

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

- A This return/report is for: [ ] a multiemployer plan [ ] a multiple-employer plan... [X] a single-employer plan [ ] a DFE... B This return/report is: [ ] the first return/report [ ] the final return/report... C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here... [ ] D Check box if filing under: [X] Form 5558 [ ] automatic extension [ ] the DFVC program... E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here... [X]

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: CASCADE ENERGY, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 002
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/2020
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): CASCADE ENERGY, INC.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 93-1124681
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 503-928-3207
2d Business code (see instructions): 541330

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature, Date, and Name. Rows include KRISTI CALDERWOOD (plan administrator), BARBARA DUSICKA (employer/plan sponsor), and a row for DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2023) v. 230707

<b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	<b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN	
	<b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number	
<b>4</b> If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: <b>a</b> Sponsor's name <b>c</b> Plan Name	<b>4b</b> EIN	
	<b>4d</b> PN	
<b>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<b>5</b>	213
<b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ). <b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year ..... <b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year ..... <b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits ..... <b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits ..... <b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> . ..... <b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits ..... <b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> . ..... <b>g(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>g(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>h</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<b>6a(1)</b>	194
	<b>6a(2)</b>	206
	<b>6b</b>	0
	<b>6c</b>	14
	<b>6d</b>	220
	<b>6e</b>	0
	<b>6f</b>	220
	<b>6g(1)</b>	209
<b>6g(2)</b>	217	
<b>6h</b>	14	
<b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	<b>7</b>	

**8a** If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:  
2I 2P 3I

**b** If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

<b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	<b>9b</b> Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

**10** Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

- a Pension Schedules**
- (1)  **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
  - (2)  **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
  - (3)  **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
  - (4)  **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5)  **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

- b General Schedules**
- (1)  **H** (Financial Information)
  - (2)  **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
  - (3)  **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
  - (4)  **C** (Service Provider Information)
  - (5)  **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
  - (6)  **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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**Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)**

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**11a** If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) .....  Yes  No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

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**11b** Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) .....  Yes  No

**11c** Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>SCHEDULE H</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Financial Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2023</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b>
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning <b>01/01/2023</b> and ending <b>12/31/2023</b>	
<b>A</b> Name of plan <b>CASCADE ENERGY, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <b>002</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>CASCADE ENERGY, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>93-1124681</b>

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Asset and Liability Statement</b>
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**1** Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash .....	<b>1a</b>		
<b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
<b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....	<b>1b(1)</b>	0	0
<b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....	<b>1b(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Other .....	<b>1b(3)</b>		
<b>c</b> General investments:			
<b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....	<b>1c(1)</b>	343	402
<b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....	<b>1c(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(3)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> All other .....	<b>1c(3)(B)</b>		
<b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(4)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Common .....	<b>1c(4)(B)</b>		
<b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....	<b>1c(5)</b>		
<b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....	<b>1c(6)</b>		
<b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....	<b>1c(7)</b>		
<b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....	<b>1c(8)</b>		
<b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....	<b>1c(9)</b>		
<b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....	<b>1c(10)</b>		
<b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....	<b>1c(11)</b>		
<b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>1c(12)</b>		
<b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>1c(13)</b>		
<b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) .....	<b>1c(14)</b>		
<b>(15)</b> Other .....	<b>1c(15)</b>		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities .....	1d(1)	7416000	12456000
(2) Employer real property .....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation .....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e) .....	1f	7416343	12456402
<b>Liabilities</b>			
g Benefit claims payable .....	1g		
h Operating payables .....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness .....	1i	25988492	24084129
j Other liabilities .....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j) .....	1k	25988492	24084129
<b>Net Assets</b>			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f) .....	1l	-18572149	-11627727

**Part II Income and Expense Statement**

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

<b>Income</b>		(a) Amount	(b) Total
<b>a Contributions:</b>			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers .....	2a(1)(A)	1342954	
(B) Participants .....	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers) .....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions .....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2) .....	2a(3)		1342954
<b>b Earnings on investments:</b>			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit) .....	2b(1)(A)	16	
(B) U.S. Government securities .....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments .....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants) .....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans .....	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other .....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F) .....	2b(1)(G)		16
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock .....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock .....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds) .....	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C) .....	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents .....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds .....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions) .....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result .....	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate .....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other .....	2b(5)(B)	5040000	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B) .....	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	<b>2b(6)</b>		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	<b>2b(7)</b>		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	<b>2b(8)</b>		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	<b>2b(9)</b>		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>2b(10)</b>		
<b>c</b> Other income .....	<b>2c</b>		1094138
<b>d</b> Total income. Add all <b>income</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total .....	<b>2d</b>		7477108

