

Dominic A. Paluzzi
Direct Dial: 248.220.1356
dpaluzzi@mcdonaldhopkins.com

June 22, 2020

VIA U.S. MAIL

Attorney General Gordon MacDonald
Office of the Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

RECEIVED

JUN 26 2020

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Re: WESTECH International Inc. – Incident Notification

Dear Attorney General MacDonald:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents WESTECH International Inc. (“WESTECH”). I am writing to provide notification of an incident at WESTECH that may affect the security of personal information of three (3) New Hampshire residents. WESTECH’s investigation is ongoing and this notification will be supplemented with any new or significant facts or findings subsequent to this submission, if any. By providing this notice, WESTECH does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of New Hampshire law or personal jurisdiction.

On May 10, 2020, WESTECH detected that a ransomware infection began encrypting files stored on its network. Upon learning of this issue, WESTECH contained the threat by disabling all unauthorized access to its network, restored all encrypted data, and immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of its investigation, WESTECH has been working very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, WESTECH discovered on June 4, 2020 that certain impacted files containing the residents’ information were acquired from its network. The information included the residents’ Social Security number and bank or financial account number.

WESTECH has no indication that any information has been misused. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, WESTECH wanted to inform you (and the affected residents) of the incident and to explain the steps that it is taking to help safeguard the affected residents against identity fraud. WESTECH will provide the affected residents with written notification of this incident commencing on or about June 19, 2020 in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto. WESTECH is providing residents with 12 months of a credit monitoring service, and advising the affected residents to always remain vigilant in reviewing financial account statements for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. WESTECH is advising the affected residents about the process for placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on their credit files and obtaining free credit reports. The affected residents are also being provided with the contact information for the consumer reporting agencies and the Federal Trade Commission.

Attorney General Gordon MacDonald
Office of the Attorney General
June 22, 2020
Page 2

At WESTECH, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. WESTECH is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it. WESTECH will continue to evaluate and modify its practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of personal information.

Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact me at (248) 220-1356 or dpaluzzi@mcdonaldhopkins.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Paluzzi".

Dominic A. Paluzzi

Encl.



WESTECH INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Dear [REDACTED]:

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to WESTECH International Inc. ("WESTECH"). I am writing with important information regarding a recent data security incident that may have involved some of your information. I want to provide you with information about the incident, let you know about the services I am providing to you, and let you know that I continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

On May 10, 2020, WESTECH detected that a ransomware infection began encrypting files stored on our network.

What We Are Doing.

Upon learning of this issue, we contained the threat by disabling all unauthorized access to our network, restored all encrypted data, and immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of our investigation, we have been working very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, we discovered on June 4, 2020 that certain impacted files containing your personal information were acquired from our network. We have no evidence that any of the information has been misused. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we want to make you aware of the incident.

What Information Was Involved.

The impacted files contained some of your personal information, including your [REDACTED].

What You Can Do.

We have no evidence that any of your information has been misused. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we want to make you aware of the incident. To protect you from potential misuse of your information, we are offering you a one-year membership in *myTrueIdentity* provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion. For more information on identity theft prevention and *myTrueIdentity*, including instructions on how to activate your one-year membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter

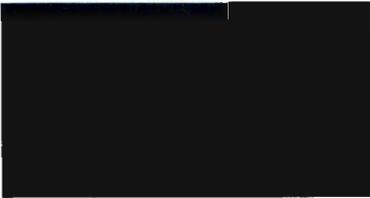
This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on your credit files, and/or obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.

For More Information.

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. We remain fully committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line that we have set up to respond to questions at [REDACTED]. This response line is staffed with professionals familiar with this incident and knowledgeable on what you can do to protect against misuse of your information. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 9am to 9pm Eastern.

Sincerely,



- OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION -

1. Enrolling in Complimentary 12-Month Credit Monitoring.

As a safeguard, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online credit monitoring service (*myTrueIdentity*) for one year provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion®, one of the three nationwide credit reporting companies.

To enroll in this service, go to the *myTrueIdentity* website at www.mytrueidentity.com and in the space referenced as "Enter Activation Code", enter the following 12-letter Activation Code [REDACTED] and follow the three steps to receive your credit monitoring service online within minutes.

You can sign up for the online credit monitoring service anytime between now and [REDACTED]. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that credit monitoring service might not be available for individuals who do not have a credit file with TransUnion, or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number. Enrolling in this service will not affect your credit score.

Once you are enrolled, you will be able to obtain one year of unlimited access to your TransUnion credit report and credit score. The daily credit monitoring service will notify you if there are any critical changes to your credit file at TransUnion, including fraud alerts, new inquiries, new accounts, new public records, late payments, change of address and more. The service also includes access to an identity restoration program that provides assistance in the event your identity is compromised to help you restore your identity and up to \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible. (Policy limitations and exclusions may apply.)

If you believe you may be a victim of identity theft, please call the toll-free TransUnion Fraud Response Services hotline at [REDACTED]. When prompted, enter the following 6-digit telephone pass code [REDACTED] to speak to a TransUnion representative about your identity theft issue.

Special note for minors affected by this incident: The same services referred to above may not be available to affected minors. As an alternative, parents/legal guardians can check to see if your child may be a victim of identity theft by using TransUnion's secure online form at www.transunion.com/childidentitytheft to submit your information so TransUnion can check their database for a credit file with your child's Social Security Number. After TransUnion's search is complete, they will respond to you at the email address you provide. If they locate a file in your child's name, they will ask you for additional information in order to proceed with steps to protect your child from any impact associated with this fraudulent activity.

2. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.

Whether or not you choose to use the complimentary 12 month credit monitoring services, we recommend that you place an initial one (1) year "Fraud Alert" on your credit files, at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any one of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

Equifax
P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348
www.equifax.com
1-800-525-6285

Experian
P.O. Box 2002
Allen, TX 75013
www.experian.com
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion LLC
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
www.transunion.com
1-800-680-7289

3. Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a "Security Freeze" be placed on your credit file, at no charge. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

Equifax Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
<https://www.freeze.equifax.com>
1-800-349-9960

Experian Security Freeze
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
<http://experian.com/freeze>
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion Security Freeze
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
<http://www.transunion.com/securityfreeze>
1-888-909-8872

In order to place the security freeze, you'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information. After receiving your freeze request, each credit reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name, or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the city in which you currently reside.

If you do place a security freeze *prior* to enrolling in the credit monitoring service as described above, you will need to remove the freeze in order to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

4. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call **1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports online at **www.annualcreditreport.com**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

5. Additional Helpful Resources.

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at www.ftc.gov/idtheft, by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

If this notice letter states that your financial account information and/or credit or debit card information was impacted, we recommend that you contact your financial institution to inquire about steps to take to protect your account, including whether you should close your account or obtain a new account number.

New York Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft>; Telephone: 800-771-7755 (TDD/TYY Support: 800-788-9898); Medicare Fraud Control Unit Direct Line: 212-417-5397.

North Carolina Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Department of Justice, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov/, Telephone: 877-566-7226.