

# Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund, Government Money Market Portfolio



**SEMIANNUAL REPORT**  
June 30, 2018

The views expressed in this report reflect those of the portfolio manager(s) only through the end of the period covered and do not necessarily represent the views of Dreyfus or any other person in the Dreyfus organization. Any such views are subject to change at any time based upon market or other conditions and Dreyfus disclaims any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied on as investment advice and, because investment decisions for a Dreyfus fund are based on numerous factors, may not be relied on as an indication of trading intent on behalf of any Dreyfus fund.

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## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF DREYFUS

Dear Shareholder:

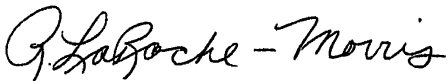
We are pleased to present this semiannual report for Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund, Government Money Market Portfolio, covering the six-month period from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018. For information about how the fund performed during the reporting period, as well as general market perspectives, we provide a Discussion of Fund Performance on the pages that follow.

Volatility returned to the financial markets over the first half of 2018. Although stocks set a series of new record highs in January amid growing corporate earnings, reduced corporate tax rates and synchronized global economic growth, investors later grew nervous about rising interest rates, renewed inflationary pressures, escalating geopolitical tensions and the prospects of more protectionist U.S. trade policies. Consequently, U.S. stocks produced mildly positive returns over the reporting period. Meanwhile, bonds typically lost a degree of value over the first six months of the year due to rising interest rates and inflation concerns.

Despite the return of heightened market volatility, we believe that underlying market fundamentals remain sound. Ongoing economic growth, robust labor markets, rising corporate earnings and strong consumer and business confidence seem likely to support stock and corporate bond prices over the months ahead. Monetary policymakers have indicated that short-term interest rates probably will rise further, but U.S. government bond prices may already reflect those expectations. As always, we encourage you to discuss the risks and opportunities of today's investment environment with your financial advisor.

Thank you for your continued confidence and support.

Sincerely,



Renee Laroche-Morris  
President  
The Dreyfus Corporation  
July 16, 2018

## DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE (Unaudited)

*For the period from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018, as provided by Bernard W. Kiernan, Jr., Senior Portfolio Manager*

### **Market and Fund Performance Overview**

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2018, Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund, Government Money Market Portfolio produced an annualized yield of 1.02%. Taking into account the effects of compounding, the fund provided an annualized effective yield of 1.02% for the same period.<sup>1</sup>

Yields of money market instruments climbed over the reporting period in response to sustained economic growth, more stimulative fiscal policies, and two increases in short-term interest rates by the Federal Reserve Board (the “Fed”).

### **The Fund’s Investment Approach**

The fund seeks as high a level of current income as is consistent with the preservation of capital and the maintenance of liquidity. To pursue its goal, the fund normally invests at least 99.5% of its total assets in securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, repurchase agreements collateralized solely by cash and/or government securities, and cash (including tri-party repurchase agreements). The securities in which the fund invests include those backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government and those that are neither insured nor guaranteed by the U.S. government.

### **Short-Term Interest Rates and Inflationary Pressures Rise**

The months before the start of the reporting period saw a continued economic expansion, robust labor market gains, and rising short-term interest rates as the Fed continued to move away from its aggressively accommodative monetary policy of the past decade. The Fed implemented another interest-rate hike in mid-December, raising the federal funds rate to between 1.25% and 1.50%. Meanwhile, investors responded positively to the enactment of federal tax reform legislation that sharply reduced corporate tax rates.

At the start of the reporting period in January 2018, 176,000 new jobs were added to the labor force and the unemployment rate stayed at 4.1%. Corporate earnings growth continued to exceed expectations, and hiring activity proved brisk. Hourly wages began to rise at their strongest pace since the 2008 recession, suggesting that inflation might begin to accelerate.

February saw renewed volatility in the financial markets as inflation fears mounted in response to the addition of 324,000 new jobs. The unemployment rate remained steady at 4.1% for the fifth consecutive month. Manufacturing activity continued to expand, and consumer confidence remained high.

