

REPORT ON EXAMINATION

OF THE

STRATHMORE INSURANCE COMPANY

AS OF

DECEMBER 31, 2013

DATE OF REPORT

JANUARY 28, 2015

EXAMINER

MARY MEANEY

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NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT *of*  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor

Benjamin M. Lawsky  
Superintendent

January 28, 2015

Honorable Benjamin M. Lawsky  
Superintendent of Financial Services  
Albany, New York 12257

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of the New York Insurance Law, and in compliance with the instructions contained in Appointment Number 31192 dated May 6, 2014, attached hereto, I have made an examination into the condition and affairs of Strathmore Insurance Company as of December 31, 2013, and submit the following report thereon.

Wherever the designation “the Company” appears herein without qualification, it should be understood to indicate Strathmore Insurance Company.

Wherever the term “Department” appears herein without qualification, it should be understood to mean the New York State Department of Financial Services.

The examination was conducted at the Company’s home office located at 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

## **1. SCOPE OF EXAMINATION**

The Department has performed an examination of Strathmore Insurance Company, a multi-state insurer. This was a coordinated examination of the Company, its parent Company, Greater New York Mutual Insurance Company (“GNY”), and two other insurance company subsidiaries of GNY (“Greater New York Group”). The previous examination was conducted as of December 31, 2008. This examination covered the five year period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2013. Transactions occurring subsequent to this period were reviewed where deemed appropriate by the examiner.

New York was the coordinating state for the examination of the Greater New York Group. The State of Arizona participated in the examination. The examination was performed concurrently with the examinations of the following insurers: GNY, the Insurance Company of Greater New York (“INSCO”) and GNY Custom Insurance Company (“GNYCIC”). The Company, GNY, and INSCO are domiciled in New York State while GNYCIC is domiciled in Arizona.

This examination was conducted in accordance with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (“NAIC”) Financial Condition Examiners Handbook (“Handbook”), which requires that we plan and perform the examination to evaluate the financial condition and identify prospective risks of the Company by obtaining information about the Company including corporate governance, identifying and assessing inherent risks within the Company and evaluating system controls and procedures used to mitigate those risks. This examination also includes assessing the principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation, management’s compliance with Statutory Accounting Principles and annual statement instructions when applicable to domestic state regulations.

All financially significant accounts and activities of the Company were considered in accordance with the risk-focused examination process. This examination also included a review and evaluation of the Company’s own control environment assessment. The examiners also relied upon audit work performed by the Company’s independent public accountants when appropriate.

This examination report includes a summary of significant findings for the following items as called for in the Handbook:

Significant subsequent events  
Company history  
Corporate records  
Management and control  
Fidelity bonds and other insurance  
Territory and plan of operation  
Growth of Company  
Loss experience  
Reinsurance  
Accounts and records  
Statutory deposits  
Financial statements  
Summary of recommendations

A review was also made to ascertain what action was taken by the Company with regard to comments and recommendations contained in the prior report on examination.

This report on examination is confined to financial statements and comments on those matters that involve departures from laws, regulations or rules, or that are deemed to require explanation or description.

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY**

Strathmore Insurance Company was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York on November 17, 1998 and commenced business on March 22, 2000.

The Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Greater New York Mutual Insurance Company (“GNY”). The Company pools its premiums, losses and expenses under a reinsurance pooling agreement with its parent (GNY) and affiliates, INSCO and GNYCIC, as discussed under the caption “Intercompany Pooling Agreement” (refer to Item 2C of this report).

The Company has an authorized capital of \$5,000,000 consisting of 50,000 shares of common stock at \$100 par value per share. On November 5, 1999, the Company issued 50,000 shares of common stock to GNY for a consideration of \$11,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 was paid in capital and \$6,000,000 was gross paid-in and contributed surplus. Paid in capital and gross paid in and contributed surplus has not changed during the examination period.

A. Management

Pursuant to the Company's charter and by-laws, management of the Company is vested in a board of directors consisting of not less than seven nor more than thirteen members. The board met at least four times during each calendar year. At December 31, 2013, the board of directors was comprised of the following eleven members:

<u>Name and Residence</u>	<u>Principal Business Affiliation</u>
Donald T. DeCarlo Douglaston, NY	Self-employed, Attorney
Larry L. Forrester Englewood, FL	Retired
Warren W. Heck New York, NY	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Greater New York Mutual Insurance Company
Carol T. Ivanick New York, NY	Partner of Counsel, Schulte Roth & Zabel
Charles F. Jacey, Jr. Belle Meade, NJ	Retired
Elizabeth Heck New York, NY	President and Chief Operating Officer, Greater New York Mutual Insurance Company
Robert P. Lewis Santa Fe, NM	Retired
Lance M. Liebman New York, NY	Dean & Professor, Columbia Law School
Henry G. Miller Bronxville, NY	Senior Partner, Clark, Gagliardi & Miller LLP
Paul Segal New York, NY	Architect, Paul Segal, FAIA, Architect
Thomas W. Synnott, III Brooklyn, NY	Economist, Garrison Bradford & Associates

A review of the minutes of the board of directors' meetings held during the examination period indicated that the meetings were generally well attended and each board member had an acceptable record of attendance.

