

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan 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.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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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 (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/1990
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) STEL, INC. 715 CENTRAL AVENUE DUNKIRK, NY 14048
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-2360739
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 716-366-7792
2d	Business code (see instructions) 813000

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.			
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2024	THOMAS WHITNEY
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 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: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 163
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 117 6a(2) 114 6b 4 6c 48 6d 166 6e 0 6f 166 6g(1) 155 6g(2) 161 6h 1
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 2E 2F 2G 3D

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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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)

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

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.

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 _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STEL, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-2360739	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

P&A RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES, INC

6400 MAIN STREET
SUITE 210
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

16-1533601

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13 15 37 50 64 65	NONE	14893	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information 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). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STEL, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-2360739	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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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.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	20722
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	204588	231882
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	0	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	146761	145147
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	0	0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	2579811	3204884
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	2931160	3602635
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h Operating payables	1h	0	0
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	2931160	3602635

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.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	231882	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	640	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		232522
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(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)	8765	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		8765
(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)	135887	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		135887
(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)		
(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.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		378273
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		755447

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	69079	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		69079
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	7126	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	7767	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		14893
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		83972

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		671475
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

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: **JOHN S TRUSSALO CPA P.C.**

(2) EIN: **16-1506673**

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
a 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.)	☒	☐	15698
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.)	☐	☒	
c 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.)	☐	☒	
d 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.)	☐	☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒	☐	500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	☐	☒	
g 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?	☐	☒	
h 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?	☐	☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒	☐	
j 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.)	☐	☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☐	☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	☐	☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	☐	☒	
n 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.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) 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 _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information 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). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
---	--	---

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STEL, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-2360739	

Part I	Distributions
--------	---------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
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): 75-3182674		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (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.)
---------	--

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.			
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c 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

Part III	Amendments
----------	------------

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
---	--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Part IV	ESOPs (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.
---------	--

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

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:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
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	16b	

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
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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 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q703912A.

Financial Statements

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN

DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Trustees and Participants
STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan
Dunkirk, New York

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

I have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan, an employee benefits plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA 103(a)(3)(C), my audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In my opinion, based on my audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section –

- the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements referred to above, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- the information in the financial statements referred to above related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Independent Auditors's Report
STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan
Page 2

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit section of my report. I am required to be independent of STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to my audits. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) 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 the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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 STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are 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

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of my report, my 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 my 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 generally accepted auditing standards will always detect 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 judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, I:

- Exercise professional judgement 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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

- 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 STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan'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 my judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

My audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

I am 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 I identified during the audit.

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2023 and Schedule of Delinquent Participant Loan Remittances for the year ended 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 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 included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit 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 generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, I compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming my opinion of the supplemental schedules, I evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Independent Auditors's Report
STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan
Page 4

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA (Cont'd)

In my opinion

- the form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulation for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Handwritten signature of John S. Trussalo in black ink.

JOHN S. TRUSSALO, CPA, P.C.
Jamestown, New York
October 9, 2024

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Investments, at fair value:		
Registered investment companies	\$ 3,204,884	\$ 2,579,811
Non-interest bearing cash	<u>20,722</u>	<u>-</u>
Total investments, at fair value	3,225,606	2,579,811
Receivable - Employer contribution	231,882	204,588
Notes receivable from participants	<u>145,147</u>	<u>146,761</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$ 3,602,635</u>	<u>\$ 2,931,160</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>
ADDITIONS:	
Additions to net assets attributed to:	
Investment income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 373,813
Dividends and interest	135,887
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	8,765
Contributions:	
Employer	231,882
Other - prior year distribution returned	640
Other income:	
Revenue sharing reimbursement	<u>4,460</u>
Total additions	<u>755,447</u>
DEDUCTIONS:	
Deductions from net assets attributed to:	
Benefits paid to participants	64,715
Certain deemed distribution of participant loans	4,364
Administrative expenses	<u>14,893</u>
Total deductions	<u>83,972</u>
Net increase	671,475
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:	
Beginning of year	<u>2,931,160</u>
End of year	<u>\$3,602,635</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants and users of the financial statements should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a qualified retirement plan commonly referred to as a profit sharing plan covering all eligible employees of Southern Tier Environments For Living, Inc. who have completed one year of service, completed 1,000 hours of service, and attained age 21. The Entry Date to the Plan will be the first day of the plan year or the first day of the seventh month of the plan year coinciding with or next following the date the eligibility requirements are satisfied. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Board of Trustees oversees governance of the Plan.