Heightened volatility in the financial markets persisted in March, when investors reacted nervously to political rhetoric regarding potentially more protectionist U.S. trade policies. Job creation trailed off compared to previous months with 155,000 new jobs, but the manufacturing sector posted its strongest job gains in more than three years. The

## DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE (*Unaudited*) (*continued*)

unemployment rate remained at 4.1%. The U.S. economy grew at a 2.0% annualized rate over the first quarter of 2018.

In April, the unemployment rate slid to 3.9% and 175,000 new jobs were added to the workforce. Retail sales grew by 0.3% amid persistently strong consumer confidence, which remained robust despite sharply rising fuel prices. In addition, long-term interest rates continued to climb, as the yield on 10-year U.S. Treasury bonds topped 3% for the first time since 2014.

May saw a further decrease in the unemployment rate to 3.8%, its lowest level since December 1969. An estimated 244,000 new jobs were added during the month. Meanwhile, retail sales grew at a faster-than-expected 0.8% rate in May, even as fuel prices continued to move higher. The Consumer Price Index and average hourly wages rose 2.8% and 2.7% above year-ago levels, respectively, indicating that inflation was accelerating.

The labor market remained robust in June, when an estimated 213,000 new jobs were created. The unemployment rate ticked higher to 4.0% during the month as previously sidelined workers returned to the labor force. Inflationary pressures continued to build, as the Consumer Price Index increased 2.9% over the 12 months ended in June 2018, its largest annualized gain since February 2012.

### **Additional Rate Hikes Expected**

After its June meeting, the Fed's Federal Open Market Committee said, "The Committee expects that further gradual increases in the target range for the federal funds rate will be consistent with sustained expansion of economic activity, strong labor market conditions, and inflation near the Committee's symmetric 2% objective over the medium term." Notably, the Fed removed language from previous statements suggesting that the pace of economic growth would warrant "gradual" increases in short-term interest rates. Most analysts expect at least two more interest-rate hikes over the remainder of 2018.

In the rising interest-rate environment, we have maintained the fund's weighted average maturity in a range that is modestly shorter than industry averages. This strategy is intended to capture higher yields as they become available. As always, we have retained our longstanding focus on quality and liquidity.

July 16, 2018

<sup>1</sup> *Annualized effective yield is based upon dividends declared daily and reinvested monthly. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Yields fluctuate. The fund's performance does not reflect the deduction of additional charges and expenses imposed in connection with investing in variable insurance contracts, which will reduce returns.*

*You could lose money by investing in a money market fund. Although the fund seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it cannot guarantee it will do so. An investment in the fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. The fund's sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the fund, and you should not expect that the sponsor will provide financial support to the fund at any time.*

*Although the fund's board has no current intention to impose a fee upon the sale of shares or temporarily suspend redemptions if the fund's liquidity falls below certain levels, the board reserves the ability to do so after providing at least 60 days' prior written notice to shareholders.*

*The fund is only available as a funding vehicle under variable life insurance policies or variable annuity contracts issued by insurance companies. Individuals may not purchase shares of the fund directly. A variable annuity is an insurance contract issued by an insurance company that enables investors to accumulate assets on a tax-deferred basis for retirement or other long-term goals. The investment objective and policies of Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund, Government Money Market Portfolio made available through insurance products may be similar to those of other funds managed or advised by Dreyfus. However, the investment results of the fund may be higher or lower than, and may not be comparable to, those of any other Dreyfus fund.*

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR FUND'S EXPENSES (Unaudited)

*As a mutual fund investor, you pay ongoing expenses, such as management fees and other expenses. Using the information below, you can estimate how these expenses affect your investment and compare them with the expenses of other funds. You also may pay one-time transaction expenses, including sales charges (loads), redemption fees and expenses associated with variable annuity or insurance contracts, which are not shown in this section and would have resulted in higher total expenses. For more information, see your fund's prospectus or talk to your financial adviser.*

### Review your fund's expenses

The table below shows the expenses you would have paid on a \$1,000 investment in Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund, Government Money Market Portfolio from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018. It also shows how much a \$1,000 investment would be worth at the close of the period, assuming actual returns and expenses.

