



U.S.
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September 16, 2005

Top Hat Plan Exemption
Employee Benefits Security Administration
U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-1513
200 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20010

Re: Conning & Company
Amended and Restated Executive Deferred Savings Plan

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that on August 10th, 2004 Conning & Company approved and became the sponsor of the above-referenced plan (the "Plan"). Under Section 104(a)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA"), we intend that this letter satisfy the disclosure requirements applicable to the Plan under Part 1 of Title I of ERISA (in accordance with 29 CFR §2520.104-23).

The Plan is maintained primarily for the purpose of providing benefits to a select group of management or highly compensated employees. There are currently no directors and no executive officers eligible for Plan participation. Plan benefits are payable from the Plan sponsor's general assets.

25 Participants

As required by Section 104(a)(1) of ERISA, relevant documents will be provided to you upon your request to the undersigned, care of the Plan sponsor at the following address: One Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103. The Plan sponsor's employer identification number is 06-1174588.


If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or our counsel, Mark Poerio at (202) 508.9582.

Very truly yours,

William M. Bourque

William M. Bourque
Senior V.P. & General Counsel

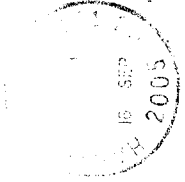
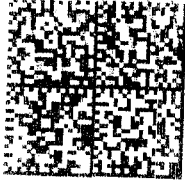
cc: J. Mark Poerio, Esquire

 **CONNING**
*One Financial Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103-2627*

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