

NorthWestern Corporation DBA NorthWestern Energy
January 1, 2021

DISCLAIMER

Sponsor: NorthWestern Corporation DBA NorthWestern Energy

Policy Number(s): GF3-890-LF0464-01

Date Provided: September 3, 2021

The following certificate(s) are a true copy of the certificate(s) issued under the policy(ies).

LINCOLN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF BOSTON

NorthWestern Corporation DBA NorthWestern Energy

CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

Lincoln Life Assurance Company of Boston welcomes your employer as a client.

Sponsor: NorthWestern Corporation DBA NorthWestern Energy

Plan Number: GF3-890-LF0464-01

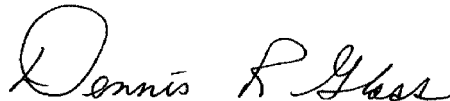
Effective Date: January 1, 2021

When this plan refers to "you" or "your" it means the Employee insured under this plan. This is your Disability Income certificate of coverage as long as you are eligible for insurance and remain insured.

A few words about this certificate of coverage...

It is written in plain English. A few terms and provisions are written as required by insurance law. **PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.** If you have any questions about any terms and provisions, please contact the Insurance Administrator at your work location or write to Lincoln. Lincoln will assist you in any way we can to help you understand your benefits.

Also, if the terms of your certificate of coverage and the policy differ, the policy will govern. Your coverage may be terminated or modified in whole or in part under the terms and provisions of the policy.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis R. Glass".

PRESIDENT

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SECTION 1 - SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR INSURANCE BENEFITS

What is the Minimum Hourly Requirement?

Employees working a minimum of 20 regularly scheduled hours per week

Who is Eligible for Long Term Disability Benefits?

Class 1: All regular full-time, regular part-time and seasonal Employees (when not in lay-off status) who began their initial employment in Montana (unless otherwise provided under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement)

Class 2: All regular full-time, regular part-time and seasonal Employees (when not in lay-off status) who began their initial employment in South Dakota or Nebraska (unless otherwise provided under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement)

Note: This policy does not cover the following Employees: Temporary Employees, and Employees who are not legal residents working in the United States.

What is the Eligibility Waiting Period?

1. If you are employed by the Sponsor on the plan effective date -
None
2. If you begin employment for the Sponsor after the plan effective date -
None

Are Employee Contributions Required?

No

SECTION 1 - SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE

What is the Elimination Period?

180 days.

What is the Amount of Insurance Benefits?

60.00% of Basic Monthly Earnings not to exceed a Maximum Monthly Benefit of \$15,000.00 less Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings as outlined in Section 4.

What is the Maximum Basic Monthly Earnings on which the Benefit is Based? \$25,000.00

What is the Own Occupation Duration?

24 Month Own Occupation

SECTION 1 - SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

What is the Minimum Monthly Benefit?

The Minimum Monthly Benefit is \$100.00.

What is the Maximum Benefit Period?

Age at Disability -----	Maximum Benefit Period -----
Less than age 62	To SSNRA*
62	60 months
63	48 months
64	42 months
65	36 months
66	30 months
67	24 months
68	18 months
69 and over	12 months
-	-
Year of Birth -----	Normal Retirement Age -----
Before 1938	65
1938	65 and 2 months
1939	65 and 4 months
1940	65 and 6 months
1941	65 and 8 months
1942	65 and 10 months
1943-1954	66
1955	66 and 2 months
1956	66 and 4 months
1957	66 and 6 months
1958	66 and 8 months
1959	66 and 10 months
1960 and after	67

* SSNRA means the Social Security Normal Retirement Age as figured by the 1983 amendment to the Social Security Act and any subsequent amendments and provides as detailed above.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

In this section Lincoln defines some basic terms needed to understand this plan.

"Active Employment" means you must be actively at work for the Sponsor:

1. on a full-time or part-time basis and paid regular earnings;
2. for at least the minimum number of hours shown in the Schedule of Benefits; and either perform such work:
 - a. at the Sponsor's usual place of business; or
 - b. at a location to which the Sponsor's business requires you to travel.

You will be considered actively at work if you were actually at work on the day immediately preceding:

1. a weekend (except where one or both of these days are scheduled work days);
2. holidays (except when the holiday is a scheduled work day);
3. paid vacations;
4. any non-scheduled work day;
5. an excused leave of absence (except medical leave for your own disabling condition and lay-off);
and
6. an emergency leave of absence (except emergency medical leave for your own disabling condition).

"Administrative Office" Lincoln Life Assurance Company of Boston, 100 Liberty Way, Suite 100, Dover, New Hampshire 03820-4695.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"Any Occupation" means any occupation that you are or become reasonably fitted by training, education, experience, age, physical and mental capacity.

"Appropriate Available Treatment" means care or services which are:

1. generally acknowledged by Physicians to cure, correct, limit, treat or manage the disabling condition;
2. accessible within your geographical region;
3. provided by a Physician who is licensed and qualified in a discipline suitable to treat the disabling Injury or Sickness;
4. in accordance with generally accepted medical standards of practice.

"Basic Monthly Earnings" means your monthly rate of earnings from the Sponsor in effect immediately prior to the date Disability or Partial Disability begins. However, such earnings will not include bonuses, commissions, overtime pay and extra compensation.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"**Disability**" or "**Disabled**" means you, as a result of **Injury** or **Sickness**, satisfy the following tests:

1. Occupation Test, which means that you:

a. during the first 24 months of a period of **Disability** (after the **Elimination Period**), are unable to perform the **Material and Substantial Duties** of your **Own Occupation**; and

b. after 24 months of **Disability** (after the **Elimination Period**), are unable to perform the **Material and Substantial Duties** of **Any Occupation**; or

2. Earnings Test, which means that you:

a. during the first 24 months of a period of **Disability** (after the **Elimination Period**), are unable to earn more than 80% of your **Earnings** at your **Own Occupation**; and

b. after 24 months of **Disability** (after the **Elimination Period**), are unable to earn more than 60% of your **Earnings** at **Any Occupation**.

For purposes of this provision "**Earnings**" means your **Basic Monthly Earnings**.

"**Disability Benefits under a Retirement Plan**" means money which:

1. is payable under a Retirement Plan due to Disability as defined in that plan; and
2. does not reduce the amount of money which would have been paid as retirement benefits at the normal retirement age under the plan if the Disability had not occurred. (If the payment does cause such a reduction, it will be deemed a Retirement Benefit as defined in this plan.)

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"**Eligibility Date**" means the date you become eligible for insurance under this plan. The Eligibility Requirements are shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

"**Eligible Survivor**" means your spouse, if living, otherwise your children under age 25.