#### Expenses and Value of a \$1,000 Investment

assuming actual returns for the six months ended June 30, 2018

Expenses paid per \$1,000†	\$	2.88
Ending value (after expenses)	\$	1,005.10

## COMPARING YOUR FUND'S EXPENSES WITH THOSE OF OTHER FUNDS (Unaudited)

### Using the SEC's method to compare expenses

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") has established guidelines to help investors assess fund expenses. Per these guidelines, the table below shows your fund's expenses based on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a hypothetical 5% annualized return. You can use this information to compare the ongoing expenses (but not transaction expenses or total cost) of investing in the fund with those of other funds. All mutual fund shareholder reports will provide this information to help you make this comparison. Please note that you cannot use this information to estimate your actual ending account balance and expenses paid during the period.

#### Expenses and Value of a \$1,000 Investment

assuming a hypothetical 5% annualized return for the six months ended June 30, 2018

Expenses paid per \$1,000†	\$	2.91
Ending value (after expenses)	\$	1,021.92

† Expenses are equal to the fund's annualized expense ratio of .58%, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 181/365 (to reflect the one-half year period).

# STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

Description	Principal Amount (\$)	Value (\$)
<b>U.S. Government Agencies - 49.1%</b>		
Federal Farm Credit Bank		
1.96%, 7/6/18, 1 Month LIBOR - .09%	10,000,000 <sup>a</sup>	9,995,384
Federal Home Loan Bank		
1.60%, 7/2/18	17,000,000 <sup>b</sup>	16,999,244
Federal Home Loan Bank		
1.75%, 8/8/18	29,535,000 <sup>b</sup>	29,481,066
Federal Home Loan Bank		
2.05%, 7/23/18, 1 Month LIBOR - .04%	5,000,000 <sup>a</sup>	5,000,159
Federal Home Loan Bank		
2.13%, 9/25/18, 3 Month LIBOR - .21%	10,000,000 <sup>a</sup>	10,000,000
<b>Total U.S. Government Agencies</b> (cost \$71,475,853)		<b>71,475,853</b>
<b>Repurchase Agreements - 55.6%</b>		
ABN AMRO Bank		
Tri-Party Agreement thru BNY Mellon, 2.05%, dated 6/29/18, due 7/2/18 in the amount of \$1,000,171 (fully collateralized by \$1,021,806 U.S. Treasuries, 1%-3.13%, due 11/30/18-11/15/45, value \$1,020,000)	1,000,000	1,000,000
Bank of Nova Scotia		
Tri-Party Agreement thru BNY Mellon, 2.10%, dated 6/29/18, due 7/2/18 in the amount of \$30,005,250 (fully collateralized by \$29,382,045 U.S. Treasuries (including strips), 0%-3.63%, due 7/19/18-11/15/47, value \$30,600,005)	30,000,000	30,000,000
BNP Paribas		
Tri-Party Agreement thru BNY Mellon, 2.05%, dated 6/29/18, due 7/2/18 in the amount of \$30,005,125 (fully collateralized by \$26,754,972 U.S. Treasuries (including strips), 0%-8.75%, due 8/15/18-2/15/26, value \$30,600,000)	30,000,000	30,000,000
Credit Agricole CIB		
Tri-Party Agreement thru BNY Mellon, 2.08%, dated 6/29/18, due 7/2/18 in the amount of \$20,003,467 (fully collateralized by \$22,002,931 U.S. Treasuries (including strips), 0%-8.75%, due 7/5/18-5/15/48, value \$20,400,001)	20,000,000	20,000,000
<b>Total Repurchase Agreements</b> (cost \$81,000,000)		<b>81,000,000</b>
<b>Total Investments</b> (cost \$152,475,853)	<b>104.7%</b>	<b>152,475,853</b>
<b>Liabilities, Less Cash and Receivables</b>	<b>(4.7%)</b>	<b>(6,898,042)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>145,577,811</b>

<sup>a</sup> Variable rate security—rate shown is the interest rate in effect at period end. Date shown represents the earlier of the next interest reset date or ultimate maturity date.

