

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). <p style="text-align: center;">▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</p>	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">2023</div> 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 <u>01/01/2023</u> and ending <u>12/31/2023</u>	

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.)

B This return/report is:

☐ a single-employer plan

☐ a DFE (specify) ____

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ☐

D Check box if filing under:

☒ Form 5558

☐ automatic extension

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 <u>PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN</u>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>003</u>
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) <u>PLAN PROFESSIONALS, LLC</u> <u>494 SYCAMORE AVE.</u> <u>SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702</u>	1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/2022</u>	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>85-3213245</u>
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>732-758-1577</u>	2d Business code (see instructions) <u>561110</u>	

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	JOANNE PALADINO
	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

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

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
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 2874
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	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> 6a(1) 2594 6a(2) 3739 6b 9 6c 167 6d 3915 6e 0 6f 3915 6g(1) 1013 6g(2) 1307 6h 20
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:

2A 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 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 1
- (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 _____

<div>SCHEDULE A</div> <div>(Form 5500)</div> <div>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</div> <div>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</div> <div>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>	<div>Insurance Information</div> <div>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div> <div>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</div>	<div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2023</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</div>
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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 PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 PLAN PROFESSIONALS, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 85-3213245

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions	Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
EMPOWER LIFE & ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
93-1225432	60214	605006	1175	01/01/2023	12/31/2023

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
7	0

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid
PURSHE KAPLAN STERLING INV INC

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
7			3

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	950964
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	0

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶**b** Premiums paid to carrier**6b****c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year.....**6c****d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.**6d**

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☒ group deferred annuity(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)**a** Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☐ other ▶**b** Balance at the end of the previous year**7b**

828607

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year**7c(1)**

56002

(2) Dividends and credits

7c(2)

0

(3) Interest credited during the year

7c(3)

11557

(4) Transferred from separate account.....

7c(4)

646274

(5) Other (specify below)

7c(5)

34635

▶ LOAN REPAYMENT(S), FORFEITURES:

(6) Total additions

7c(6)

748468

d Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**)**7d**

1577075

e Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year

7e(1)

610010

(2) Administration charge made by carrier

7e(2)

-50213

(3) Transferred to separate account.....

7e(3)

66314

(4) Other (specify below)

7e(4)

0

(5) Total deductions

7e(5)

626111

f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)**7f**

950964

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
b ☐ Dental
c ☐ Vision
d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
f ☐ Long-term disability
g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
j ☐ HMO contract
k ☐ PPO contract
l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid.....	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)).....		9a(4)	
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid.....	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2)).....		9b(3)	
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies.....	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.).....		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves.....		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

<div>SCHEDULE C</div> <div>(Form 5500)</div> <div>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</div> <div>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</div> <div>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>	<div>Service Provider Information</div> <div>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div>	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

<div>A</div> <div>Name of plan</div> <div>PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN</div>	<div>B</div> <div>Three-digit plan number (PN)</div> <div>▶</div> <div>003</div>
<div>C</div> <div>Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500</div> <div>PLAN PROFESSIONALS, LLC</div>	<div>D</div> <div>Employer Identification Number (EIN)</div> <div>85-3213245</div>

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).....

X

YesNo
- 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

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(b)

Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b)

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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)

PENSIONMARK FINANCIAL GROUP LLC

24 E COTA STE 200
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

(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?
99	OTHER	94276	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

PLAN PROFESSIONALS LLC DBA NPPG PLA

494 SYCAMORE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702

(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?
99	OTHER	38766	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

EMPOWER ADVISRY GROUP LLC

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(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?
28	INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT	10845	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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)

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL PLANNING GROU

494 SYCAMORE AVE STE 100
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702

(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?
99	OTHER	8781	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

EMPOWER LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO OF NY

8115 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(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?
64	RECORDKEEPER	6554	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

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

NATIONAL PROF. PLANNING GROUP

494 SYCAMORE AVE STE 100
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702

(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	CONTRACT ADMIN	6040	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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)

PENSIONMARK FINANCIAL GROUP LLC

24 E COTA ST STE 200
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

(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	INVESTMENT ADVISOR	4242	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
(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
(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:

<p style="text-align: center;">SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DFE/Participating Plan Information</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">OMB No. 1210-0110</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; font-weight: bold;">2023</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</p>
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

<p>A Name of plan <u>PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN</u></p>	<p>B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>003</u></p>	
<p>C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>PLAN PROFESSIONALS, LLC</u></p>	<p>D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>85-3213245</u></p>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)	