"**Eligibility Waiting Period**" means the continuous length of time you must be in Active Employment in an eligible class to reach your Eligibility Date.

"**Elimination Period**" means a period of consecutive days of Disability or Partial Disability for which no benefit is payable. The Elimination Period is shown in the Schedule of Benefits and begins on the first day of Disability.

If you return to work for any one hundred eighty or fewer days during the Elimination Period and cannot continue, Lincoln will count only those days you are Disabled or Partially Disabled to satisfy the Elimination Period.

"**Employee**" means a person in Active Employment with the Sponsor.

"**Enrollment Form**" is the document completed by you, if required, when enrolling for coverage. This form must be satisfactory to Lincoln.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"Extended Treatment Plan" means continued care that is consistent with the American Psychiatric Association's standard principles of Treatment, and is in lieu of confinement in a Hospital or Institution. It must be approved in writing by a Physician.

"Family and Medical Leave" means a leave of absence for the birth, adoption or foster care of a child, or for the care of your child, spouse or parent or for your own serious health condition as those terms are defined by the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and any amendments, or by applicable state law.

"Gross Monthly Benefit" means your Monthly Benefit before any reduction for Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings.

"Hospital" or **"Institution"** means a facility licensed to provide Treatment for the condition causing the Covered Person's Disability.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"Initial Enrollment Period" means one of the following periods during which you may first enroll for coverage under this plan:

1. if you are eligible for insurance on the plan effective date, a period before the plan effective date set by the Sponsor and Lincoln.
2. if you become eligible for insurance after the plan effective date, the period which ends 31 days after your Eligibility Date.

"Injury" means bodily impairment resulting directly from an accident and independently of all other causes. For the purpose of determining benefits under this plan:

1. any Disability which begins more than 60 days after an Injury will be considered a Sickness; and
2. any Injury which occurs before you are covered under this plan, but which accounts for a medical condition that arises while you are covered under this plan will be treated as a Sickness.

"Last Monthly Benefit" means the gross Monthly Benefit payable to you prior to your death without any reduction for earnings received from employment.

"Material and Substantial Duties" means responsibilities that are normally required to perform your Own Occupation, or any other occupation, and cannot be reasonably eliminated or modified.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"Mental Illness" means a psychiatric or psychological condition classified as such in the most current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) regardless of the underlying cause of the Mental Illness. If the DSM is discontinued, Lincoln will use the replacement chosen or published by the American Psychiatric Association.

"Monthly Benefit" means the monthly amount payable by Lincoln to you if you are Disabled or Partially Disabled.

"Own Occupation" means your occupation that you were performing when your Disability or Partial Disability began. For the purposes of determining Disability under this plan, Lincoln will consider your occupation as it is normally performed in the national economy.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"Partial Disability" or "Partially Disabled" means you, as a result of Injury or Sickness, are able to:

1. perform one or more, but not all, of the Material and Substantial Duties of your Own Occupation or Any Occupation on an Active Employment or a part-time basis; or
2. perform all of the Material and Substantial Duties of your Own Occupation or Any Occupation on a part-time basis; and
3. earn between 20.00% and 80.00% of your Basic Monthly Earnings.

"Physician" means a person who:

1. is licensed to practice medicine and is practicing within the terms of his license; or
2. is a licensed practitioner of the healing arts in a category specifically favored under the health insurance laws of the state where the Treatment is received and is practicing within the terms of his license.

It does not include you, any family member or domestic partner.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"**Proof**" means the evidence in support of a claim for benefits and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. a claim form completed and signed (or otherwise formally submitted) by you claiming benefits;
2. an attending Physician's statement completed and signed (or otherwise formally submitted) by your attending Physician; and
3. the provision by the attending Physician of standard diagnosis, chart notes, lab findings, test results, x-rays and/or other forms of objective medical evidence in support of a claim for benefits.

Proof must be submitted in a form or format satisfactory to Lincoln.

"**Regular Attendance**" means your personal visits to a Physician which are medically necessary according to generally accepted medical standards to effectively manage and treat your Disability or Partial Disability.

"**Retirement Benefit under a Retirement Plan**" means money which:

1. is payable under a Retirement Plan either in a lump sum or in the form of periodic payments;
2. does not represent contributions made by you (payments which represent your contributions are deemed to be received over your expected remaining life regardless of when such payments are actually received); and
3. is payable upon:
 - a. early or normal retirement; or
 - b. Disability, if the payment does reduce the amount of money which would have been paid under the plan at the normal retirement age.

SECTION 2 - DEFINITIONS

(Continued)

"Retirement Plan" means a plan which provides retirement benefits to you and which is not funded wholly by your contributions. The term shall not include a profit-sharing plan, informal salary continuation plan, registered retirement savings plan, stock ownership plan, 401(K) or a non-qualified plan of deferred compensation.

"Schedule of Benefits" means the section of this policy which shows, among other things, the Eligibility Requirements, Eligibility Waiting Period, Elimination Period, Amount of Insurance, Minimum Benefit, and Maximum Benefit Period.

"Sickness" means illness, disease, pregnancy or complications of pregnancy.

"Sponsor" means the entity to whom this policy is issued.

"Sponsor's Retirement Plan" is deemed to include any Retirement Plan:

1. which is part of any Federal, State, Municipal or Association retirement system; or
2. for which you are eligible as a result of employment with the Sponsor.

"Substance Abuse" means alcohol and/or drug abuse, addiction or dependency.

"Treatment" means consulting, receiving care or services provided by or under the direction of a Physician including diagnostic measures, being prescribed drugs and/or medicines, whether you choose to take them or not, and taking drugs and/or medicines.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATES

Who is Eligible for Coverage?

The eligibility requirements for insurance benefits are shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

What is Your Eligibility Date for Insurance Benefits?

If you are in an eligible class you will qualify for insurance on the later of:

1. this plan's effective date; or
2. the day after you complete the Eligibility Waiting Period shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATES

(Continued)

What is Your Effective Date of Insurance?

Your insurance will be effective at 12:01 A.M. Standard Time in the governing jurisdiction on the day determined as follows, but only if your application or enrollment for insurance is made with Lincoln through the Sponsor in a form or format satisfactory to Lincoln.

You will be insured on your Eligibility Date.

When will Your Effective Date of Insurance be Delayed?

Your effective date of any initial, increased or additional insurance will be delayed if you are not in Active Employment because of Injury or Sickness. The initial, increased or additional insurance will begin on the date you return to Active Employment.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATES

(Continued)

What Happens to Your Coverage During a Family and Medical Leave?