<sup>b</sup> Security is a discount security. Income is recognized through the accretion of discount.



Portfolio Summary (Unaudited) †	Value (%)
Repurchase Agreements	55.6
Federal Home Loan Bank	42.2
Federal Farm Credit Bank	6.9
	<b>104.7</b>

† Based on net assets.  
See notes to financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

	Cost	Value
<b>Assets (\$):</b>		
Investments in securities—See Statement of Investments (including repurchase agreements of \$81,000,000) —Note 1(b)	152,475,853	152,475,853
Cash		968,080
Interest receivable		28,556
Prepaid expenses		986
		<b>153,473,475</b>
<b>Liabilities (\$):</b>		
Due to The Dreyfus Corporation and affiliates—Note 2(b)		80,177
Payable for shares of Beneficial Interest redeemed		7,801,419
Accrued expenses		14,068
		<b>7,895,664</b>
<b>Net Assets (\$)</b>		<b>145,577,811</b>
<b>Composition of Net Assets (\$):</b>		
Paid-in capital		145,573,638
Accumulated undistributed investment income—net		5,770
Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments		(1,597)
<b>Net Assets (\$)</b>		<b>145,577,811</b>
<b>Shares Outstanding</b>		
(unlimited number of \$.001 par value shares of Beneficial Interest authorized)		145,542,364
<b>Net Asset Value Per Share (\$)</b>		<b>1.00</b>

*See notes to financial statements.*

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
Six Months Ended June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)

<b>Investment Income (\$):</b>	
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>1,412,490</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Investment advisory fee—Note 2(a)	444,278
Professional fees	48,231
Trustees' fees and expenses—Note 2(c)	6,191
Prospectus and shareholders' reports	4,629
Custodian fees—Note 2(b)	2,719
Shareholder servicing costs—Note 2(b)	298
Miscellaneous	9,724
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>516,070</b>
Less—reduction in fees due to earnings credits—Note 2(b)	(2,024)
<b>Net Expenses</b>	<b>514,046</b>
<b>Investment Income—Net</b>	<b>898,444</b>
<b>Net Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments—Note 1(b) (\$)</b>	<b>(1,597)</b>
<b>Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations</b>	<b>896,847</b>

*See notes to financial statements.*

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)	Year Ended December 31, 2017
<b>Operations (\$):</b>		
Investment income—net	898,444	607,701
Net realized gain (loss) on investments	(1,597)	-
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Operations</b>	<b>896,847</b>	<b>607,701</b>
<b>Distributions to Shareholders from (\$):</b>		
<b>Investment income—net</b>	<b>(900,500)</b>	<b>(600,690)</b>
<b>Beneficial Interest Transactions (\$1.00 per share):</b>		
Net proceeds from shares sold	306,255,961	502,509,413
Distributions reinvested	900,500	600,690
Cost of shares redeemed	(357,922,175)	(455,428,616)
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from Beneficial Interest Transactions</b>	<b>(50,765,714)</b>	<b>47,681,487</b>
<b>Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>(50,769,367)</b>	<b>47,688,498</b>
<b>Net Assets (\$):</b>		
Beginning of Period	196,347,178	148,658,680
<b>End of Period</b>	<b>145,577,811</b>	<b>196,347,178</b>
Undistributed investment income—net	5,770	7,826

*See notes to financial statements.*

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following table describes the performance for the fiscal periods indicated. Total return shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distributions. The fund's total returns do not reflect expenses associated with variable annuity or insurance contracts. These figures have been derived from the fund's financial statements.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2018 (Unaudited)	Year Ended December 31,				
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>						
Net asset value, beginning of period	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Investment Operations:						
Investment income—net	.005	.003	.000 <sup>a</sup>	.000 <sup>a</sup>	.000 <sup>a</sup>	.000 <sup>a</sup>
Distributions:						
Dividends from investment income—net	(.005)	(.003)	(.000) <sup>a</sup>	(.000) <sup>a</sup>	(.000) <sup>a</sup>	(.000) <sup>a</sup>
Net asset value, end of period	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	.51 <sup>b</sup>	.34	.02	.00 <sup>c</sup>	.00 <sup>c</sup>	.00 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>						
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.58 <sup>d</sup>	.58	.62	.62	.59	.60
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.58 <sup>d</sup>	.57	.39	.23	.14	.14
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	1.01 <sup>d</sup>	.37	.01	.00 <sup>c</sup>	.00 <sup>c</sup>	.00 <sup>c</sup>
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	145,578	196,347	148,659	152,576	125,621	127,944

<sup>a</sup> Amount represents less than \$.001 per share.