**Expenses**

<b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers .....	<b>2e(1)</b>	49300	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	<b>2e(2)</b>		
(3) Other.....	<b>2e(3)</b>		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines <b>2e(1)</b> through <b>(3)</b> .....	<b>2e(4)</b>		49300
<b>f</b> Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	<b>2f</b>		
<b>g</b> Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions) .....	<b>2g</b>		
<b>h</b> Interest expense .....	<b>2h</b>		483386
<b>i</b> Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances.....	<b>2i(1)</b>		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	<b>2i(2)</b>		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	<b>2i(3)</b>		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	<b>2i(4)</b>		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees .....	<b>2i(5)</b>		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees .....	<b>2i(6)</b>		
(7) Actuarial fees .....	<b>2i(7)</b>		
(8) Legal fees .....	<b>2i(8)</b>		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees .....	<b>2i(9)</b>		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses .....	<b>2i(10)</b>		
(11) Other expenses .....	<b>2i(11)</b>		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines <b>2i(1)</b> through <b>(11)</b> .....	<b>2i(12)</b>		0
<b>j</b> Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total .....	<b>2j</b>		532686

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

<b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line <b>2j</b> from line <b>2d</b> .....	<b>2k</b>		6944422
<b>l</b> Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan .....	<b>2l(1)</b>		
(2) From this plan .....	<b>2l(2)</b>		

**Part III Accountant's Opinion**

**3** Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

**a** The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1)  Unmodified (2)  Qualified (3)  Disclaimer (4)  Adverse

**b** Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1)  DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2)  DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3)  neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

**c** Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: EIDE BAILLY LLP

(2) EIN: 45-0250958

**d** The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1)  This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2)  It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

**Part IV Compliance Questions**

**4** CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
<b>a</b> Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		X	
<b>b</b> Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>c</b> Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>d</b> Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>e</b> Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
<b>f</b> Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
<b>g</b> Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
<b>h</b> Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
<b>i</b> Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
<b>j</b> Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
<b>k</b> Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
<b>l</b> Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
<b>m</b> If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
<b>n</b> If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

**5a** Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?  Yes  No  
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year \_\_\_\_\_.

**5b** If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

<b>5b(1)</b> Name of plan(s)	<b>5b(2)</b> EIN(s)	<b>5b(3)</b> PN(s)

**5c** Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) .....  Yes  No  Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>SCHEDULE R</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Retirement Plan Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2023</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>CASCADE ENERGY, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>CASCADE ENERGY, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>93-1124681</u>	

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Distributions</b>
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**All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.**

<b>1</b> Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
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**2** Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):  
 EIN(s): 33-6134835

**Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.**

<b>3</b> Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year .....	3	
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<b>Part II</b>	<b>Funding Information</b> (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
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**4** Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? .....  Yes  No  N/A  
**If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.**

**5** If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
**If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.**

<b>6 a</b> Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) .....	6a	
<b>b</b> Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year .....	6b	
<b>c</b> Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) .....	6c	

**If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.**

**7** Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? .....  Yes  No  N/A

**8** If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? .....  Yes  No  N/A

<b>Part III</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
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**9** If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ....  Increase  Decrease  Both  No

<b>Part IV</b>	<b>ESOPs</b> (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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**10** Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?.....  Yes  No

**11 a** Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? .....  Yes  No

**b** If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) .....  Yes  No

**12** Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? .....  Yes  No

**Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

**13** Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**a** Name of contributing employer \_\_\_\_\_

**b** EIN \_\_\_\_\_ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer \_\_\_\_\_

**d** Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**e** Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box  and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Base unit measure:  Hourly  Weekly  Unit of production  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**14** Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

<b>a</b> The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment) .....	<b>14a</b>	
<b>b</b> The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment) .....	<b>14b</b>	
<b>c</b> The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	<b>14c</b>	

**15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

<b>a</b> The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year .....	<b>15a</b>	
<b>b</b> The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year .....	<b>15b</b>	

**16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

<b>a</b> Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year .....	<b>16a</b>	
<b>b</b> If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers .....	<b>16b</b>	

**17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment.....

**Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

**18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment.....

**19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

**a** Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:  
 Public Equity: \_\_\_\_\_% Private Equity: \_\_\_\_\_% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: \_\_\_\_\_%  
 High-Yield Debt: \_\_\_\_\_% Real Assets: \_\_\_\_\_% Cash or Cash Equivalents: \_\_\_\_\_% Other: \_\_\_\_\_%

**b** Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:  
 0-5 years  5-10 years  10-15 years  15 years or more

**20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

**a** Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero?  Yes  No

**b** If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:  
 Yes.  
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.  
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.  
 No. Other. Provide explanation.....