Your coverage may be continued under this plan for an approved family or medical leave of absence for up to 12 weeks following the date coverage would have terminated, subject to the following:

1. the authorized leave is in writing;
2. the required premium is paid;
3. your benefit level, or the amount of earnings upon which your benefit may be based, will be that in effect on the date before the leave begins; and
4. continuation of coverage will cease immediately if any one of the following events should occur:
 - a. you return to work;
 - b. this plan terminates;
 - c. you are no longer in an eligible class;
 - d. nonpayment of premium when due by the Sponsor or you;
 - e. your employment terminates.

What Happens if You are Rehired?

If you are a former Employee and are re-hired by the Sponsor within 12 months of your termination date, all past periods of Active Employment with the Sponsor will be used in determining your Eligibility Date. If you are a former Employee and are re-hired by the Sponsor more than 12 months after your termination date, you are considered to be a new Employee when determining your Eligibility Date.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATES

(Continued)

What Happens During Leave of Absence?

The Sponsor may continue your coverage(s) by paying the required premiums, if you are given a leave of absence.

Your coverage will not continue beyond a period of twelve weeks. In continuing such coverage under this provision, the Sponsor agrees to treat all covered Employees equally.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATES

(Continued)

What Happens if There is a Transfer of Insurance Carriers?

In order to prevent loss of coverage for you because of transfer of insurance carriers, this plan will provide coverage for you as follows:

If You are not in Active Employment Due to Injury or Sickness

Subject to premium payments, this plan will cover you if:

1. at the time of transfer you were covered under the prior carrier's plan; and
2. you are not in Active Employment due to Injury or Sickness on the effective date of this plan.

Benefits will be determined based on the lesser of:

1. the amount of the Disability benefit that would have been payable under the prior plan and subject to any applicable plan limitations; or
2. the amount of Disability benefits payable under this plan. If benefits are payable under the prior plan for the Disability, no benefits are payable under this plan.

If You are Disabled Due to a Pre-Existing Condition

If you were insured under the prior carrier's plan at the time of transfer and were in Active Employment and insured under this plan on its effective date, benefits may be payable for a Disability due to a Pre-Existing Condition.

If you can satisfy this plan's Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion, the benefit will be determined according to this plan.

If you cannot satisfy this plan's Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion, then:

1. Lincoln will apply the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion of the prior carrier's plan; and
2. if you would have satisfied the prior carrier's pre-existing condition exclusion, giving consideration towards continuous time coverage under this plan and the prior carrier's plan, the benefit will be determined according to this plan. However, the Maximum Monthly Benefit amount payable under this plan shall not exceed the maximum monthly benefit payable under the prior carrier's plan.

No benefit will be paid if you cannot satisfy the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusions of either plan.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE

Disability Benefit

When is Your Disability Benefit Payable?

When Lincoln receives Proof that you are Disabled due to Injury or Sickness and require the Regular Attendance of a Physician, Lincoln will pay you a Monthly Benefit after the end of the Elimination Period, subject to any other provisions of this plan. The benefit will be paid for the period of Disability if you give to Lincoln Proof of continued:

1. Disability;
2. Regular Attendance of a Physician, unless such care is not required; and
3. Appropriate Available Treatment.

The Proof must be given upon Lincoln's request and at your expense. In determining whether you are Disabled, Lincoln will not consider employment factors including, but not limited to, interpersonal conflict in the workplace, recession, job obsolescence, paycuts, job sharing and loss of a professional or occupational license or certification.

For purposes of determining Disability, the Injury must occur and Disability must begin while you are insured for this coverage.

The Monthly Benefit will not:

1. exceed your Amount of Insurance; or
2. be paid for longer than the Maximum Benefit Period.

The Amount of Insurance and the Maximum Benefit Period are shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

Amount of Disability Monthly Benefit

To figure the amount of your Monthly Benefit:

1. Take the lesser of:
 - a. your Basic Monthly Earnings multiplied by the benefit percentage shown in the Schedule of Benefits; or
 - b. the Maximum Monthly Benefit shown in the Schedule of Benefits; and then
2. Deduct Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings, (shown in the Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings provision of this policy), from this amount.

The Monthly Benefit payable will not be less than the Minimum Monthly Benefit shown in the Schedule of Benefits. However, if an overpayment is due to Lincoln, the Minimum Monthly Benefit otherwise payable under this provision will be applied toward satisfying the overpayment.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Partial Disability

When is Your Partial Disability Benefit Payable?

When Lincoln receives Proof that you are Partially Disabled and have experienced a loss of earnings due to Injury or Sickness and require the Regular Attendance of a Physician, you may be eligible to receive a Monthly Benefit, subject to any other provisions of this plan. To be eligible to receive Partial Disability benefits, you may be employed in your Own Occupation or another occupation, must satisfy the Elimination Period and must be earning between 20.00% and 80.00% of your Basic Monthly Earnings.

A Monthly Benefit will be paid for the period of Partial Disability if you give to Lincoln Proof of continued:

1. Partial Disability;
2. Regular Attendance of a Physician, unless such care is not required; and
3. Appropriate Available Treatment.

The Proof must be given upon Lincoln's request and at your expense. In determining whether you are Partially Disabled, Lincoln will not consider employment factors including, but not limited to, interpersonal conflict in the workplace, recession, job obsolescence, paycuts, job sharing and loss of a professional or occupational license or certification.

For purposes of determining Partial Disability, the Injury must occur and Partial Disability must begin while you are insured for this coverage.

How is Your Loss of Earnings Partial Disability Benefit Figured using the Loss of Earnings with Work Incentive Monthly Calculation?

For the first 12 months, the work incentive benefit will be an amount equal to your Basic Monthly Earnings multiplied by the benefit percentage shown in the Schedule of Benefits, without any reductions from earnings. The work incentive benefit will only be reduced, if the Monthly Benefit payable plus any earnings exceed 100% of your Basic Monthly Earnings. If the combined total is more, the Monthly Benefit will be reduced by the excess amount so that the Monthly Benefit plus your earnings does not exceed 100% of your Basic Monthly Earnings.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS
(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Partial Disability (Continued)

How is Your Loss of Earnings Partial Disability Benefit Figured using the Loss of Earnings with Work Incentive Monthly Calculation? (Continued)

Thereafter, the Monthly Benefit will be calculated as follows:

1. Your Basic Monthly Earnings minus your earnings received while you are Partially Disabled. This figure represents the amount of lost earnings.
2. Multiply the amount of lost earnings by 75%; and then
3. deduct Other Income Benefits (shown in the Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings provision of this plan) from this amount.

The Monthly Benefit payable will not be less than the Minimum Monthly Benefit shown in the Schedule of Benefits. However, if an overpayment is due to Lincoln, the Minimum Monthly Benefit otherwise payable under this provision will be applied toward satisfying the overpayment.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS
(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Mental Illness, Substance Abuse Limitation

What Limitations will Apply for Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse?