<sup>b</sup> Not annualized.

<sup>c</sup> Amount represents less than .01%.

<sup>d</sup> Annualized.

See notes to financial statements.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

### **NOTE 1—Significant Accounting Policies:**

Government Money Market Portfolio (the “fund”) is a separate diversified series of Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund (the “Company”), which is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Act”), as an open-end management investment company and operates as a series company currently offering seven series, including the fund. The fund is only offered to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. The fund’s investment objective is to seek as high a level of current income as is consistent with the preservation of capital and the maintenance of liquidity. The Dreyfus Corporation (the “Manager” or “Dreyfus”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (“BNY Mellon”), serves as the fund’s investment adviser. MBSC Securities Corporation (the “Distributor”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, is the distributor of the fund’s shares, which are sold without a sales charge.

The fund operates as a “government money market fund” as that term is defined in Rule 2a-7 under the Act. It is the fund’s policy to maintain a constant net asset value (“NAV”) per share of \$1.00 and the fund has adopted certain investment, portfolio valuation and dividend and distribution policies to enable it to do so. There is no assurance, however, that the fund will be able to maintain a constant NAV per share of \$1.00.

The Company accounts separately for the assets, liabilities and operations of each series. Expenses directly attributable to each series are charged to that series’ operations; expenses which are applicable to all series are allocated among them on a pro rata basis.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification is the exclusive reference of authoritative U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) recognized by the FASB to be applied by nongovernmental entities. Rules and interpretive releases of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) under authority of federal laws are also sources of authoritative GAAP for SEC registrants. The fund’s financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP, which may require the use of management estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Company enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnifications. The fund’s maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. The fund does not anticipate recognizing any loss related to these arrangements.

**(a) Portfolio valuation:** Investments in securities are valued at amortized cost in accordance with Rule 2a-7 under the Act. If amortized cost is determined not to approximate market value, the fair value of the portfolio securities will be determined by procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Board.

The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., the exit price). GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs of valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

Additionally, GAAP provides guidance on determining whether the volume and activity in a market has decreased significantly and whether such a decrease in activity results in transactions that are not orderly. GAAP requires enhanced disclosures around valuation inputs and techniques used during annual and interim periods.

Various inputs are used in determining the value of the fund's investments relating to fair value measurements. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

**Level 1**—unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical investments.

**Level 2**—other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar investments, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

**Level 3**—significant unobservable inputs (including the fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. For example, money market securities are valued using amortized cost, in accordance with rules under the Act. Generally, amortized cost approximates the current fair value of a security, but since the value is not obtained from a quoted price in an active market, such securities are reflected within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

The following is a summary of the inputs used as of June 30, 2018 in valuing the fund's investments:

Valuation Inputs	Short-Term Investments (\$)†
Level 1 - Unadjusted Quoted Prices	-
Level 2 - Other Significant Observable Inputs	152,475,853
Level 3 - Significant Unobservable Inputs	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,475,853</b>

† See Statement of Investments for additional detailed categorizations.

At June 30, 2018, there were no transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy. It is the fund's policy to recognize transfers between levels at the end of the reporting period.

**(b) Securities transactions and investment income:** Securities transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Interest income, adjusted for accretion of discount and amortization of premium on investments, is earned from settlement date and is recognized on the accrual basis. Realized gains and losses from securities transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis.