As of December 31, 2013, the principal officers of the Company were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Warren W. Heck	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Elizabeth Heck	President and Chief Operating Officer
Thomas D. Hughes	Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Corporate Secretary
Gerard Ragusa	Executive Vice President – Claims
Christopher McNulty	Senior Vice President, Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer
Martin Brezner	Senior Vice President & Chief Underwriting Officer

B. Territory and Plan of Operation

As of December 31, 2013, the Company was licensed to write business in fourteen states and the District of Columbia.

As of the examination date, the Company was authorized to transact the kinds of insurance as defined in the following numbered paragraphs of Section 1113(a) of the New York Insurance Law:

<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Line of Business</u>
3	Accident & health
4	Fire
5	Miscellaneous property
6	Water damage
7	Burglary and theft
8	Glass
9	Boiler and machinery
10	Elevator
11	Animal
12	Collision
13	Personal injury liability
14	Property damage liability
15	Workers' compensation and employers' liability
16	Fidelity and surety
17	Credit
19	Motor vehicle and aircraft physical damage
20	Marine and inland marine
21	Marine protection and indemnity

Pursuant to Section 6302 of the New York Insurance Law, the Company is also licensed to write special risks in the “Free Trade Zone.”

Based on the lines of business for which the Company is licensed and the Company's current capital structure, and pursuant to the requirements of Articles 13, 41 and 63 of the New York Insurance Law, the Company is required to maintain a minimum surplus to policyholders in the amount of \$4,400,000.

The following schedule shows the direct premiums written by the Company both in total and in New York for the period under examination:

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>New York State</u>	<u>Total Premiums</u>	Premiums Written in New York State as a <u>percentage of Total Premiums</u>
2009	\$30,362,095	\$57,632,441	52.68%
2010	\$32,424,491	\$64,391,768	50.36%
2011	\$34,957,830	\$68,626,790	50.94%
2012	\$35,380,403	\$67,397,338	52.50%
2013	\$31,774,889	\$57,323,713	55.43%

The majority (approximately 90%) of the Company's business is written in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Commercial multiple peril ("CMP") is the Company's dominant line of business, which comprised approximately 98% of total direct business written. Most of the business originates through independent brokers. The Company maintains branch offices in Glastonbury, CT; East Brunswick, NJ; Quincy, MA; and Hunt Valley, MD and Albany, NY. Each office handles the underwriting function for its specific territory. Claims are generally handled out of the corporate office with smaller operations in East Brunswick and Glastonbury, CT.

### C. Reinsurance

#### Assumed Reinsurance

The Company is primarily a direct writer. The Company's assumed reinsurance consists of business obtained through its pooling agreement with its parent and affiliates. The Company does not assume non-affiliated premiums. The Company utilizes reinsurance accounting as defined in Statement of Statutory Accounting Principle ("SSAP") No. 62R for all of its assumed reinsurance business.



### Intercompany Pooling Agreement

The Company, its parent (GNY) and affiliates (INSCO and GNYCIC) operate under an inter-company pooling agreement, which has been in place since January 1968. GNY is the lead member of the pool therefore all members of the pool cede 100% of their premiums to GNY which then cedes premiums back to the pool members, net of external reinsurance, per the terms of the pooling agreement.

The pooling agreement originally included only the GNY and INSCO as participants; the Company was added effective January 1, 2000, and GNYCIC was added effective January 1, 2008. As of the examination date, the pooling participation percentages were 84% GNY, 10% INSCO, 5% the Company and 1% GNYCIC.