The benefit for Disability due to Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse will not exceed a combined period of 24 months of Monthly Benefit payments while you are insured under this plan.

If you are in a Hospital or Institution for Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse at the end of the combined period of 24 months, the Monthly Benefit will be paid during the confinement.

If you are not confined in a Hospital or Institution for Mental Illness and/or Substance Abuse, but are fully participating in an Extended Treatment Plan for the condition that caused Disability, the Monthly Benefit will be payable to you for up to a combined period of 36 months.

In no event will the Monthly Benefit be payable beyond the Maximum Benefit Period shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit

When is Your Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit Payable?

Lincoln will pay an increased Monthly Benefit while you are fully participating in a Rehabilitation Program. Lincoln must first approve the Rehabilitation Program in writing before you can be considered for this benefit. If Lincoln does not approve a Rehabilitation Program, the regular Disability benefit will be payable provided you are Disabled under the terms of this plan. To be eligible for a Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit, you must:

1. be Disabled and receiving benefits under this plan; and
2. be fully participating in a Rehabilitation Program approved by Lincoln.

What is Your Increased Monthly Benefit?

If you are eligible for a Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit, the benefit percentage, shown in the Schedule of Benefits, will be increased by 10.00%. The increased benefit will begin on the first day of the month after Lincoln receives written Proof of your full participation in the Rehabilitation Program.

When will Your Disability Benefits Terminate?

If you, at any time, decline to fully participate in an approved Rehabilitation Program recommended by Lincoln, your Disability benefits will terminate on the first day of the month following your declination to fully participate in the approved Rehabilitation Program. If Lincoln recommends rehabilitation, no benefit will be paid from the date recommendation is made until Lincoln receives your written agreement to fully participate in the Rehabilitation Program.

When will Your Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit be Discontinued?

The Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit will cease:

1. when you are no longer fully participating in a Rehabilitation Program approved by Lincoln;
2. in accordance with the provision[s] entitled "When will Your Long Term Disability Benefit Be Discontinued?"; or
3. when the Rehabilitation Program ends.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit (Continued)

For the purpose of this provision, "**Rehabilitation Program**" means a comprehensive individually tailored, goal oriented program to return you, if you are Disabled, to gainful employment. The services offered may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. physical therapy;
2. occupational therapy;
3. work hardening programs;
4. functional capacity evaluations;
5. psychological and vocational counseling;
6. rehabilitative employment; and
7. vocational rehabilitation services.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Three month Survivor Benefit

What Happens to Your Benefit if You Die?

Lincoln will pay a lump sum benefit to the Eligible Survivor when Proof is received that you died:

1. after Disability had continued for 180 or more consecutive days; and
2. while receiving a Monthly Benefit.

The lump sum benefit will be an amount equal to three times your Last Monthly Benefit.

If the survivor benefit is payable to your children, payment will be made in equal shares to the children, including step children and legally adopted children. However, if any of said children are minors or incapacitated, payment will be made on their behalf to the court appointed guardian of the children's property. This payment will be valid and effective against all claims by others representing or claiming to represent the children.

If there is no Eligible Survivor, the benefit is payable to the estate.

If an overpayment is due to Lincoln at the time of your death, the benefit payable under this provision will be applied toward satisfying the overpayment.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Workplace Modification Benefit

When is Your Workplace Modification Benefit Payable?

If you are Disabled or Partially Disabled and receiving a benefit from Lincoln, a benefit may be payable to the Sponsor as part of your benefit for modifications to the workplace to accommodate your return to work or to assist you in remaining at work.

Lincoln will reimburse the Sponsor for up to 100% of reasonable costs the Sponsor incurs for the modification, up to the greater of:

1. \$1,000.00; or
2. the equivalent of 2 months of your Monthly Benefit.

To qualify for this benefit:

1. the Disability or Partial Disability must prevent you from performing some or all of the Material and Substantial Duties of your occupation; and
2. any proposed modifications must be approved in writing and signed by you, the Sponsor and Lincoln; and
3. the Sponsor must agree to make the modifications to the workplace to reasonably accommodate your return to work or to assist you in remaining at work.

The Sponsor's costs for the approved modifications will be reimbursed after:

1. the proposed modifications have been made; and
2. written proof of the expenses incurred by the Sponsor has been provided to Lincoln; and
3. Lincoln has received proof that you have returned to and/or remain at work.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS
(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings

What are Your Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings?

Other Income Benefits means:

1. The amount for which you are paid under:
 - a. Workers' or Workmen's Compensation Laws;
 - b. Occupational Disease Law;
 - c. Title 46, United States Code Section 688 (The Jones Act);
 - d. any work loss provision in mandatory "No-Fault" auto insurance;
 - e. Railroad Retirement Act;
 - f. any governmental compulsory benefit act or law; or
 - g. any other act or law of like intent.
2. The amount of any Disability benefits which you are eligible to receive under:
 - a. any other group insurance plan of the Sponsor;
 - b. any governmental retirement system as a result of your employment with the Sponsor; or
 - c. any individual insurance plan where the premium is wholly or partially paid by the Sponsor. However, Lincoln will only reduce the Monthly Benefit if your Monthly Benefit under this plan, plus any benefits that you are eligible to receive under such individual insurance plan exceed 100% of your Basic Monthly Earnings. If this sum exceeds 100% of Basic Monthly Earnings, your Monthly Benefit under this plan will be reduced by such excess amount.
3. The amount of benefits you receive under the Sponsor's Retirement Plan as follows:
 - a. the amount of any Disability Benefits under a Retirement Plan, or Retirement Benefits under a Retirement Plan you voluntarily elect to receive as retirement payment under the Sponsor's Retirement Plan; and
 - b. the amount you receive as retirement payments when you reach the later of age 62, or normal retirement age as defined in the Sponsor's plan.
4. The amount of Disability and/or Retirement Benefits under the United States Social Security Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the Quebec Pension Plan, or any similar plan or act, which:
 - a. you receive or are eligible to receive; and
 - b. your spouse, child or children receive or are eligible to receive because of your Disability; or
 - c. your spouse, child or children receive or are eligible to receive because of your eligibility for retirement benefits.
5. Any amount you receive from any unemployment benefits.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS
(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings (Continued)

What are Your Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings? (Continued)

Other Income Earnings means:

Applicable to Class 1:

1. the amount of earnings you earn or receive from any form of employment including severance; and
2. any amount you receive from any formal or informal sick leave or salary continuation plan(s).

Applicable to Class 2:

1. the amount of earnings you earn or receive from any form of employment including severance; and
2. any amount the Covered Person receives from any formal or informal sick leave or salary continuation plan(s). For Covered Persons with any formal or informal sick leave accrued prior to January 1, 2006, if the total amount received from any formal or informal sick leave plus the Covered Person's Monthly Benefit exceeds 100% of the Covered Person's pre-disability earnings, the excess would be considered Other Income Earnings.

