

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 1998

NOTE 11. POSTEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: (CONTINUED)

Information regarding the cost of insurance benefits applicable to Commission retirees is not available. By State law, the Commission has no liability for retirement benefits. Accordingly, the cost of providing these benefits for retirees is not included in the accompanying financial statements.

In addition, the State General Assembly periodically directs the Retirement Systems to pay supplemental (cost of living) increases to retirees. Such increases are primarily funded from Systems earnings; however, a portion of the required amount is appropriated from the State General Fund annually for the SCRS and PORS benefits.

NOTE 12. PENSION PLANS:

The Retirement Division maintains four independent defined benefit plans and issues its own publicly available Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which includes financial statements and required supplementary information. A copy of the separately issued CAFR may be obtained by writing to the Retirement Division, 202 Arbor Lake Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29223. Furthermore, the Division and the four pension plans are included in the CAFR of the State of South Carolina.

Some of the employees of the Commission are covered by a retirement plan through the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Retirement Division of the State Budget and Control Board, a public employee retirement system. Generally all State employees are required to participate in and contribute to the SCRS as a condition of employment unless exempted by law as provided in Section 9-1-480 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. This plan provides retirement annuity benefits as well as disability, cost of living adjustment, death, and group-life insurance benefits to eligible employees and retirees.

Under the SCRS, employees are eligible for a full service retirement annuity upon reaching age 65 or completion of 30 years credited service regardless of age. The benefit formula for full benefits effective since July 1, 1989, for the SCRS is 1.82 percent of an employee's average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service. Early retirement options with reduced benefits are available as early as age 55. Employees are vested for deferred annuity after five years service and qualify for a survivor's benefit upon completion of 15 years credited service. Disability annuity benefits are payable to employees totally and permanently disabled provided they have a minimum of five years credited service. A group-life insurance benefit equal to an employee's annual rate of compensation is payable upon the death of an active employee with a minimum of one year of credited service.

Since July 1, 1988, employees participating in the SCRS have been required to contribute six percent of all compensation. Effective July 1, 1997, the employer contribution rate became 9.466 percent which included a 1.916 percent surcharge to fund retiree health and dental insurance coverage. The Commission's actual contributions to the SCRS for the three most recent years ended June 30, 1998, 1997 and 1996 were approximately \$2,448,000, \$2,484,000 and \$2,452,000, respectively, and equaled the required contributions of 7.55 percent (excluding the surcharge) for each year. Also, the Commission paid in the current fiscal year employer group-life insurance contributions of approximately \$47,000 at the rate of .15 percent of compensation.