Contributions to the Plan

Participants may not contribute to the Plan. Plan contributions consist solely of employer discretionary profit sharing contributions which are excluded from the participants gross income for federal income tax purposes. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers various mutual funds as investment options for participants.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with allocations of (a) the Company's contributions and (b) Plan earnings (losses), and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Vesting in the Company's contribution is based upon years of continuous service. Participants become vested as follows:

<i><u>Years of Vesting Service</u></i>	<i><u>Vesting %</u></i>
Less than One year	0%
One year but less than Two years	0%
Three years but less than Four years	50%
Four years but less than Five years	100%
Five years but less than Six years	100%
Six or More years	100%

Notes Receivable From Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts up to a maximum of \$50,000 or 50% of the vested account balance. The minimum loan is \$1,000. Any expense of setting up the loan is charged to the participant. Loan terms range from 1 to 5 years. The notes are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rates ranging from 5.25% to 10.50%, which are commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined quarterly by the Plan administrator. Principal and interest is paid ratably in accordance with a definite repayment schedule not to exceed the earlier of five years or the participant's normal retirement date.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Cont'd)

Payment of Benefits

Payment of benefits during active employment are not permitted with the exception of certain hardship cases as defined in the Plan document. Payment of benefits are distributed in a single lump sum in the event of retirement, death, termination of employment or total and permanent disability.

Forfeitures

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the balance of forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$3,387 and \$1,781, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited nonvested account activity follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance of forfeited nonvested accounts, beginning of year	\$ 1,781	\$ 4,301
Participant forfeitures	2,334	-
Investment earnings	125	22
Utilization:		
Reduce administration fees	(850)	(1,062)
Forfeiture account fees	(3)	(23)
Reduce current year employer contribution	-	(1,457)
Balance of forfeited nonvested accounts, end of year	<u><u>\$ 3,387</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,781</u></u>

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Investments held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

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 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest and dividends are recorded when received. Net appreciation includes the plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance. Interest income is recorded when received. Related fees are charged directly to the borrowing participant's account and are included in administrative expenses when incurred. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, no allowance for credit losses has been recorded. If a participant does not make loan repayments and the plan administrator considers the participant loan to be in default, the loan balance is reduced, and the delinquent participant note receivable is recorded as a benefit payment based on the terms of the Plan document.

Excess Contributions Payable

There were no excess contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Expenses

The Plan is administered by Southern Tier Environments For Living, Inc. (the "Organization"). The Organization's powers and duties relate to submitting employee and employer contributions to the plan custodian, authorizing disbursements from the Plan and resolving any questions of Plan interpretation. The assets of the Plan are maintained and administered by Broadridge-Matrix Trust Company. Administrative expenses paid by the Plan are comprised of investment fees paid to the Plan custodian. The Company pays other administrative costs of the Plan, including the salaries, benefits and other costs involved in administering the Plan. Fees for the administration of notes receivable from participants are included in administrative expenses and charged directly to the participant's account.

Date of Management's Review of Subsequent Events

Subsequent events were evaluated through October 9, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 3 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair Value Measurements

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits. The methods used to measure fair value may produce an amount that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy consists of three broad levels: Level 1 inputs consist of unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and have the highest priority, Level 2 inputs consist of observable inputs other than quoted prices for identical assets, and Level 3 inputs are unobservable and have the lowest priority. The Plan uses appropriate valuation techniques based on the available inputs to measure the fair value of its investments. When available, the Plan measures fair value using Level 1 inputs because they generally provide the most reliable evidence of fair value. No Level 2 or Level 3 inputs were available to the Plan.