Other Income Benefits, except retirement benefits, must be payable as a result of the same Disability for which Lincoln pays a benefit. The sum of Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings will be deducted in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Estimation of Benefits

How will Your Benefits be Estimated?

Lincoln will reduce your Disability or Partial Disability benefits by the amount of Other Income Benefits that we estimate are payable to you and your dependents.

Your Disability benefit will not be reduced by the estimated amount of Other Income Benefits if you sign a reimbursement agreement under which, in part, you agree to repay Lincoln for any overpayment resulting from the award or receipt of Other Income Benefits;

Lincoln will not estimate or reduce for any benefits under the Sponsor's pension or retirement benefit plan according to applicable law, until you actually receive them.

In the event that Lincoln overestimates the amount payable to you from any plans referred to in the Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings provision of this plan, Lincoln will reimburse you for such amount upon receipt of written proof of the amount of Other Income Benefits awarded (whether by compromise, settlement, award or judgement) or denied (after appeal through the highest administrative level).

When May Lincoln Provide Social Security Assistance?

Lincoln may help you in applying for Social Security Disability Income Benefits. In order to be eligible for assistance you must be receiving a Monthly Benefit from Lincoln. Such assistance will be provided only if Lincoln determines that assistance would be beneficial.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

What Happens if You Receive a Lump Sum Payment?

Other Income Benefits from a compromise, settlement, award or judgement which are paid to you in a lump sum and are meant to compensate you for any one or more of the following:

1. loss of past or future wages;
2. impaired earnings capacity;
3. lessened ability to compete in the open labor market;
4. any degree of permanent impairment; and
5. any degree of loss of bodily function or capacity;

will be prorated on a monthly basis as follows:

1. over the period of time such benefits would have been paid if not in a lump sum; or
2. if such period of time cannot be determined, the lesser of:
 - a. the remainder of the Maximum Benefit Period; or
 - b. 5 years.

What Happens if You Receive any Cost of Living Increases?

After the first deduction for each of the Other Income Benefits, the Monthly Benefit will not be further reduced due to any cost of living increases payable under the Other Income Benefits and Other Income Earnings provision of this plan. This provision does not apply to increases received from any form of employment.

What Happens if Your Benefit Period is Less than a Month?

For any period for which a Long Term Disability benefit is payable that does not extend through a full month, the benefit will be paid on a prorated basis. The rate will be 1/30th for each day for such period of Disability.

When will Your Long Term Disability Benefits be Discontinued?

The Monthly Benefit will cease on the earliest of:

1. the date you fail to provide Proof of continued Disability or Partial Disability and Regular Attendance of a Physician;
2. the date you fail to cooperate in the administration of the claim. Such cooperation includes, but is not limited to, providing any information or documents needed to determine whether benefits are payable or the actual benefit amount due;

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS
(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

When will Your Long Term Disability Benefits be Discontinued? (Continued)

The Monthly Benefit will cease on the earliest of: (Continued)

3. the date you refuse to be examined or evaluated at reasonable intervals;
4. the date you refuse to receive Appropriate Available Treatment;
5. the date you refuse a job with the Sponsor where workplace modifications or accommodations were made to allow you to perform the Material and Substantial Duties of the job;
6. the date you are able to work in your Own Occupation on a part-time basis, but choose not to;
7. on the first day of the month following the date you refuse to fully participate in a Rehabilitation Program recommended by Lincoln according to the individually written Rehabilitation Program;
8. the date your current Partial Disability earnings exceed 80.00% of your Basic Monthly Earnings;

Because your current earnings may fluctuate, Lincoln will average earnings over three consecutive months rather than immediately terminating your benefit once 80.00% of Basic Monthly Earnings has been exceeded.

9. the date you are no longer Disabled according to this plan;
10. the end of the Maximum Benefit Period; or
11. the date you die.

SECTION 4 - DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE (Continued)

Successive Periods of Disability

What Happens if You Return to Work and Become Disabled Again?

With respect to this plan, "**Successive Periods of Disability**" means a Disability which is related or due to the same cause(s) as a prior Disability for which a Monthly Benefit was payable.

A Successive Period of Disability will be treated as part of the prior Disability if, after receiving Disability benefits under this plan, you:

1. return to your Own Occupation on an Active Employment basis for less than twelve continuous months; and
2. perform all the Material and Substantial Duties of your Own Occupation.

To qualify for the Successive Periods of Disability benefit, you must experience more than a 20% loss of Basic Monthly Earnings.

Benefit payments will be subject to the terms of this plan for the prior Disability.

If you return to your Own Occupation on an Active Employment basis for twelve continuous months or more, the Successive Period of Disability will be treated as a new period of Disability. You must complete another Elimination Period.

If you become eligible for coverage under any other group long term disability coverage, this Successive Periods of Disability provision will cease to apply to you.

SECTION 5 - EXCLUSIONS

GENERAL EXCLUSIONS

What Disabilities are Not Covered?

This plan will not cover any Disability due to:

1. war, declared or undeclared, or any act of war;
2. intentionally self-inflicted injuries, while sane or insane;
3. active Participation in a Riot; or
4. the committing of or attempting to commit a felony or misdemeanor.

No benefit will be payable during any period of incarceration.

With respect to this provision, **Participation** shall include promoting, inciting, conspiring to promote or incite, aiding, abetting, and all forms of taking part in, but shall not include actions taken in defense of public or private property, or actions taken in your defense, if such actions of defense are not taken against persons seeking to maintain or restore law and order including, but not limited to police officers and fire fighters.

With respect to this provision, **Riot** shall include all forms of public violence, disorder or disturbance of the public peace, by three or more persons assembled together, whether or not acting with a common intent and whether or not damage to persons or property or unlawful act or acts is the intent or the consequence of such disorder.

SECTION 5 - EXCLUSIONS

(Continued)

LONG TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE

Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion

What Other Disabilities are Not Covered?

This plan will not cover any Disability or Partial Disability:

1. which is caused or contributed to by, or results from, a Pre-Existing Condition; and
2. which begins in the first 12 months immediately after your effective date of coverage.

"Pre-Existing Condition" means a condition resulting from an Injury or Sickness for which you were diagnosed or received Treatment within three months prior to your effective date of coverage.

SECTION 6 - TERMINATION PROVISIONS

When will Your Insurance End?

