

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 HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN & TRUST
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2015
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) HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 5601 INDUSTRIAL DR N PINE BLUFF, AR 71602
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 46-4226204
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 870-209-2171
2d	Business code (see instructions) 321900

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	JEFF VANDERPOOL
	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 NO c Plan Name NO	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 210
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) 116 6a(2) 108 6b 0 6c 38 6d 146 6e 0 6f 146 6g(1) 202 6g(2) 145 6h 19
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 2J 2K 2S 2T 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 HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN & TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 46-4226204

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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

(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)

LEVELIZED COMPENSATION ADVISOR

(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?
27 15	INVESTMENT ADVISORY	10315	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☒		Yes ☐ No ☒

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

PAYCHEX, INC.

911 PANORAMA TRAIL S
ROCHESTER, NY 14625

16-1124166

(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?
27 15	RECORDKEEPER	14307	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 HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN & TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ► 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 46-4226204	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		
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	
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	10538	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	15260	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	33108	85789
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	46488	103610
(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)	1690311	2160522
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	1795705	2349921
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	
h Operating payables	1h	0	
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	
j Other liabilities	1j	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	1795705	2349921

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)	262510	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	395181	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	17042	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		674733
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	2456	
(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)	4360	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		6816
(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)	84066	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		84066
(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)		0
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		96667
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		862282

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	281989	
(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)		281989
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		0
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		0
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	15668	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	0	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	10409	
(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)	0	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		26077
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		308066

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		554216
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: **HOGAN TAYLOR LLP**

(2) EIN: **73-1413977**

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.)		☒	
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?	☒		179570
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.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN & TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 46-4226204

Part I	Distributions
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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
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): 16-1470238 27-3169253	
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
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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
---	--

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

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

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023
v. 230707

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) 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) 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)	14a 14b 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 b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15a 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 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	16a 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
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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 <u>08 / 31 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q704150A</u> .	

**HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING
PLAN AND TRUST**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022,
AND YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

WITH

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Participants and Those Charged with Governance
Highland Pellets LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Highland Pellets LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust (the Plan), an employee benefit 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, the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year 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 the 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 (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our 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 DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications 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 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our 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 accompanying financial statements, 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 (U.S. GAAP).
- The information in the accompanying financial statements 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).

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 the Plan 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 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 U.S. GAAP, 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. 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 the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or 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

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, 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 the 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 our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our 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 U.S. GAAP.

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 U.S. GAAP.

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.

Other Matter – Supplemental Information Required by ERISA

The supplemental information, 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 DOL'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 supplemental information, 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 GAAS. For information included in the supplemental information that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental information, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental information, other than the information in the supplemental information that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental information 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).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hogan Taylor" followed by the letters "LLP".

Little Rock, Arkansas
October 15, 2024

HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 2,246,311	\$ 1,723,419
Receivables:		
Participant contributions	13,540	15,260
Employer contributions	9,918	10,538
Notes receivable from participants, net	<u>85,867</u>	<u>46,488</u>
Total receivables	<u>109,325</u>	<u>72,286</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u><u>\$ 2,355,636</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,795,705</u></u>

HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

Year ended December 31, 2023

Changes to net assets

Investment income:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 115,705
Interest and dividends	<u>82,058</u>

Net investment income	197,763
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Interest income on notes receivable from participants	4,362
---	-------

Contributions:

Participant	393,461
Employer	262,504
Rollover	<u>17,042</u>

Total contributions	673,007
---------------------	---------

Benefits paid to participants	(291,652)
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Administrative expenses	<u>(23,549)</u>
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Net increase	559,931
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Net assets available for benefits:

Beginning of year	<u>1,795,705</u>
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End of year	<u><u>\$ 2,355,636</u></u>
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HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1 – Description of the Plan

Highland Pellets LLC (the Employer) sponsors the Highland Pellets LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust (the Plan). The following description provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan established for the benefit of the Employer's employees, except for employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement, nonresident aliens with no earned income from sources within the United States, and employees as the result of an asset or stock acquisition, merger, or similar transactions involving a change in the employer of the employees of a trade or business. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The Plan is administered by the Employer. Mid Atlantic Trust Company (the Custodian) holds the Plan investment assets. Paychex, Inc. (the Recordkeeper) maintains the records of the participant data and notes receivable from participants.