The fund may enter into repurchase agreements with financial institutions, deemed to be creditworthy by Dreyfus, subject to the seller's agreement to repurchase and the fund's agreement to resell such securities at a mutually agreed upon price. Pursuant to the terms of the repurchase agreement, such securities must have an aggregate market value greater than or equal to the terms of the repurchase price plus accrued interest at all times. If the value of the underlying securities falls below the value of the repurchase price plus accrued interest, the fund will require the seller to deposit additional collateral by the next business day. If the request for additional collateral is not met, or the seller defaults on its repurchase obligation, the fund maintains its right to sell the underlying securities at market value and may claim any resulting loss against the seller. The collateral is held on behalf of the fund by the tri-party administrator with respect to any tri-party agreement. The fund may also jointly enter into one or more repurchase agreements with other Dreyfus-managed funds in accordance with an exemptive order granted by the SEC pursuant to section 17(d) and Rule 17d-1 under the Act. Any joint repurchase agreements must be collateralized fully by U.S. Government securities.

**(c) Dividends and distributions to shareholders:** It is the policy of the fund to declare dividends daily from investment income-net. Such dividends are paid monthly. Dividends from net realized capital gains, if any, are normally declared and paid annually, but the fund may make distributions on a more frequent basis to comply with the distribution requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). To the extent that net realized capital gains can be offset by



capital loss carryovers, it is the policy of the fund not to distribute such gains.

**(d) Federal income taxes:** It is the policy of the fund to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company, if such qualification is in the best interests of its shareholders, by complying with the applicable provisions of the Code, and to make distributions of taxable income sufficient to relieve it from substantially all federal income and excise taxes.

As of and during the period ended June 30, 2018, the fund did not have any liabilities for any uncertain tax positions. The fund recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to uncertain tax positions as income tax expense in the Statement of Operations. During the period ended June 30, 2018, the fund did not incur any interest or penalties.

Each tax year in the three-year period ended December 31, 2017 remains subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing authorities.

The tax character of distributions paid to shareholders during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 was all ordinary income. The tax character of current year distributions will be determined at the end of the current fiscal year.

At June 30, 2018, the cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was substantially the same as the cost for financial reporting purposes (see the Statement of Investments).

#### **NOTE 2—Investment Advisory Fee and Other Transactions with Affiliates:**

**(a)** Pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with Dreyfus, the investment advisory fee is computed at the annual rate of .50% of the value of the fund's average daily net assets and is payable monthly.

**(b)** The fund has arrangements with the transfer agent and the custodian whereby the fund may receive earnings credits when positive cash balances are maintained, which are used to offset transfer agency and custody fees. For financial reporting purposes, the fund includes net earnings credits as an expense offset in the Statement of Operations.

The fund compensates Dreyfus Transfer, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dreyfus, under a transfer agency agreement for providing transfer agency and cash management services for the fund. The majority of transfer agency fees are comprised of amounts paid on a per account basis, while cash management fees are related to fund subscriptions and redemptions. During the period ended June 30, 2018, the fund was

charged \$187 for transfer agency services and \$15 for cash management services. These fees are included in Shareholder servicing costs in the Statement of Operations. Cash management fees were offset by earnings credits of \$15.

The fund compensates The Bank of New York Mellon, a subsidiary of BNY Mellon and an affiliate of Dreyfus, under a custody agreement for providing custodial services for the fund. These fees are determined based on net assets, geographic region and transaction activity. During the period ended June 30, 2018, the fund was charged \$2,719 pursuant to the custody agreement. These fees were partially offset by earnings credits of \$2,009.

During the period ended June 30, 2018, the fund was charged \$6,320 for services performed by the Chief Compliance Officer and his staff. These fees are included in Miscellaneous in the Statement of Operations.

The components of “Due to The Dreyfus Corporation and affiliates” in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities consist of: investment advisory fees \$72,053, custodian fees \$1,465, Chief Compliance Officer fees \$6,320 and transfer agency fees \$339.