### Ceded Reinsurance

The Company is a named participant in the external reinsurance program of the Greater New York Group (“The Pool”) which is structured as follows:

#### Property

The Pool’s ceded reinsurance program for its property business limits its maximum exposure in any one risk to \$1,000,000 (of which the Company’s share is 5%). The Pool maintains several excess of loss coverage treaties for standard losses, catastrophe, related losses, and terrorism related losses. Its standard excess of loss treaties for property consists of five layers with the following layers of coverage:

<u>Type of Treaty</u>	<u>Cession</u>
Property Excess of Loss - Five layers as follows:	\$69,000,000 excess of \$1,000,000 per risk
1st Layer - 100% authorized	\$4,000,000 excess of \$1,000,000 per risk
2nd Layer - 100% authorized	\$5,000,000 excess of \$5,000,000 per risk
3rd Layer - 83% authorized	\$15,000,000 excess of \$10,000,000 per risk
4th Layer- 93% authorized	\$15,000,000 excess of \$25,000,000 per risk
5th Layer - 88% authorized	\$30,000,000 excess of \$40,000,000 per risk

The Pool also maintains excess of loss coverage for property losses resulting from catastrophe events consisting of three layers whereby it cedes 95% of losses in excess of \$15,000,000 each and every loss occurrence.

<u>Type of Treaty</u>	<u>Cession</u>
Property Catastrophe Excess of Loss – Three layers as follows:	95% of \$225,000,000 excess of \$15,000,000 per occurrence
1st Layer - 42% authorized	95% of \$25,000,000 excess of \$15,000,000
2nd Layer - 52% authorized	95% of \$75,000,000 excess of \$40,000,000
3rd Layer - 45% authorized	95% of \$125,000,000 excess of \$115,000,000

In addition, the Greater New York Group is party to three terrorism aggregate excess of loss agreements. The Pool's retention on the first layer is \$20 million each occurrence with the reinsurers liable for \$37 million above retention. The second layer covers 15% of \$223 million excess \$57 million. The third layer covers 15% of \$166,666,667 excess \$280 million. The business on all layers was ceded approximately 90% to authorized reinsurers.

### Casualty Lines

The Pool has structured its ceded reinsurance program for its casualty lines of business to limit its maximum exposure in any one risk to \$1,000,000 (of which the Company. The Company maintains three layers of excess of loss treaties consisting of the following layers of coverage:

<u>Type of Treaty</u>	<u>Cession</u>
Casualty Excess of Loss - Three layers as follows:	\$49,000,000 excess of \$1,000,000 per occurrence
1st Layer - 100% authorized	\$4,000,000 excess of \$1,000,000
2nd Layer - 100% authorized	\$15,000,000 excess of \$5,000,000
3rd Layer - 100% authorized	50% of \$30,000,000 excess of \$20,000,000

The Pool also maintains the following reinsurance treaties:

<u>Type of Treaty</u>	<u>Cession</u>
Umbrella liability - Quota Share, provided in 2 parts as follows:	
Part 1 - 100% authorized	95% per policy not exceeding \$1,000,000
Part 2 - 100% authorized	100% cession \$14,000,000 excess \$1,000,000
Fidelity and Surety Quota Share 100% authorized	80% per policy up to \$1,000,000
Boiler and Machinery Quota Share 100% authorized	100% cession
Employment Practices Liability 100% authorized	100% up to \$100,000 per policy
Identity Recovery Coverage 100% authorized	100% up to \$15,000 annual aggregate per policy

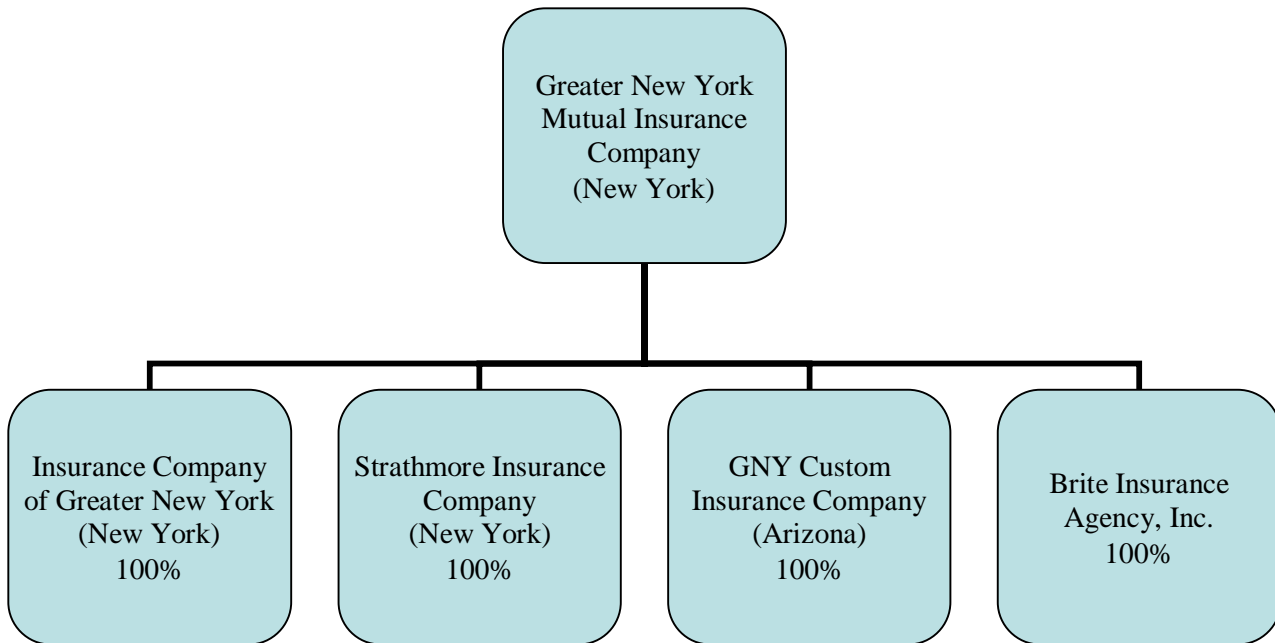
All ceded reinsurance agreements in effect as of the examination date were reviewed and found to contain the required clauses, including an insolvency clause meeting the requirements of Section 1308 of the New York Insurance Law.