Eligibility

Nonexcluded employees who have reached 18 years of age and have completed one month of service are eligible to participate in the Plan for elective deferrals and Employer safe harbor matching contributions. Nonexcluded employees who have reached 18 years of age and have completed one year of service, as defined in the Plan document, are eligible for Employer profit sharing contributions. Participants are automatically enrolled in the Plan on the first day of the month after satisfying eligibility requirements.

Contributions

Participants may contribute up to 92% of their compensation, as defined in the Plan document, as either pretax or Roth deferrals. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans.

Eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan with a 3% deferral rate, with an automatic 1% increase annually, up to 6%. Eligible employees who do not wish to participate in the Plan may affirmatively elect to opt out, or they may elect a different deferral percentage.

The Plan also provides for Employer safe harbor matching contributions of 100% of deferrals up to 3%, plus 50% of deferrals over 3% up to 5% of a participant's compensation.

Additional amounts may be contributed by the Employer under the Plan's profit sharing provisions at the discretion of the Employer. Participants must be employed on the last day of the Plan year to receive an allocation of the Employer profit sharing contributions. Allocations of Employer profit sharing contributions are based on the proportion of each participant's compensation to the total of all eligible participants' compensation. There were no Employer profit sharing contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Contributions are subject to certain limitations of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Participant accounts

Each participant's account is credited with participant contributions, Employer safe harbor matching contributions, and allocations of Employer profit sharing contributions and Plan earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined in the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Employer safe-harbor matching contributions are vested after two years of service. Vesting in Employer profit sharing contributions is based upon years of continuous service as follows:

<u>Years of service</u>	<u>Vesting percentage</u>
Less than two years	0%
Two, but less than three	20%
Three, but less than four	40%
Four, but less than five	60%
Five, but less than six	80%
Six years or more	100%

Participants automatically become 100% vested upon normal retirement (attainment of age 65), disability, or death. Participants who terminate for any other reason are entitled to the vested amount of their accounts.

Notes receivable from participants

Participants may borrow from their vested accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000, reduced by the highest outstanding loan balance during the preceding 12-month period, 95% of 50% of their vested account balance, or 95% of the total vested account balance excluding the Roth elective deferral balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates that range from 4.25% to 9.50%, which is based on prime rate plus 1% on the date of origination. Participants may only have one loan outstanding at any given time. Terms range from one to four and a half years or up to ten years for the purchase of a primary residence. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Payment of benefits

Upon retirement, termination, disability, or death, a participant, or his or her beneficiary in the event of death, may elect to receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. Additionally, participants may take in-service distributions upon reaching age 59½. Upon termination, automatic distributions are required for balances of less than \$5,000. Automatic distributions above \$1,000 made without the participant's consent are rolled into an individual retirement account designated by the Custodian.

Participants who were automatically enrolled in the Plan have the option to withdraw their deferrals without penalty within 90 days of their automatic enrollment date.

Forfeitures

Forfeitures are first used to restore participant balances previously forfeited, then may be used to pay Plan administrative expenses or to reduce Employer contributions. The Plan had \$76,667 and \$15,624 in unallocated forfeitures as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2023, forfeitures in the amount of \$15,624 were used to reduce Employer contributions.

Administrative expenses

The Plan allows certain administrative expenses to be paid from Plan assets. Investment expenses netted against investment income represent amounts associated with the net expense ratios of the investments in the Plan's fund lineup. The Plan participates in an agreement with the Recordkeeper where excess revenue may be returned and deposited into an unallocated revenue credit account. The amounts in the unallocated revenue credit account may be used to pay reasonable and necessary Plan expenses or may be allocated to participants. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no unallocated funds in the revenue credit account. During the year ended December 31, 2023, no amounts were used from the revenue credit account.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Plan have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. 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. Plan management determines the valuation policies utilizing information provided by the Custodian. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year.

