Plans business will continue as usual during the transition and sale process. The buyer will determine what business models will be utilized after completion of its purchase.

Upon your review of Hartford's responses to your inquiries do not hesitate to contact Kirsten directly at (913) 262-7429 or myself at the number below.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Scheetz  
Senior Strategic Relationship Manager  
Retirement Plans Group SDC1-560  
Phone: 860-843-1998  
Fax: 866-521-9538

cc: Kirsten Steiert  
Bill Abramowicz

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