

DEAN ACTUARIES, LLC

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April 27, 2021

Ms. Jodi Cox
CEO/ Executive Director
Oklahoma Municipal Retirement Fund
1001 NW 63rd Street
Suite 260
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Re: Discount Rate for Member Cities under GASB 68 at the July 1, 2020 Measurement Date

Dear Jodi:

As you know, GASB 68 prescribes a discount rate that reflects the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments to the extent that plan assets are projected to be sufficient to make projected benefit payments, and the yield on high quality 20-year tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds on any payments due after plan assets are projected to be depleted. This determination is generally made by a projection of future trust cashflows: benefit payments to current participants and beneficiaries, contributions from current participants, employer contributions on behalf of current participants, employer contributions on behalf of future participants in excess of their projected service costs, trust investment earnings, and administrative expenses. GASB 68 paragraph 29 also provides, however, that if plan assets can be shown to be sufficient without a separate projection of cashflows, the expected return on plan assets is used for the discount rate.

OkMRF has adopted a funding policy for its members that is designed to fund all benefits payable to participants over the course of their working careers. Any differences between actual and expected experience are funded over a fixed period to ensure all funds necessary to pay benefits have been contributed to the trust before those benefits are payable. Because the assumptions prescribed for the cashflow projection are the same as those used to determine funding requirements (while the funding assumes a net 7.25% return, the cashflow projection uses a 7.50% return with 0.25% assumed administrative expenses), and because the cashflow projection assumes no demographic or investment gains or losses in the future, to the extent that members make their actuarially determined contributions, they will not have a depletion date which would trigger the municipal bond rate for subsequent cashflows.

This conclusion is a mathematical certainty for any plan that does not have an unfunded liability (new plans that did not grant past service credit, and plans in a surplus position). Thus, the only risk for other plans is that the amortization period would defer contributions beyond the time they were needed to pay benefits. While this presents no risk to most plans as benefits to current participants are still being paid 50-75 years into the future (versus a fixed amortization period of 29-30 years), we ran a number of sample cashflow projections for cities most at risk. These included:

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- plans with large unfunded liabilities relative to payroll
- plans with an unusually high average employee age
- plans with a high ratio of retirees to active employees
- plans with no active participants.

In all these cashflow projections, only one plan had a depletion date. This exception arose under specific, unique circumstances. The sponsor of this plan has committed to a more rapid amortization that will ensure that this plan has no projected depletion.

In conclusion, along with this one plan, all other OkMRF members reporting on an accrual basis who consistently make their actuarially determined contributions should use the long-term expected rate of return (7.50%) as their discount rate as of the July 1, 2020 measurement date, as none of these members have a depletion date which would trigger the municipal bond rate for subsequent cashflows.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sean M. Sullivan, FSA
Consulting Actuary