Notes receivable from participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. An allowance for delinquent notes receivable from participants of \$17,743 and \$0 has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are recorded as a distribution based upon the terms of the Plan document.

Contributions

Participant contributions, and the related Employer matching contributions, are recorded in the year in which the participant deferrals are withheld from compensation. Employer nonelective (profit sharing) contributions are recorded as contributions once approved by the Employer for the respective Plan year.

Payment of benefits

Benefit payments are recorded when paid. There were no benefits requested before year-end that were not paid.

Subsequent events

The Plan administrator has evaluated subsequent events through October 15, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 3 – Information Certified by the Plan's Custodian

The Plan administrator has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, the Custodian has certified that the following data included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental information is complete and accurate:

- Investments as shown on the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022;
- Net investment activity as shown in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023;
- Investment information included in the footnotes and on the supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023.

The Plan's independent auditors did not perform auditing procedures with respect to this information except for comparing the information to the related information included in the financial statements and supplemental information.

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements

Accounting guidance provides a framework for measuring fair value and 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 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities in active markets that a plan has the ability to access.
Level 2	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 for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.
Level 3	Significant unobservable inputs.

The asset 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. There has been no change in the methodology used as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. During the year ended December 31, 2023, there were no transfers of financial instruments into or out of Level 3.

Following is a description of the valuation methodology used for assets measured at fair value:

Mutual funds – Valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end.

The preceding method described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation method is appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of a different methodology or assumption to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis consisted of the following types of instruments as of December 31:

	Fair value measurements as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds and total investments at fair value	\$ 2,246,311	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,246,311
	Fair value measurements as of December 31, 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds and total investments at fair value	\$ 1,723,419	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,723,419

Note 5 – Related Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers and employees of the Employer. No officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan for these services. Certain administrative expenses, totaling \$15,000, were paid by the Employer on behalf of the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Employer does not expect reimbursement from the Plan for these expenses.

The Plan holds notes receivable from participants. These transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

Certain fees incurred by the Plan are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment. The Plan also made direct payments to service providers which were not covered by revenue sharing.

Note 6 – Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Employer has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in the Employer contribution portion of their accounts.

Note 7 – Tax Status

The Employer adopted a preapproved defined contribution plan (the Preapproved Plan) sponsored by the Recordkeeper. The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Preapproved Plan sponsor by a favorable opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, that the Preapproved Plan is designed in accordance with the applicable sections of the Code. The Preapproved Plan's opinion letter is being relied on by the Plan. Plan management believes the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code, and therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Note 8 – Risks and Uncertainties

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

Note 9 – Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500 as of December 31:

	2023	2022
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 2,355,636	\$ 1,795,705
Employer contribution receivable per the financial statements	(9,918)	-
Employee contribution receivable per the financial statements	(13,540)	-
Allowance for delinquent notes receivable from participants per the financial statements	17,743	-
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$ 2,349,921</u>	<u>\$ 1,795,705</u>

The following is a reconciliation of the change in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500 for the year ended December 31, 2023:

Net increase in net assets available for benefits per financial statements	\$ 559,931
Employer contribution receivable as of December 31, 2023 per the financial statements	(9,918)
Employee contribution receivable as of December 31, 2023 per the financial statements	(13,540)
Allowance for delinquent notes receivable from participants per the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023	<u>17,743</u>
Net income per Form 5500	<u>\$ 554,216</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST**SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i****SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (Held at End of Year)****Plan #001****EIN 46-4226204****December 31, 2023**