<p>a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID 2035 TR</u></p>				
<p>b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</u></p>				
<p>c EIN-PN <u>83-6699605-083</u></p>	<p>d Entity code <u>C</u></p>	<p>e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>6557115</u></p>		
<p>a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID 2025 TR</u></p>				
<p>b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</u></p>				
<p>c EIN-PN <u>83-6699605-081</u></p>	<p>d Entity code <u>C</u></p>	<p>e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>3001178</u></p>		
<p>a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID 2050 TR</u></p>				
<p>b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</u></p>				
<p>c EIN-PN <u>83-6699605-086</u></p>	<p>d Entity code <u>C</u></p>	<p>e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>5598048</u></p>		
<p>a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID INC TRS</u></p>				
<p>b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</u></p>				
<p>c EIN-PN <u>83-6699605-079</u></p>	<p>d Entity code <u>C</u></p>	<p>e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>2038865</u></p>		
<p>a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID 2060 TR</u></p>				
<p>b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</u></p>				
<p>c EIN-PN <u>83-6699605-088</u></p>	<p>d Entity code <u>C</u></p>	<p>e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>1332493</u></p>		
<p>a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY RD HYBRID 2045 CL</u></p>				
<p>b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</u></p>				
<p>c EIN-PN <u>83-6699605-085</u></p>	<p>d Entity code <u>C</u></p>	<p>e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>5603265</u></p>		
<p>a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID 2055 TR</u></p>				
<p>b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</u></p>				
<p>c EIN-PN <u>83-6996056-087</u></p>	<p>d Entity code <u>C</u></p>	<p>e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>4252171</u></p>		

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID 2030 TR

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS

c EIN-PN 83-6996056-082	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 5910060
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID 2040 TR

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS

c EIN-PN 83-6996056-084	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 6083392
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN CENTURY RET HYBRID 2065 TR

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS

c EIN-PN 83-6996056-089	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 224228
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

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 PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 PLAN PROFESSIONALS, LLC		
		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 85-3213245

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		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	4126	105127
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	16358	103470
(3) Other	1b(3)	1112354	64930
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	582104	750364
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	29733262	40600814
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	5834035	12676170
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	828608	950964
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	38110847	55251839
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		30190
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	30190
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	38110847	55221649

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)	1921206	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	4920809	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	1271212	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		8113227
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)	44044	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		44044
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(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)		4760227
(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)		1626199
c Other income	2c		232583
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		14776280

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	5521341	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)	118783	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		5640124
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		24745
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)	278349	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(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)		278349
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		5943218

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		8833062
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		8277740
(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: **TEMPLETON & COMPANY**

(2) EIN: **14-1918990**

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.)	☒	☐	248364
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?	☒	☐	1000000
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 _____.

<div>SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>	<div>Retirement Plan Information</div> <div>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).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div>	<div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2023</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</div>
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 PLAN PROFESSIONALS, LLC		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 85-3213245
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
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): 93-1225432		
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		
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)	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
-----------------	---------------------------------

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 Q702889A.

SCHEDULE MEP (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	MULTIPLE-EMPLOYER RETIREMENT PLAN 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
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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 PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN	B Three-digit Plan number (PN) ►	003
C Plan administrator's name as shown on line 3a of Form 5500/Form 5500-SF PLAN PROFESSIONALS, LLC	D Administrator's EIN 85-3213245	

Part I	Type of Multiple-Employer Pension Plan. All multiple-employer pension plans must complete.
---------------	---

1 Check the appropriate box to indicate type of multiple-employer pension plan. (Only defined contribution plans may check lines 1a, 1b, and 1c. Defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans not checking lines 1a, 1b, or 1c should check line 1d. See Instructions).

- a** ☐ association retirement plan (See 29 CFR 2510.3-55) (Complete Part II)
- b** ☐ professional employer organization plan (PEO Plan) (See 29 CFR 29 CFR 2510.3-55) (Complete Part II)
- c** ☒ pooled employer plan (PEP) (See 29 CFR 2510.3-44) (Complete Parts II and III)
- d** ☐ other multiple-employer pension plan (Describe) _____ (Complete Part II)

Part II	Participating Employer Information.
----------------	--

2 All multiple-employer pension plans that are subject to section 210(a) of ERISA (see instructions for filing the Form 5500) must complete Part II, in addition to Part I, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information for each employer participating in the multiple-employer pension plan. **Defined contribution plans must complete lines 2a-2d. All other multiple-employer pension plans complete lines 2a-2c only. Complete as many entries as needed to list the required information for each participating employer that is not an individual person (see instructions).**

2a Name of Participating Employer SNP/BENTEX GROUP, INC.	2b EIN 13-2630634	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year 13.75	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer 9132821
2a Name of Participating Employer SNP/DREAMWAVE	2b EIN 13-2630634	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year 1.82	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer 2052879

CAUTION Do not individually list information for working owners (see instructions and 29 CFR 2510.3-55(d)(2)) or other individuals who are participants or beneficiaries in the plan or arrangement that are no longer associated with a particular participating employer or participating employer plan (see instructions). Providing identifying information for individuals may result in rejection of this filing. If there are any such individuals in the plan, answer "Yes" to line 2e and provide the total information for all such individuals, without providing names or other identifying information.