Examination review of the Schedule F data reported by the Company in its filed annual statement was found to accurately reflect its reinsurance transactions. Additionally, management has represented that all material ceded reinsurance agreements transfer both underwriting and timing risk as set forth in SSAP No. 62R. Representations were supported by an attestation from the Company's Chief Executive Officer pursuant to the NAIC Annual Statement Instructions. Additionally, examination review indicated that the Company was not a party to any finite reinsurance agreements. All ceded reinsurance agreements were accounted for utilizing reinsurance accounting as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 25 of SSAP No. 62R.

#### D. Holding Company System

The Company is 100% owned by GNY as of December 31, 2013.

The following is a chart of the holding company system at December 31, 2013:



At December 31, 2013, the Company was party to the following intercompany agreements:

1. A pooling agreement with its parent and affiliates, referenced in the reinsurance section of this report, which has been approved by the Department.
2. A tax allocation agreement with its parent and affiliates. The agreement is in accordance with Department Circular Letter No. 33 (1979).

E. Significant Operating Ratios

The following ratios have been computed as of December 31, 2013, based upon the results of this examination:

Net premiums written to surplus as regards policyholders	51%
Liabilities to liquid assets (cash and invested assets less investments in affiliates)	54%
Premiums in course of collection to surplus as regards policyholders	7%

All of the above ratios fall within the benchmark ranges set forth in the Insurance Regulatory Information System of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

The underwriting ratios presented below are on an earned/incurred basis and encompass the five-year period covered by this examination:

	<u>Amounts</u>	<u>Ratios</u>
Losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred	\$38,826,028	73.16%
Other underwriting expenses incurred	18,113,906	34.13
Net underwriting loss	<u>(3,872,789)</u>	<u>(7.30)</u>
Premiums earned	<u>\$53,067,145</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

### 3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### A. Balance Sheet

The following shows the assets, liabilities and surplus as regards policyholders as of December 31, 2013 as determined by this examination and as reported by the Company:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Assets</u>	<u>Assets Not Admitted</u>	<u>Net Admitted Assets</u>
Bonds	\$41,666,668	\$ 0	\$41,666,668
Cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments	2,283,058		2,283,058
Investment income due and accrued	291,071		291,071
Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection	1,595,833	20,361	1,575,472
Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due	2,513,399	3,475	2,509,924
Amounts recoverable from reinsurers	181,552	0	181,552
Net deferred tax asset	<u>1,372,571</u>	<u>391,629</u>	<u>980,942</u>
Total assets	<u>\$49,904,152</u>	<u>\$415,465</u>	<u>\$49,488,687</u>

Liabilities, surplus and other fundsLiabilities

Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses	\$18,208,988
Commissions payable, contingent commissions and other similar charges	42,218
Other expenses (excluding taxes, licenses and fees)	581,880
Taxes, licenses and fees (excluding federal and foreign income taxes)	14,394
Current federal and foreign income taxes	143,759
Unearned premiums	7,196,694
Policyholders (dividends declared and unpaid)	19,045
Ceded reinsurance premiums payable (net of ceding commissions)	48,602
Payable to parent, subsidiaries and affiliates	<u>269,845</u>
 Total liabilities	 \$26,525,425

Surplus and other funds

Common capital stock	\$ 5,000,000
Gross paid in and contributed surplus	6,000,000
Unassigned funds (surplus)	<u>11,963,262</u>
 Surplus as regards policyholders	 <u>22,963,262</u>
 Total liabilities, surplus and other funds	 <u>\$49,488,687</u>

Note: The Internal Revenue Service has completed its audits of the Company's Federal Income Tax returns covering tax years 2009 - 2011. The examiner is unaware of any potential exposure of the Company to any tax assessment and no liability has been established herein relative to such contingency.