**(c)** Each Board member also serves as a Board member of other funds within the Dreyfus complex. Annual retainer fees and attendance fees are allocated to each fund based on net assets.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE RENEWAL OF THE FUND'S INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT (Unaudited)

At a meeting of the fund's Board of Trustees held on February 14-15, 2018, the Board considered the renewal of the fund's Investment Advisory Agreement pursuant to which Dreyfus provides the fund with investment advisory and administrative services (the "Agreement"). The Board members, none of whom are "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended) of the fund, were assisted in their review by independent legal counsel and met with counsel in executive session separate from Dreyfus representatives. In considering the renewal of the Agreement, the Board considered all factors that it believed to be relevant, including those discussed below. The Board did not identify any one factor as dispositive, and each Board member may have attributed different weights to the factors considered.

Analysis of Nature, Extent, and Quality of Services Provided to the Fund. The Board considered information provided to them at the meeting and in previous presentations from Dreyfus representatives regarding the nature, extent, and quality of the services provided to funds in the Dreyfus fund complex. Dreyfus provided the number of open accounts in the fund, the fund's asset size and the allocation of fund assets among distribution channels. Dreyfus also had previously provided information regarding the diverse intermediary relationships and distribution channels of funds in the Dreyfus fund complex (such as retail direct or intermediary, in which intermediaries typically are paid by the fund and/or Dreyfus) and Dreyfus' corresponding need for broad, deep, and diverse resources to be able to provide ongoing shareholder services to each intermediary or distribution channel, as applicable to the fund.

The Board also considered research support available to, and portfolio management capabilities of, the fund's portfolio management personnel and that Dreyfus also provides oversight of day-to-day fund operations, including fund accounting and administration and assistance in meeting legal and regulatory requirements. The Board also considered Dreyfus' extensive administrative, accounting and compliance infrastructures.

Comparative Analysis of the Fund's Performance and Management Fee and Expense Ratio. The Board reviewed reports prepared by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge"), an independent provider of investment company data, which included information comparing (1) the fund's performance with the performance of a group of comparable funds (the "Performance Group") and with a broader group of funds (the "Performance Universe"), all for various periods ended December 31, 2017, and (2) the fund's actual and contractual management fees and total expenses with those of a group of comparable funds (the "Expense Group") and with a broader group of funds (the "Expense Universe"), the information for which was derived in part from fund financial statements available to Broadridge as of the date of its analysis. Dreyfus previously had furnished the Board with a description of the methodology Broadridge used to select the Performance Group and Performance Universe and the Expense Group and Expense Universe.

Dreyfus representatives stated that the usefulness of performance comparisons may be affected by a number of factors, including different investment limitations that may be

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RENEWAL OF THE FUND'S INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT (Unaudited) (continued)

applicable to the fund and comparison funds. The Board discussed with representatives of Dreyfus and/or its affiliates the results of the comparisons and considered that the fund's total return performance was below the Performance Group and Performance Universe medians for all periods, except for the ten-year period when it was at the medians. The Board considered the relative proximity of the fund's performance to the Performance Universe median in certain periods when performance was below median.

The Board also reviewed the range of actual and contractual management fees and total expenses of the Expense Group and Expense Universe funds and discussed the results of the comparisons. The Board considered that: the fund's contractual management fee was above the Expense Group median and the fund's actual management fee and total expenses were above the Expense Group and Expense Universe medians.

Dreyfus representatives reviewed with the Board the management or investment advisory fees paid by funds advised or administered by Dreyfus that are in the same Lipper category as the fund (the "Similar Funds"), and explained the nature of the Similar Funds. They discussed differences in fees paid and the relationship of the fees paid in light of any differences in the services provided and other relevant factors. The Board considered the relevance of the fee information provided for the Similar Funds to evaluate the appropriateness of the fund's management fee.

Analysis of Profitability and Economies of Scale. Dreyfus representatives reviewed the expenses allocated and profit received by Dreyfus and its affiliates and the resulting profitability percentage for managing the fund (which was zero) and the aggregate profitability percentage to Dreyfus and its affiliates for managing the funds in the Dreyfus fund complex, and the method used to determine the expenses and profit. The Board concluded that the profitability results were not unreasonable, given the services rendered and service levels provided by Dreyfus. The Board also had been provided with information prepared by an independent consulting firm regarding Dreyfus' approach to allocating costs to, and determining the profitability of, individual funds and the entire Dreyfus fund complex. The consulting firm also had analyzed where any economies of scale might emerge in connection with the management of a fund.