You will cease to be insured on the earliest of the following dates:

1. the date this plan terminates, but without prejudice to any claim originating prior to the time of termination;
2. the date you are no longer in an eligible class;
3. the date your class is no longer included for insurance;
4. the date employment terminates. Cessation of Active Employment will be deemed termination of employment, except the insurance will be continued for an Employee absent due to Disability during:
 - a. the Elimination Period; and
 - b. any period during which premium is being waived.
5. the date you cease active work due to a labor dispute, including any strike, work slowdown, or lockout.

Lincoln reserves the right to review and terminate all classes insured under this plan if any class(es) cease(s) to be covered.

SECTION 7 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Is Assignment Allowed?

No assignment of any present or future right or benefit under this policy will be allowed.

How will Lincoln Conform With State Statutes?

Any provision of this plan which, on its effective date, is in conflict with the statutes of the governing jurisdiction of this plan is hereby amended to conform to the minimum requirements of such statute.

What are Lincoln's Examination Rights?

Lincoln, at its own expense, may have the right and opportunity to have the claimant, whose Injury or Sickness is the basis of a claim, examined or evaluated at reasonable intervals deemed necessary by Lincoln. This right may be used as often as reasonably required.

When can this Plan be Contested?

The validity of this plan shall not be contested, except for non-payment of premiums, after it has been in force for two years from the date of issue. The validity of this plan shall not be contested on the basis of a statement made relating to insurability by you after such insurance has been in force for two years during your lifetime, and shall not be contested unless the statement is contained in a written instrument signed by you.

When can Legal Proceedings Begin?

A claimant or the claimant's authorized representative cannot begin any legal action:

1. until 60 days after Proof of claim has been given; or
2. more than one year after the time Proof of claim is required.

What Happens if Your Age is Misstated?

If your age has been misstated, an equitable adjustment will be made in the premium. If the amount of the benefit is dependent upon your age, the amount of the benefit will be the amount you would have been entitled to if your correct age were known.

A refund of premium will not be made for a period more than 12 months before the date Lincoln is advised of the error.

SECTION 7 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

(Continued)

When Must Lincoln be Notified of a Claim?

1. Notice of claim must be given to Lincoln within 30 days of the date of the loss on which the claim is based. If that is not possible, Lincoln must be notified as soon as it is reasonably possible to do so. Such notice of claim must be received in a form or format satisfactory to Lincoln.
2. When written notice of claim is applicable and has been received by Lincoln, you will be sent claim forms. If the forms are not received within 15 days after written notice of claim is sent, you can send to Lincoln written Proof of claim without waiting for the forms.

When Must Lincoln Receive Proof of Claim?

1. Satisfactory Proof of loss must be given to Lincoln no later than 30 days after the end of the Elimination Period.
2. Failure to furnish such Proof within such time shall not invalidate or reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to furnish such Proof within such time. Such Proof must be furnished as soon as reasonably possible, and in no event, except in the absence of legal capacity of the claimant, later than one year from the time Proof is otherwise required.
3. Proof of continued loss, continued Disability or Partial Disability, when applicable, and Regular Attendance of a Physician must be given to Lincoln within 30 days of the request for such Proof.

Lincoln reserves the right to determine if your Proof of loss is satisfactory.

Who are Claims Paid To?

The benefit is payable to you. But, if a benefit is payable to your estate, or if you are a minor, or you are not competent, Lincoln has the right to pay up to \$2,000 to any of your relatives or any other person whom Lincoln considers entitled thereto by reason of having incurred expense for the maintenance, medical attendance or burial. If Lincoln in good faith pays the benefit in such a manner, any such payment shall fulfill Lincoln's responsibility for the amount paid.

What are Lincoln's Rights of Recovery?

Lincoln has the right to recover any overpayment of benefits caused by, but not limited to, the following:

1. fraud;
2. any error made by Lincoln in processing a claim; or
3. your receipt of any Other Income Benefits.

Lincoln may recover an overpayment by, but not limited to, the following:

1. requesting a lump sum payment of the overpaid amount;
2. reducing any benefits payable under this policy;
3. taking any appropriate collection activity available including any legal action needed; and
4. placing a lien, if not prohibited by law, in the amount of the overpayment on the proceeds of any Other Income Benefits, whether on a periodic or lump sum basis.

It is required that full reimbursement be made to Lincoln.

SECTION 7 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

(Continued)

How will Statements Made In Your Application Affect Your Coverage?

In the absence of fraud, all statements made in any application are considered representations and not warranties (absolute guarantees). No representation by:

1. the Sponsor in applying for this plan will make it void unless the representation is contained in the signed Application; or
2. you in enrolling for insurance under this plan will be used to reduce or deny a claim unless a copy of the Enrollment Form, signed by you if required, is or has been given to you.

What are Lincoln's Rights of Subrogation and Reimbursement?

When your Injury or Sickness appears to be someone else's fault, benefits otherwise payable under this policy for loss of time as a result of that Injury or Sickness will not be paid unless you or your legal representative agree(s):

1. to repay Lincoln for such benefits to the extent they are for losses for which compensation is paid to you by or on behalf of the person at fault;
2. to allow Lincoln a lien on such compensation and to hold such compensation in trust for Lincoln; and
3. to execute and give to Lincoln any instruments needed to secure the rights under 1. and 2. above.

Further, when Lincoln has paid benefits to or on your behalf, Lincoln will be subrogated to all rights of recovery that you have against the person at fault. These subrogation rights will extend only to recovery of the amount Lincoln has paid. You must execute and deliver any instruments needed and do whatever else is necessary to secure those rights to Lincoln.

How does the Policy Affect Workers' Compensation?

This plan and the coverages provided are not in lieu of, nor will they affect any requirements for coverage under any Workers' Compensation Law or other similar law.

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

Name of Plan: NorthWestern Corporation DBA NorthWestern Energy Group Long Term Disability Plan

Plan benefits are provided under the terms of the Group Disability Income Policy No. GF3-890-LF0464-01 hereinafter referred to as "the policy", issued by Lincoln Life Assurance Company of Boston, hereinafter referred to as "Lincoln," to the Employer hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor".

Participants Included: See Schedule of Benefits

Name and Address of Sponsor:

NorthWestern Corporation DBA NorthWestern Energy
3010 West 69th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Who Pays For the Plan: Premiums are paid by the Sponsor.

The cost of the Plan is funded 100% by Employer contributions.

Plan Identification Number:

- a. Sponsor IRS Identification No.: 46-0172280
- b. Plan No.: 530

Type of Plan: Group Disability Income

Plan Year: January 1st - December 31st

Plan Administrator, Name, Address and Telephone No:

Employee Benefits Administration Committee
NorthWestern Corporation DBA NorthWestern Energy
11 E Park Street
Butte, MT 59701
(P) (406) 497-4610

Agent for Service of Legal Process on the Plan:

Same as above.

Type of Administration: Insurer Administration

Funding Arrangement of the Plan: Benefits of the Plan are insured.