Level 1 Fair Value Measurements

The fair value of mutual funds is based upon quoted net asset values of the shares held by the Plan at year end. The fair value of mutual funds are based on the closing price reported on the active market where the securities are traded.

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Fair Value Measurements At the End of the Year Using: Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets	
<u>As of December 31, 2023</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Level 1</u>
Registered Investment Companies	\$3,204,884	\$3,204,884
Non-interest bearing cash	20,722	20,722
	<u>\$3,225,606</u>	<u>\$3,225,606</u>
 <u>As of December 31, 2022</u>	 <u>Fair Value</u>	 <u>Level 1</u>
Registered Investment Companies	\$2,579,811	\$2,579,811

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 4 - INFORMATION PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY PLAN CUSTODIAN

Certain information related to investments disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, and net appreciation or depreciation in fair value of investments, was obtained or derived from information supplied to the plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by Broadridge-Matrix Trust Company, the plan custodian, as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Registered Investment Companies, at fair value	\$ 3,204,884	\$ 2,579,811
Non-interest bearing cash	<u>20,722</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 3,225,606</u>	<u>\$ 2,579,811</u>
	<u>2023</u>	
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 373,813	
Dividends, Registered investment companies	<u>135,887</u>	
Total investment income	<u>\$ 509,700</u>	

NOTE 5 - NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM PARTICIPANTS

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the change in notes receivable from participants was comprised of the following:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Notes receivable from participants, beginning of year	\$ 146,761	\$ 160,032
Loan issuances	57,600	30,615
Loan principal repayments	(54,850)	(41,264)
Deemed distribution of participant loans	<u>(4,364)</u>	<u>(2,622)</u>
Notes receivable from participants, end of year	<u>\$ 145,147</u>	<u>\$ 146,761</u>

NOTE 6 - PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

P&A Retirement Plan Services, Inc.

Plan administration fees paid to P&A Retirement Plan Services, Inc. totaled \$14,893 and \$16,610 for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Revenue sharing reimbursement received by the Plan from P&A Retirement Plan Services, Inc. totaled \$4,460 and \$0 for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Broadridge-Matrix Trust Company

Broadridge-Matrix Trust Company, LLC served as the custodian of the Plan's investment assets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. As custodian, Broadridge - Matrix Trust Company receives fees directly from the mutual funds held by the Plan.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are party-in-interest transactions.

The aforementioned party-in-interest transactions are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 7 - PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intention 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 employer contributions.

NOTE 8 - TAX STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by letter dated June 30, 2020 that the Plan is designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, The Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and therefore believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

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

NOTE 9 - RISK AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonable possible that changes in the value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

NOTE 10 - DELINQUENT PARTICIPANT LOAN REMITTANCES

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Plan experienced delays in remitting participant loan repayments to the Plan Custodian. The following table summarizes the delinquent loan repayments:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number of Days Late</u>	<u>Corrective Action</u>
Participant Loan remittances	\$ 2,112.51	14	No corrective action
Participant Loan remittances	\$ 2,112.51	11	No corrective action
Participant Loan remittances	\$ 1,913.61	8	No corrective action
Participant Loan remittances	\$ 1,997.20	15	No corrective action
Participant Loan remittances	\$ 1,997.20	12	No corrective action
Participant Loan remittances	\$ 1,997.20	24	No corrective action
Participant Loan remittances	\$ 1,956.93	14	No corrective action
Participant Loan remittances	\$ 1,611.07	8	No corrective action

The Plan Sponsor has implemented procedures to ensure timely remittance of participant loan repayments in the future. These procedures include regular reconciliation of payroll records to the Plan's custodial statements and timely follow-up on any discrepancies.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN

