



State of Tennessee

David H. Lillard, Jr., State Treasurer

For Immediate Release: Dec. 23, 2013

Alert to Active Johnson City Power Board Employees Participating in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System

The Tennessee Department of Treasury is informing active Johnson City Power Board employees about a theft of personal information. The department has learned that Steven Hunter, a former Department of Treasury employee, downloaded a Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System file that contained personal information about Johnson City Power Board employees to a personal e-mail address at an unencrypted personal computer.

Retired employees of the Johnson City Power Board, state employees, and local government employees in Washington County or surrounding counties are not affected by this incident.

Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr. immediately notified law enforcement officials, including the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, when it was discovered earlier this month that Hunter had downloaded personal information about Metro Nashville teachers. The TBI took swift action and seized Mr. Hunter's personal computer and other electronic devices. Hunter was arrested last week and charged with identity theft trafficking. After further examination, an additional file was discovered on Hunter's computer. This file contained the personal information of the Johnson City Power Board employees.

According to a TBI press release dated Friday, December 20, TBI states that they do not have any evidence that Hunter has disseminated any of the personal information he obtained. However, as a precaution, the Treasury Department will be offering free credit monitoring and other services to the affected employees.

The Treasury Department has engaged a nationally recognized identity theft protection contractor to promptly prepare and send written notification of this incident to the active Johnson City Power Board employees that participate in TCRS. This notification will include more information about how to enroll in the free credit monitoring and other services as well as a hotline phone number for Johnson City Power Board employees to call and receive up-to-date information or discuss concerns.

“This is a situation we take extremely seriously in the Treasury Department,” Treasurer Lillard said. “This former employee clearly violated the Treasury Department's privacy policy by downloading information that is confidential onto an unencrypted computer. I want to thank the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and its special agents for their quick and decisive action which has protected numerous Tennessee citizens.”

“We continually stress to our employees that they must follow department policies and procedures in handling sensitive information collected for the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System.” Treasurer Lillard said. “This individual violated the public trust by downloading information to his personal e-mail account, regardless of his intentions.”

The Tennessee Treasury Department will continue to work with law enforcement officials on this matter and will notify all the potentially affected individuals.

Treasurer Lillard will answer questions about the situation during a media conference call at 4:00 p.m. Eastern today. To participate in the call, please dial (217) 258-5588 and enter the access code: 28203#.

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Media contact: Blake Fontenay, Communications Director, (901) 361-3871 or blake.fontenay@tn.gov

[Tennessee Department of the Treasury](#)
State Capitol Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: (615) 741-2956