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION
(Continued)

Amendment of the Sponsor's Plan:

The Plan Sponsor reserves the right to modify, amend or terminate in whole or in part, any or all provisions of the Plan. Amendments to the Plan are to be made by a written resolution adopted in accordance with the established procedures of the Board of Directors. Amendments may be adopted with retroactive effect to the extent permitted by ERISA and the Code.

Amendment of Lincoln's Policy:

The policy may be changed in whole or in part by mutual agreement of the Sponsor and Lincoln. Only an Officer of Lincoln can approve a change. The approval must be in writing and endorsed on or attached to the policy. No consent of any participant or any other person referred to in the policy(ies) shall be required to modify, amend, or change the policy(ies).

NOTE: If you cease active employment, see your benefits administrator to determine what arrangements, if any, may be made to continue your coverage beyond the date you cease active employment.

When May The Policy Terminate?

1. If the Sponsor fails to pay any premium within the grace period, the policy will automatically terminate at 12:00 midnight of the last day of the grace period. The "grace period" is the 45 days following a premium due date during which premium payment may be paid.
2. The Sponsor may terminate the policy by advance written notice delivered to Lincoln at least 31 days prior to the termination date. But the policy will not terminate during any period for which premium has been paid.
3. Lincoln may terminate the policy on any premium due date by giving written notice to the Sponsor at least 31 days in advance if:
 - a. The number of employees insured is less than 10;
 - b. less than 100% of the Employees eligible for any non-contributory insurance are insured for it; or
 - c. the Sponsor fails:
 - i. to furnish promptly any information which Lincoln may reasonably require; or
 - ii. to perform any other obligations pertaining to this policy.
4. Termination may take effect on any earlier date when both the Sponsor and Lincoln agree.

No consent of any participant or any other person referred to in the policy(ies) shall be required to terminate the policy(ies).

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

(Continued)

What Are Your Rights In The Event Of Policy Termination?

Termination of the policy under any conditions will not prejudice any payable claim which occurs while the policy is in force.

What Are Your Rights Under ERISA?

1. As a participant in this Plan, you are entitled to certain rights and protection under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all Plan participants shall be entitled to:
 - a. Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, all documents governing the Plan, including insurance contracts, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
 - b. Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including insurance contracts, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary plan description. The Plan Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
 - c. Receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.
2. In addition to creating rights for Plan participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the employee benefit Plan.
3. The people who operate your Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of you and other Plan participants and beneficiaries.
4. No one, including your employer, your union, or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.
5. If your claim for a welfare benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.
6. Under ERISA, there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request a copy of plan documents or the latest annual report from the Plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Administrator.

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

(Continued)

What Are Your Rights Under ERISA? (Continued)

7. If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or federal court. If it should happen that Plan fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees if, for example, it finds your claim is frivolous.
8. If you have any questions about your Plan, you should contact the Plan Administrator.
9. If you have any questions about this statement or about your rights under ERISA, or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan Administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

What is the Time Frame For Claim Decisions?

If your claim is denied, Lincoln will notify you of the adverse decision within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 45 days after receiving the claim. This 45-day period may be extended for up to 30 days, if Lincoln: (1) determines the extension is necessary because of matters beyond the Plan's control, and (2) notifies you, before the end of the 45-day period, why the extension is needed and the expected decision date. If, before the end of the first 30-day extension, Lincoln determines, due to matters beyond the Plan's control, a decision cannot be rendered within that extension period, the determination period may be extended for up to an additional 30 days, provided Lincoln notifies you, before the end of the first 30-day extension period, why the extension is needed and the expected decision date.

The notice of extension shall explain: (1) the standards on which benefit entitlement is based, (2) the unresolved issues that prevent a claim decision, and (3) the additional information needed. You have at least 45 days to provide the information.

The claim determination time frames begin when a claim is filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a claim determination accompanies the filing.

If an extension is necessary because you failed to submit necessary information, the days from the date Lincoln sends you the extension notice until you respond to the request for additional information are not counted as part of the claim determination period.

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

(Continued)

What If Your Claim Is Denied?

Lincoln's notice of denial shall include:

1. The specific reason or reasons for denial with reference to those specific Plan provisions on which the denial is based;
2. A description of any additional material or information necessary to perfect the claim and an explanation of why that material or information is necessary;
3. A description of the Plan's appeal procedures and time frames, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under ERISA following an adverse decision on appeal;
4. Either the specific internal rules, guidelines, protocols, standard or other similar criteria of the Plan relied upon in making the adverse determination or, alternatively, a statement that such rules, guidelines, protocols, standards or other similar criteria of the Plan do not exist;
5. If the adverse decision was based on a medical necessity, experimental treatment, or similar exclusion or limit, an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the adverse decision, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request;
6. If applicable, the reason for not following the views of the treating professional, medical or vocational experts, or a disability determination by the Social Security Administration;
7. A statement that you are entitled, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim; and
8. Notice in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

What Do You Do To Appeal A Claim Denial?

You, or your authorized representative, may appeal a denied claim within 180 days after you receive Lincoln's notice of denial. You have the right to:

1. Submit to Lincoln, for review, written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the claim;
2. Request, free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relevant to your claim;
3. A review that takes into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by you, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial claim decision;
4. A review that does not afford deference to the initial adverse decision and which is conducted neither by the individual who made the adverse decision nor the person's subordinate;
5. If the appeal involves an adverse decision based on medical judgment, a review of your claim by a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment, and who was neither consulted in connection with the adverse decision nor the subordinate of any such individual;
6. The identification of medical or vocational experts, if any, consulted in connection with the claim denial, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the decision; and

7. A review and reasonable opportunity to respond to any new or additional evidence considered, relied upon, or generated, or any new or additional rationale in support of an adverse decision, before an adverse decision is rendered.

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

(Continued)

What Do You Do To Appeal A Claim Denial? (Continued)

Lincoln will make a full and fair review of your appeal and may require additional documents as it deems necessary in making such a review. A final decision on the review will be made within a reasonable period of time but not later than 45 days following receipt of the written request for review unless Lincoln determines that special circumstances require an extension. In such case, a written notice will be sent to you before the end of the initial 45-day period. The extension notice shall indicate the special circumstances and the date by which Lincoln expects to render the appeal decision. The extension cannot exceed a period of 45 days from the end of the initial period.

The appeal time frames begin when an appeal is filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make an appeal decision accompanies the filing.

If an extension is necessary because you failed to submit necessary information, the days from the date of the extension notice until you respond to the request for additional information are not counted as part of the appeal determination period.

