

## **GST SETTLEMENT FACILITY NOTICE**

To: All Claimants and Claimants' Counsel

Date: April 1, 2020

Updated: August 1, 2020

In recognition of the hardships resulting from the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Trust adopts the following temporary policies:

**Deadlines.** The Trust recognizes the inability of many claimants, as a result of circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, to respond to deficiencies and deadlines in the time frame required. As such, where the time to respond to a deficiency expires during the period from March 20, 2020 through September 30, 2020, the Trust will extend the time for 120 days. Any filing deadline under Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the CRP or deferral period that expires during the period from March 20, 2020 through September 30, 2020 will also be extended for 120 days.

**Affidavits.** In light of current guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trustee recognizes that some claimants may not have access to a notary. Affidavits executed and submitted to the Trust during the period from March 20, 2020 through September 30, 2020 that require notarization may be executed by electronic signature through DocuSign, or signed by the affiant and one witness (who may be a family member), provided that in either case, the affiant states that the document is made under penalty of perjury in the format prescribed by 28 U.S.C. Section 1746. Documentation of the electronic signature history and certificate from the electronic signature program must be submitted with the affidavit. The Trust reserves the right to request supplemental documentation at a later date.

**Releases.** In light of current guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trustee recognizes that some claimants may not have access to a notary or to two unrelated witnesses for the authentication of releases. The Trust may accept the signature of one witness (related or unrelated) as reliable authentication of a release if the release was executed and submitted to the Trust during the period from March 20, 2020 through September 30, 2020. The Trust may also accept releases executed through DocuSign or similar authorized electronic signature program provided that documentation of the electronic signature history and certificate from the electronic signature program is submitted with the release. The Trust reserves the right to request supplemental documentation at a later date.