**Part VII IRS Compliance Questions**

**21a** Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules?  Yes  No

**21b** If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).  
 Design-based safe harbor method  
 "Prior year" ADP test  
 "Current year" ADP test  
 N/A

**22** If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number \_\_\_\_\_.



Financial Statements  
December 31, 2023 and 2022  
**Cascade Energy, Inc.**  
Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust

# Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust

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December 31, 2023 and 2022

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## Independent Auditor's Report

The Plan Administrator  
Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust  
Portland, Oregon

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets (deficit) available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets (deficit) available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets (deficit) available for benefits of Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets (deficit) available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### **Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule H, line 4i-schedule of assets held at end of year as of December 31, 2023, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including the form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content are presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eide Bailly LLP".

Fargo, North Dakota  
October 3, 2024

Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust  
 Statements of Net Assets (Deficit) Available for Benefits  
 December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023			2022		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Assets						
Investments, at fair value	\$ 2,629,524	\$ 9,826,878	\$ 12,456,402	\$ 1,325,831	\$ 6,090,512	\$ 7,416,343
Total assets	2,629,524	9,826,878	12,456,402	1,325,831	6,090,512	7,416,343
Liabilities						
Note payable	-	24,084,129	24,084,129	-	25,988,492	25,988,492
Total liabilities	-	24,084,129	24,084,129	-	25,988,492	25,988,492
Net Assets (Deficit) Available for Benefits	<u>\$ 2,629,524</u>	<u>\$ (14,257,251)</u>	<u>\$ (11,627,727)</u>	<u>\$ 1,325,831</u>	<u>\$ (19,897,980)</u>	<u>\$ (18,572,149)</u>

Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust  
Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Deficit) Available for Benefits  
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Additions</b>			
Investment income			
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 900,818	\$ 4,139,182	\$ 5,040,000
Debt forgiveness	-	1,094,138	1,094,138
Interest income	16	-	16
	<u>900,834</u>	<u>5,233,320</u>	<u>6,134,154</u>
<b>Contributions</b>			
Employer	49,343	1,293,611	1,342,954
Allocation of 25,871 shares of common stock of the Company, at fair value	<u>402,816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>402,816</u>
	<u>452,159</u>	<u>1,293,611</u>	<u>1,745,770</u>
Total additions	<u>1,352,993</u>	<u>6,526,931</u>	<u>7,879,924</u>
<b>Deductions</b>			
Benefits paid to participants	49,300	-	49,300
Allocation of 25,871 shares of common stock of the Company, at fair value	-	402,816	402,816
Interest expense	-	483,386	483,386
Total deductions	<u>49,300</u>	<u>886,202</u>	<u>935,502</u>
Net Increase	1,303,693	5,640,729	6,944,422
<b>Net Assets (Deficit) Available for Benefits</b>			
Beginning of year	<u>1,325,831</u>	<u>(19,897,980)</u>	<u>(18,572,149)</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 2,629,524</u>	<u>\$ (14,257,251)</u>	<u>\$ (11,627,727)</u>

**Note 1 - Description of Plan**

The following brief description of the Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

**General**

Cascade Energy, Inc. (the Company) established the Plan effective as of January 1, 2020. The Plan operates, in relevant part, as a leveraged employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC), as amended, and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). GreatBanc is an independent third-party and is the Plan's Trustee. The Plan is administered by the Advisory Committee comprised of persons appointed by the Board of Directors.

In 2021, the Plan purchased the Company's common stock using cash and the proceeds of a note (Note 6) and holds the common stock in a trust established under the Plan. As the Plan makes debt payments, an appropriate percentage of stock will be allocated to eligible employees' accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the IRC.

The borrowing is collateralized by the unallocated shares of common stock and is guaranteed by the Company. The lender has no rights against shares of common stock once they are allocated to participants in accordance with the terms of the ESOP. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to:

1. Accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated common stock (allocated).
2. Common stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated).

**Eligibility**

Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan if they have completed six months of service and are 18 years of age. Collective bargaining employees, nonresident aliens, and employees of affiliates are not eligible to participate in the Plan.

**Entry Date**

Employees may enter the Plan on any day of the plan year coinciding with or following the date they satisfy the Plan's eligibility requirements and will be retroactive to the first day of the Plan year.

### **Contributions**

The Company is obligated to make contributions in cash to the Plan which, when aggregated with the Plan's dividends and interest earnings, equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest due on its term loan. Employee contributions are not permitted.