Lincoln's notice of denial shall include:

1. The specific reason or reasons for denial with reference to those Plan provisions on which the denial is based;
2. A statement that you are entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim;
3. A statement describing any voluntary appeal procedures offered by Lincoln and your right to obtain the information about such procedures, and a statement of your right to bring an action under ERISA, including any applicable contractual limitations period that applies to your right to bring such an action and the calendar date on which the contractual limitations period expires;
4. Either the specific internal rules, guidelines, protocols, standard or other similar criteria of the Plan relied upon in making the adverse decision or, alternatively, a statement that such rules, guidelines, protocols, standards or other similar criteria of the Plan do not exist;
5. If the adverse decision was based on a medical necessity, experimental treatment, or similar exclusion or limit, an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the adverse decision, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request;
6. If applicable, the reason for not following the views of the treating professional, medical or vocational experts, or a disability determination by the Social Security Administration; and
7. Notice in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

You and your Plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact your local U.S. Department of Labor Office and your State insurance regulatory agency.



The Lincoln Financial Group companies* are committed to protecting your privacy. To provide the products and services you expect from a financial services leader, we must collect personal information about you. We do not sell your personal information to third parties. This Notice describes our current privacy practices. While your relationship with us continues, we will update and send our Privacy Practices Notice as required by law. Even after that relationship ends, we will continue to protect your personal information. You do not need to take any action because of this Notice, but you do have certain rights as described below.

Information We May Collect And Use

We collect personal information about you to help us identify you as a consumer, our customer or our former customer; to process your requests and transactions; to offer investment or insurance services to you; to pay your claim; to analyze in order to enhance our products and services; to tell you about our products or services we believe you may want and use; and as otherwise permitted by law. The type of personal information we collect depends on your relationship and on the products or services you request and may include the following:

- **Information from you:** When you submit your application or other forms, you give us information such as your name, address, Social Security number; and your financial, health, and employment history. We may also collect voice recordings or biometric data for use in accordance with applicable law.
- **Information about your transactions:** We maintain information about your transactions with us, such as the products you buy from us; the amount you paid for those products; your account balances; and your payment and claims history.
- **Information from outside our family of companies:** If you are applying for or purchasing insurance products, we may collect information from consumer reporting agencies, such as your credit history; credit scores; and driving and employment records. With your authorization, we may also collect information, such as medical information, from other individuals or businesses.
- **Information from your employer:** If your employer applies for or purchases group products from us, we may obtain information about you from your employer or group representative in order to enroll you in the plan.

How We Use Your Personal Information

We may share your personal information within our companies and with certain service providers. They use this information to process transactions you, your employer, or your group representative have requested; to provide customer service; to analyze in order to enhance our products and services; to gain customer insight; and to inform you of products or services we offer that you may find useful. Our service providers may or may not be affiliated with us. They include financial service providers (for example, third party administrators; broker-dealers; insurance agents and brokers, registered representatives; reinsurers and other financial services companies with whom we have joint marketing agreements). Our service providers also include non-financial companies and individuals (for example, consultants; vendors; and companies that perform marketing services on our behalf). Information we obtain from a report prepared by a service provider may be kept by the service provider and shared with other persons; however, we require our service providers to protect your personal information and to use or disclose it only for the work they are performing for us, or as permitted by law.

When you apply for one of our products, we may share information about your application with credit bureaus. We also may provide information to group policy owners, or their designees (for example, to your employer for employer-sponsored plans and their authorized service providers), regulatory authorities and law enforcement officials, and to other non-affiliated or affiliated parties as permitted by law. In the event of a sale of all or part of our businesses, we may share customer information as part of the sale. **We do not sell or share your information with outside marketers who may want to offer you their own products and services; nor do we share information we receive about you from a consumer reporting agency. You do not need to take any action for this benefit.**

Security of Information

We have an important responsibility to keep your information safe. We use safeguards to protect your information from unauthorized disclosure. Our employees are authorized to access your information only when they need it to provide you with products, services, or to maintain your accounts. Employees who have access to your personal information are required to keep it confidential. Employees are required to complete privacy training annually.

Your Rights Regarding Your Personal Information

Access: We want to make sure we have accurate information about you. Upon written request we will tell you, within 30 business days, what personal information we have about you. You may see a copy of your personal information in person or receive a copy electronically or by mail, whichever you prefer. We will share with you who provided the information. In some cases we may provide your medical information to your personal physician. We will not provide you with information we have collected in connection with, or in anticipation of, a claim or legal proceeding. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge you a fee for copying and mailing costs. In very limited circumstances, your request may be denied. You may then request that the denial be reviewed.

Accuracy of Information: If you feel the personal information we have about you is inaccurate or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. Your request must be in writing and must include the reason you are requesting the change. We will respond within 30 business days. If we make changes to your records as a result of your request, we will notify you in writing and we will send the updated information, at your request, to any person who may have received the information within the prior two years. We will also send the updated information to any insurance support organization that gave us the information, and any service provider that received the information within the prior 7 years. If your requested change is denied, we will provide you with reasons for the denial. You may write to request the denial be reviewed. A copy of your request will be kept on file with your personal information so anyone reviewing your information in the future will be aware of your request.

Accounting of Disclosures: If applicable, you may request an accounting of disclosures made of your medical information, except for disclosures:

- For purposes of payment activities or company operations;
- To the individual who is the subject of the personal information or to that individual's personal representative;
- To persons involved in your health care;
- For notification for disaster relief purposes;
- For national security or intelligence purposes;
- To law enforcement officials or correctional institutions;
- Included in a limited data set; or
- For which an authorization is required.

You may request an accounting of disclosures for a time period of less than six years from the date of your request.

Basis for Adverse Underwriting Decision: You may ask in writing for the specific reasons for an adverse underwriting decision. An adverse underwriting decision is where we decline your application for insurance, offer to insure you at a higher than standard rate, or terminate your coverage.

Your state may provide for additional privacy protections under applicable laws. We will protect your information in accordance with these additional protections.

If you would like to act upon your rights regarding your personal information, please provide your full name, address and telephone number and either email your inquiry to our Data Subject Access Request Team at DSAR@lfg.com or mail to: Lincoln Financial Group, Attn: Corporate Privacy Office, 7C-01, 1300 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. The DSAR@lfg.com email address should only be used for inquiries related to this Privacy Notice. For general account service requests or inquiries, please call 1-877-ASK-LINC.

*This information applies to the following Lincoln Financial Group companies:

First Penn-Pacific Life Insurance Company
Lincoln Financial Distributors, Inc.
Lincoln Financial Group Trust Company
Lincoln Investment Advisors Corporation

Lincoln Life & Annuity Company of New York
Lincoln Life Assurance Company of Boston
Lincoln Retirement Services Company, LLC
Lincoln Variable Insurance Products Trust
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company