The Board considered, on the advice of its counsel, the profitability analysis (1) as part of its evaluation of whether the fees under the Agreement, considered in relation to the mix of services provided by Dreyfus, including the nature, extent and quality of such services, supported the renewal of the Agreement and (2) in light of the relevant circumstances for the fund and the extent to which economies of scale would be realized if the fund grows and whether fee levels reflect these economies of scale for the benefit of fund shareholders. Dreyfus representatives also stated that, as a result of shared and allocated costs among funds in the Dreyfus fund complex, the extent of economies of scale could depend substantially on the level of assets in the complex as a whole, so that increases and decreases in complex-wide assets can affect potential economies of scale in a manner that is disproportionate to, or even in the opposite direction from, changes in the fund's asset level. The Board also considered potential benefits to Dreyfus from acting as investment adviser and took into consideration that there were no soft dollar arrangements in effect for trading the fund's investments.

At the conclusion of these discussions, the Board agreed that it had been furnished with sufficient information to make an informed business decision with respect to the renewal of the Agreement. Based on the discussions and considerations as described above, the Board concluded and determined as follows.

- The Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by Dreyfus are adequate and appropriate.
- The Board expressed concern about the fund's performance and agreed to closely monitor performance.
- The Board concluded that the fee paid to Dreyfus continued to be appropriate under the circumstances and in light of the factors and the totality of the services provided as discussed above.
- The Board determined that the economies of scale which may accrue to Dreyfus and its affiliates in connection with the management of the fund had been adequately considered by Dreyfus in connection with the fee rate charged to the fund pursuant to the Agreement and that, to the extent in the future it were determined that material economies of scale had not been shared with the fund, the Board would seek to have those economies of scale shared with the fund.

In evaluating the Agreement, the Board considered these conclusions and determinations and also relied on its previous knowledge, gained through meetings and other interactions with Dreyfus and its affiliates, of Dreyfus and the services provided to the fund by Dreyfus. The Board also relied on information received on a routine and regular basis throughout the year relating to the operations of the fund and the investment management and other services provided under the Agreement, including information on the investment performance of the fund in comparison to similar mutual funds and benchmark performance measures; general market outlook as applicable to the fund; and compliance reports. In addition, the Board's consideration of the contractual fee arrangements for this fund had the benefit of a number of years of reviews of the Agreement for the fund, or substantially similar agreements for other Dreyfus funds that the Board oversees, during which lengthy discussions took place between the Board and Dreyfus representatives. Certain aspects of the arrangements may receive greater scrutiny in some years than in others, and the Board's conclusions may be based, in part, on their consideration of the fund's arrangements, or substantially similar arrangements for other Dreyfus funds that the Board oversees, in prior years. The Board determined to renew the Agreement.

# NOTES

# NOTES

# For More Information

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## **Dreyfus Variable Investment Fund, Government Money Market Portfolio**

200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166

### **Investment Adviser**

The Dreyfus Corporation  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166

### **Custodian**

The Bank of New York Mellon  
240 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10286

## **Transfer Agent & Dividend Disbursing Agent**

Dreyfus Transfer, Inc.  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166

### **Distributor**

MBSC Securities Corporation  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166

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**Telephone** 1-800-258-4260 or 1-800-258-4261

**Mail** The Dreyfus Family of Funds, 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, NY 11556-0144  
Attn: Institutional Services Department

**E-mail** Send your request to [info@dreyfus.com](mailto:info@dreyfus.com)

**Internet** Information can be viewed online or downloaded at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com)

The fund will disclose daily, on [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com), the fund's complete schedule of holdings as of the end of the previous business day. The schedule of holdings will remain on the website until the fund files its Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the date of the posted holdings.

The fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The fund's Forms N-Q are available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and may be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. (phone 1-800-SEC-0330 for information).

Information regarding how the fund voted proxies related to portfolio securities for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com) and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-DREYFUS.