### **Voting Rights**

Each participant is entitled to exercise voting rights attributable to the shares allocated to his or her account and is notified by the Trustee prior to the time that such rights are to be exercised. The Trustee is permitted to vote any allocated share for which instructions have not been given by a participant. The Trustee is required, however, to vote any unallocated shares on behalf of the collective best interest of Plan participants and beneficiaries.

### **Put Option**

Under federal income tax regulations, the employer stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market, or is subject to trading limitations, includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Company buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the current appraised value of the stock. The Company can pay for the purchase with interest over a period of five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

### **Participant Accounts**

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each participant. Each participant's account is credited as of the last day of each Plan year, with an allocation of shares of the Company's common stock released by the Trustee from the unallocated account and forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested accounts. Only those participants who are eligible employees of the Company as of the last day of the Plan year and have completed at least 1,000 hours during the plan year will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation, relative to the total eligible compensation. Plan earnings and losses are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's account balance.

### Vesting

Vesting is based on years of credited services as set forth in the following table:

Participant's Years of Service	Vesting Percentage
Less than 2	0%
2	20%
3	40%
4	60%
5	80%
6	100%

Participants are 100% vested in their account balances upon retirement, death or disability.

### Forfeitures

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, there was no balance in the forfeited non-vested account as all forfeitures are used if a Participant account is not vested as of the allocation date on which they incur a five consecutive year break in service. Forfeited accounts are re-allocated to eligible participants. During the year ended December 31, 2023, forfeited non-vested accounts of approximately 7,160 shares of common stock and \$22, were re-allocated to eligible participants. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation, relative to the total eligible compensation for the Plan year.

### Payment of Benefits

Upon death, disability or retirement, a participant with less than \$5,000 will receive a lump sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account as defined in the Plan document. If the value of the account exceeds \$5,000, no portion may be distributed to the participant before the later of age sixty-two or normal retirement age without written consent of the participant or beneficiary.

Distributions for other separations from service commence in the sixth Plan year following the separation from service. The amount to be distributed is based upon the immediately preceding valuation date. Distributions are made in cash or, if a participant elects, in the form of Company common stock plus cash for any fractional share of common stock. Under the provisions of the Plan, the Company is obligated to repurchase participant shares, which have been distributed under the terms of the Plan if the shares are not publicly traded or if the shares are subject to trading limitations.

Distributions can be made in a single lump sum payment, stock distributions or in substantially equal annual installments over five years if the vested account balance is equal to or less than \$1,330,000. For vested balances over \$1,330,000 the company may extend the payment out for an additional year over the 5 years for every \$265,000 over the \$1,330,000 up to an additional 5 years.

### **Diversification**

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Company common stock into investments that are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a six-year period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25 percent of the number of post-1986 shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50 percent. Participants who elect to diversify receive a cash distribution. The election to diversify is made subsequent to year-end based upon the shares of employer stock in the participant's account at year-end. There were no participants eligible to diversify during 2023.

### **Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan, subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their account. Upon termination of the Plan, the Advisory committee directs the Trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the ESOP and to sell shares of financed common stock held as collateral to the extent it determines such sale will be necessary in order to repay the loan. Subsequently, the interest of each participant in the trust fund will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the IRC.

## **Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies and Use of Estimates**

### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

### **Allocations**

The financial statements of the Plan present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to (a) the accounts of employees with rights in allocated stock ("allocated") and (b) stock not yet allocated to employees ("unallocated"), including shares that are committed to be released. Shares are released from collateral and become allocated generally in the period in which debt service is actually paid.

### **Investment Valuation and Income Recognition**

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price 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. See Note 4 for a discussion of fair value measurements. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are reported on the average cost method. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as those held during the year. The Advisory Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisors.

The classification of investment earnings reported in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits may differ from the classification of earnings on Form 5500 due to different reporting requirements on Form 5500.

### **Debt Forgiveness**

Debt forgiveness is recorded as income when certain events within the loan agreement are not met.

### **Payment of Benefits**

Benefits payments to participants are recorded when paid.

### **Expenses**

The Plan's expenses are paid by either the Plan or the Company, as provided by the Plan document. Expenses that are paid directly by the Company are excluded from these financial statements.

# Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2023 and 2022

## Note 3 - Investments

The Plan's investments as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, is as follows:

	2023		Total
	Allocated	Unallocated	
Number of Shares of Company Stock	168,858	631,142	800,000
Cost	\$ 6,734,578	\$ 24,188,050	\$ 30,922,628
Fair Value	\$ 2,629,122	\$ 9,826,878	\$ 12,456,000
	2022		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Number of Shares of Company Stock	142,987	657,013	800,000
Cost	\$ 5,684,752	\$ 26,332,013	\$ 32,016,765
Fair Value	\$ 1,325,488	\$ 6,090,512	\$ 7,416,000

## Note 4 - Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under the FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

Level 1 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan can access.

Level 2 – Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; and
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

# Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Level 3 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Common stock: The fair value of the Company common stock held in the Plan is valued at estimated fair value based upon an independent appraisal. The appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques consistent with prior years. The appraiser took into account historical and projected cash flow and net income, discount rates, return on assets, return on equity, market comparables and estimated fair value of Company assets and liabilities, including certain discounts for lack of marketability.

Money market mutual fund – Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-ended mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan’s investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,456,000	\$ 12,456,000
Money market mutual fund	402	-	-	402
<b>Total investments at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 402</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 12,456,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,456,402</b>
	2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,416,000	\$ 7,416,000
Money market mutual fund	343	-	-	343
<b>Total investments at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 343</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,416,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,416,343</b>

**Changes in Fair Value of Level 3 Assets**

The table below sets forth certain changes in the fair value of the Plan’s Level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	<u>Common Stock</u>
Transfers into Level 3	-
Transfers out of Level 3	-
Purchases	-
Distribution of shares	-

**Note 5 - Tax Status**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated February 9, 2023, that the Plan and related trust were designed in accordance with the applicable regulations of the IRC. Subsequent to the issuance of the determination letter, the Plan was amended, however, the Company and Plan management believe that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and therefore believe the Plan is qualified and the related trust continues to be tax-exempt as of the financial statement date.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

**Note 6 - Note Payable**

In November 2021, the Plan entered into a \$29,580,152 term loan agreement with the Company, to be repaid over a period of 30 years. A post-transaction purchase price adjustment of \$436,613 was added to the note. The proceeds of the loan were used to purchase Company common stock. Unallocated shares are collateral for the loan. In 2023, the note payable was reduced by \$1,094,138 due to certain provisions in the agreement not being met and recorded as debt forgiveness. Shares are released from collateral and allocated to participants as payments of principal and interest are made. The number of shares released in any year is the number of shares held as collateral, times the ratio of the current year payments divided by the total of this year’s payments, plus all future years’ principal and interest payments. This resulted in 25,871 shares being released and allocated for the Plan year ended December 31, 2023.

# Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2023 and 2022

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The balance due on the note payable as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, was \$24,084,129 and \$25,988,492, respectively. The loan agreement bears interest at 1.86% and provides for the loan to mature on December 31, 2050. The scheduled amortization of the loan for the next five years and thereafter is as follows:

<u>Years Ended December 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2024	\$ 844,420
2025	861,353
2026	877,374
2027	893,693
2028	909,266
Thereafter	<u>19,698,023</u>
	<u>\$ 24,084,129</u>

Interest expense paid to the Company totaled \$483,386 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

## **Note 7 - Related Party and Party-In-Interest Transactions**

The Plan invests in Company common stock and has indebtedness with or guaranteed by the Company. The Company also forgave debt of \$1,094,138 during 2023. These are related party and party-in-interest transactions.

## **Note 8 - Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan's investments consist primarily of the Company's common stock, which is exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows and other such techniques. Market risks include global events which could impact the value of investments, such as a pandemic or international conflict. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in estimates and assumptions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of the common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

## **Note 9 - Right of First Refusal**

Company stock that has been distributed to a participant and not immediately repurchased by the Company or Trust, may be subject to a right of first refusal if so, determined by the Company. Prior to any subsequent transfer, the shares must first be offered by written offer to the Company, and then, if refused by the Company, to the Trust at fair market value as determined by an independent appraiser appointed by the ESOP Committee.

**Note 10 - Subsequent Events**

Effective June 24, 2024, the Plan name was changed to Cascade Energy Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust.

The Plan sponsor has evaluated subsequent events through October 3, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.



Supplementary Information  
December 31, 2023

Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock  
Ownership Plan and Trust

# Cascade Energy, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust

Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year

December 31, 2023

EIN: 93-1124681

Plan: 002

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
*	Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	Cost	Current Value
*	Non-Participant Directed Cascade Energy, Inc.	Common stock, 800,000 shares	\$ 30,922,628	\$ 12,456,000
	Goldman Sachs Financial Square Government Institutional Fund	Money market mutual fund	402	<u>402</u>
				<u><u>\$ 12,456,402</u></u>

\*A party-in-interest as defined by ERISA.