B. Statement of IncomeUnderwriting Income

Premiums earned		\$53,067,145
Deductions:		
Losses and loss adjustment expenses incurred	\$38,826,028	
Other underwriting expenses incurred	<u>18,113,906</u>	
Total underwriting deductions		<u>56,939,934</u>
Net underwriting gain or (loss)		\$(3,872,789)

Investment Income

Net investment income earned	\$7,342,895	
Net realized capital gain	<u>87,241</u>	
Net investment gain or (loss)		7,430,136

Other Income

Net gain or (loss) from agents' or premium balances charged off	\$ 54,972	
Finance and service charges not included in premiums	42,906	
Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income	<u>163,200</u>	
Total other income		<u>261,078</u>
Net income before dividends to policyholders and before federal and foreign income taxes		\$3,818,425
Dividends to policyholders		<u>20,272</u>
Net income after dividends to policyholders but before federal and foreign income taxes		\$3,798,153
Federal and foreign income taxes incurred		<u>644,053</u>
Net Income		<u>\$3,154,100</u>



C. Capital and Surplus Account

Surplus as regards policyholders increased \$3,395,093 during the five-year examination period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2013, detailed as follows:

Surplus as regards policyholders per report on examination as of December 31, 2008				\$19,568,169
		<u>Gains in Surplus</u>	<u>Losses in Surplus</u>	
Net income	\$3,154,100			
Change in net deferred income tax	162,807			
Change in nonadmitted assets			\$97,461	
Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus	<u>175,647</u>		<u>0</u>	
Net increase (decrease) in surplus	<u>\$3,492,554</u>	<u>\$97,461</u>		<u>3,395,093</u>
Surplus as regards policyholders per report on examination as of December 31, 2013				<u>\$22,963,262</u>

**4. LOSSES AND LOSS ADJUSTMENT EXPENSES**

The examination liability for the captioned items of \$18,208,988 is the same as reported by the Company as of December 31, 2013. The examination analysis of the Loss and loss adjustment expense reserves was conducted in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and statutory accounting principles, including the NAIC Accounting Practices & Procedures Manual, Statement of Statutory Accounting Principle No. 55 (“SSAP No. 55”).

**5. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

There were no significant subsequent events for this Company. The Company’s December 31, 2014 reported surplus of \$23,928,481 was \$965,219 greater than the \$22,963,262 reported in this examination report. This increase was primarily driven by the \$1,017,920 in net income reported in 2014. It is additionally noted that the Company reported, in its 2014 annual statement, a one year positive development on its loss and loss adjustment expense reserves of approximately \$161,000.

**6. COMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR REPORT ON EXAMINATION**

The prior report on examination contained one recommendation as follows (page numbers refer to the prior report):

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>PAGE NO.</u>
A.	<u>Market Conduct Activities</u>	
	It was recommended that the Company comply with Department Regulation 64 and respond to all complaints forwarded by the Department within ten business days.	16
	The Company has complied with this recommendation.	

**7. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are no recommendations in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Meaney  
Associate Insurance Examiner

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
                                          )ss:  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK    )

MARY MEANEY, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the foregoing report, subscribed by her, is true to the best of her knowledge and belief.

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Mary Meaney

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20xx.

APPOINTMENT NO. 31192

**NEW YORK STATE**

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

I, **BENJAMIN M. LAWSKY**, Superintendent of Financial Services of the State of New York, pursuant to the provisions of the Financial Services Law and the Insurance Law, do hereby appoint:

**Mary Meaney**

as a proper person to examine the affairs of the

**Strathmore Insurance Company**

and to make a report to me in writing of the condition of said

**COMPANY**

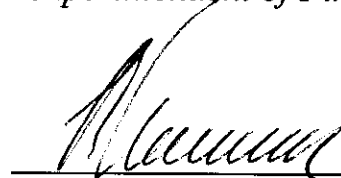
with such other information as he shall deem requisite.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed by name  
and affixed the official Seal of the Department  
at the City of New York

this 6th day of May, 2014

**BENJAMIN M. LAWSKY**  
Superintendent of Financial Services

By:



Rolf Kaumann  
Deputy Chief Examiner

