

Mistake could pay off for workers

By GARY GOSSELIN
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One phone call could net as many as 3,200 Delphi employees several hundred dollars.

Because of a four-year investment mix-up by Fidelity Investments, 3,200 hourly Delphi employees with Delphi Personal Saving Plans may be due money.

Fidelity apparently reinvested dividends into a GM stock account for the years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 when that money should have gone into a Promark Income Fund.

“Our first impression is that almost anybody would have a credit. We have yet to find somebody that doesn’t have a credit,” said David Kudla, investment strategist and CEO of Mainstay Capital Management in Grand Blanc. “People have to know this is an option program; they won’t make the change automatically. We’ve already talked to people who put the letter aside and didn’t even realize.”

Fidelity sent a letter Sept. 6 outlining the problem and solution, and employees have only until Oct. 12 to make the change.

“I talked to a man at Fidelity, and he didn’t

know what I was talking about. He said I didn’t have GM stock,” said Robert Hawes of Miamisburg, Ohio, who works at the Kettering, Ohio, plant. “I didn’t know if it was settled, so I called (Kudla), they checked on it, and I had a credit — more than \$300. That’s a lot of money for me. I had a friend, he had \$240, but (Fidelity) took care of him right away.

“I’m afraid some (employees) may have dropped the ball and they could have that extra money.”

Harold Ware, a retired Delphi employee in Brookville, Ohio, set the letter aside and almost didn’t act. He’s getting a credit of \$3,664.03.

“This letter was really confusing, I put it on the back burner,” said Ware, noting that Kudla helped him with Fidelity. “I couldn’t believe it, I thought it would be a few hundred.”

Even if employees don’t have the GM stock now, or even an active PSP, they may still be entitled to some money because the shift happened over four years, and they may have had some in the past.

Employees can either leave the money in the GM stock or transfer it to the Promark fund. But if they want the Promark option, they have to call Fidelity.

In the letter sent to employees, a fictional employee example was used, and if that person chose the Promark option, he or she would have \$788.32 rather than \$491.91 if they left it in the GM account.

As noted in the letter, the GM stock fund is a sell-only option in the plan, so if an employee opts to take the dividend out, it cannot be reinvested in GM in the plan.