EIN: 22-2360739

Plan Number: 001

Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of Issuer, Borrower			Current
	<u>Lessor or Similar Party</u>	<u>Description of Investment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Value</u>
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2040	Mutual Fund		\$ 680,690
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2050	Mutual Fund		\$ 681,798
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2030	Mutual Fund		\$ 600,810
	Vanguard 500 Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 308,644
	JP Morgan Large Cap Growth Select	Mutual Fund		\$ 185,880
	Vanguard Target Retirement Income	Mutual Fund		\$ 160,879
	T Rowe Price Capital Appreciation	Mutual Fund		\$ 36,667
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2025	Mutual Fund		\$ 77,667
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2020	Mutual Fund		\$ 68,848
	American Fund - Bond Fund of America	Mutual Fund		\$ 51,368
	Vanguard Small Cap Growth Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 11,400
	Vanguard Mid Cap Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 64,062
	Blackrock Equity Dividend Institutional	Mutual Fund		\$ 41,206
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2010	Mutual Fund		\$ 33,377
	Vanguard Developed Markets Index	Mutual Fund		\$ 41,039
	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities	Mutual Fund		\$ 27,026
	Vanguard Small Cap Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 28,944
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2015	Mutual Fund		\$ 24,347
*	Matrix Trust Company	Non-interest bearing cash		\$ 20,722
	Vanguard Real Estate Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 17,254
	Vanguard Selected Value	Mutual Fund		\$ 14,863
	Harbor Bond Institutional	Mutual Fund		\$ 14,530
	Vanguard Small Cap Value Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 11,442
	Vanguard International Growth - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 6,786
	Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund	Mutual Fund		\$ 6,165
	Dodge & Cox International Stock	Mutual Fund		\$ 4,774
	American Fund - Capital World Bond	Mutual Fund		\$ 2,848
	Goldman Sachs Mid-Cap Growth Opportunities	Mutual Fund		\$ 1,570
				<u>\$ 3,225,606</u>
* Notes receivable from Participants				
		Notes receivable from Participants		
		rates at 5.25% to 10.50%		<u>\$ 145,147</u>

Note:

- * Column (a) indicates a party-in-interest.
- Column (d) is not applicable as all investments are participant directed.

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN

EIN: 22-2360739

Plan Number: 001

Schedule H, line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Loan Remittances

December 31, 2023

Participant Loan Repayments <u>transferred late to the Plan</u>	Number of <u>Days Late</u>	<u>Total that Constitutes Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions</u>		
		<u>Not Corrected</u>	<u>Corrected Outside VFCP</u>	<u>Pending Correction in VFCP</u>
Participant Loan remittances	14	\$ 2,112.51	\$ -	\$ -
Participant Loan remittances	11	\$ 2,112.51	\$ -	\$ -
Participant Loan remittances	8	\$ 1,913.61	\$ -	\$ -
Participant Loan remittances	15	\$ 1,997.20	\$ -	\$ -
Participant Loan remittances	12	\$ 1,997.20	\$ -	\$ -
Participant Loan remittances	24	\$ 1,997.20	\$ -	\$ -
Participant Loan remittances	14	\$ 1,956.93	\$ -	\$ -
Participant Loan remittances	8	\$ 1,611.07	\$ -	\$ -
		<u>\$ 15,698.23</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**EIN: 22-2360739****Plan Number: 001****Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)****December 31, 2023**

(a) (b)	(c)	(d)	(e) Current Value
Identity of Issuer, Borrower Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Cost	
T Rowe Price Retirement 2040	Mutual Fund		\$ 680,690
T Rowe Price Retirement 2050	Mutual Fund		\$ 681,798
T Rowe Price Retirement 2030	Mutual Fund		\$ 600,810
Vanguard 500 Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 308,644
JP Morgan Large Cap Growth Select	Mutual Fund		\$ 185,880
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* Notes receivable from Participants			
	Notes receivable from Participants		
	rates at 5.25% to 10.50%		<u>\$ 145,147</u>

Note:

- * Column (a) indicates a party-in-interest.
Column (d) is not applicable as all investments are participant directed.

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.