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
Investments:				
	Vanguard	Wellesley Income Fund	**	\$ 1,096,557
	Vanguard	Health Care Fund	**	201,420
	Vanguard	500 Index Fund	**	152,959
	Vanguard	Federal Money Market Fund	**	85,794
	Vanguard	Equity Income Fund	**	77,091
	Vanguard	Total Stock Market Index Fund	**	67,910
	Vanguard	Intermediate-Term Bond Index Fund	**	62,242
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030 Fund	**	60,616
	Vanguard	Growth Index Fund	**	56,951
	Vanguard	Developed Markets Index Fund	**	53,548
	Vanguard	Mid Cap Value Index Fund	**	49,548
	Vanguard	GNMA Fund	**	45,698
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2045 Fund	**	39,861
	Vanguard	Industrials Index Fund	**	33,574
	Vanguard	Real Estate Index Fund	**	20,638
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050 Fund	**	20,228
	Vanguard	High Dividend Yield Index Fund	**	19,807
	Vanguard	Total Intermediate Bond Index Fund	**	16,252
	Vanguard	FTSE Social Index Fund	**	14,590
	Vanguard	Value Index	**	14,415
	Vanguard	Small Cap Value Index Fund	**	9,836
	Vanguard	Small Cap Growth Index Fund	**	8,136
	Vanguard	Mid Cap Index Fund	**	7,498
	Vanguard	European Stock Index Fund	**	6,970
	Vanguard	Extended Market Index Fund	**	4,866
	Vanguard	Intermediate-Term Treasury Fund	**	4,600
	Vanguard	Communication Services Index Fund	**	3,908
	Vanguard	Inflation-Protected Securities Fund	**	3,420
	Vanguard	LifeStrategy Moderate Growth Fund	**	2,379
	Vanguard	Small Cap Index Fund	**	2,149

HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i (continued)

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (Held at End of Year)

**Plan #001
EIN 46-4226204**

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e)
				Current value
	Vanguard	Materials Index Fund	**	1,322
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035 Fund	**	1,018
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2040 Fund	**	510
				2,246,311
*	Notes receivable from participants	Loans to participants, interest rates of 4.25% to 9.50% with various maturities	-	
				85,867
				\$ 2,332,178

* Represents a party-in-interest.

** Column (d) cost information not required as accounts are participant directed.

HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST**SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i****SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (Held at End of Year)****Plan #001****EIN 46-4226204****December 31, 2022**

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
Investments:				
	Vanguard	Wellesley Income Fund	**	\$ 856,294
	Vanguard	Health Care Fund	**	182,543
	Vanguard	Equity Income Fund	**	103,364
	Vanguard	500 Index Fund	**	97,065
	Vanguard	Intermediate-Term Bond Index Fund	**	59,543
	Vanguard	Mid Cap Value Index Fund	**	47,159
	Vanguard	Developed Markets Index Fund	**	45,068
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030 Fund	**	44,475
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050 Fund	**	40,972
	Vanguard	Federal Money Market Fund	**	33,108
	Vanguard	Growth Index Fund	**	29,620
	Vanguard	GNMA Fund	**	26,689
	Vanguard	Total Stock Market Index Fund	**	24,405
	Vanguard	Industrials Index Fund	**	20,053
	Vanguard	Real Estate Index Fund	**	18,761
	Vanguard	Total Intermediate Bond Index Fund	**	14,484
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2045 Fund	**	11,958
	Vanguard	Small Cap Value Index Fund	**	8,868
	Vanguard	Extended Market Index Fund	**	7,909
	Vanguard	Value Index	**	5,900
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2020 Fund	**	5,861
	Vanguard	High Dividend Yield Index Fund	**	5,816
	Vanguard	FTSA Social Index Fund	**	5,616
	Vanguard	European Stock Index Fund	**	5,600
	Vanguard	Small Cap Growth Index Fund	**	5,539
	Vanguard	Mid Cap Index Fund	**	4,836
	Vanguard	Intermediate-Term Treasury Fund	**	3,751
	Vanguard	Inflation-Protected Securities Fund	**	3,318
	Vanguard	Communication Services Index Fund	**	2,127
	Vanguard	Small Cap Index Fund	**	1,153

HIGHLAND PELLETS LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i (continued)

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (Held at End of Year)

**Plan #001
EIN 46-4226204**

December 31, 2022

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e)
				Current value
	Vanguard	Materials Index Fund	**	842
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035 Fund	**	585
	Vanguard	Intermediate-Term US TRS	**	87
	Vanguard	LifeStrategy Moderate Growth Fund	**	50
				1,723,419
*	Notes receivable from participants	Loans to participants, interest rates of 4.25% to 8.50% with various maturities	-	
				46,488
				\$ 1,769,907

* Represents a party-in-interest.

** Column (d) cost information not required as accounts are participant directed.