2e Does the plan include any individuals not participating through an employer or who are individual working owners?	2e	☐ Yes ☒ No
2f If you answer "Yes" in line 2e, enter a good faith estimate of the percentage of total contributions made by all such individuals that are not listed on line 2a during the plan year.	2f	
2g If you answer "Yes" in Line 2e, enter the aggregate account balances for all such individuals that are not listed on line 2a.	2g	

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

**Schedule MEP (2023)
v. 230728**

Part II Participating Employer Information (Continued).

Use this page for additional participating employer information.

2 All multiple-employer pension plans that are subject to section 210(a) of ERISA (see instructions for filing the Form 5500) must complete Part II, in addition to Part I, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information for each employer participating in the multiple-employer pension plan.

Defined contribution plans must complete lines 2a-2d. All other multiple-employer pension plans complete lines 2a-2c only. Complete as many entries as needed to list the required information for each participating employer that is not an individual person (see instructions).

2a Name of Participating Employer	2b EIN	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer
SNP/ENNISMORE INTERNATIONAL USA, INC.	81-1468802	5.44	1845274
SNP/FH MIAMI OPERATIONS LLC	47-5397106	12.07	2569047
SNP/H.I.S. INTERNATIONAL GROUP LLC	27-0172860	6.55	3311281
SNP/KARRIKINS GROUP LLC	45-4267344	2.88	1454280
SNP/LAKE HARRIET OPERATOR LLC DBA LAKEHOUSE HEALTHCARE & REH	92-1123523	1.28	658762
SNP/MADRAG 10 SPOT VANILLA SKY	22-3376908	6.44	1133824
SNP/MAMA MANAGEMENT USA LLC	47-1836326	0.76	104544
SNP/ORSID REALTY CORP	13-3317287	3.95	6970144
SNP/MONDRIAN LA MORGANS HOTEL GROUP MANAGEMENT	13-3966156	3.92	1165570

CAUTION Do not individually list information for working owners (see instructions and 29 CFR 2510.3-55(d)(2)) or other individuals who are participants or beneficiaries in the plan or arrangement that are no longer associated with a particular participating employer or participating employer plan (see instructions). Providing identifying information for individuals may result in rejection of this filing. If there are any such individuals in the plan, answer "Yes" to line 2e and provide the total information for all such individuals, without providing names or other identifying information.

Part II Participating Employer Information (Continued).

Use this page for additional participating employer information.

2 All multiple-employer pension plans that are subject to section 210(a) of ERISA (see instructions for filing the Form 5500) must complete Part II, in addition to Part I, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information for each employer participating in the multiple-employer pension plan.

Defined contribution plans must complete lines 2a-2d. All other multiple-employer pension plans complete lines 2a-2c only. Complete as many entries as needed to list the required information for each participating employer that is not an individual person (see instructions).

2a Name of Participating Employer	2b EIN	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer
SNP/SBE CALL CENTER MANAGEMENT, LLC	36-4754921	0.87	257749
SNP/ENNISMORE HOLDINGS US INC.	83-1559703	0.09	8400045
SNP/MIDTOWN HOTEL INVESTMENTS, LLC	82-2516148	0.62	323750
SNP/MHG HOLDCO, LLC	85-3054871	9.63	2979398
SNP/SBE MIAMI MANAGEMENT, LLC	37-1859217	0.46	248585
SNP/SPOONFUL MANAGEMENT MIAMI, LLC	45-1487857	6.37	2450447
SNP/SBEHG 1701 COLLINS MIAMI, LLC	45-1488051	3.41	1128664
SNP/1300 SOUTH MIAMI EMPLOYER, LLC	38-3986119	4.36	1224773
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC BENTONVILLE	45-3212322	2.16	1064749

CAUTION Do not individually list information for working owners (see instructions and 29 CFR 2510.3-55(d)(2)) or other individuals who are participants or beneficiaries in the plan or arrangement that are no longer associated with a particular participating employer or participating employer plan (see instructions). Providing identifying information for individuals may result in rejection of this filing. If there are any such individuals in the plan, answer "Yes" to line 2e and provide the total information for all such individuals, without providing names or other identifying information.

Part II Participating Employer Information (Continued).

Use this page for additional participating employer information.

2 All multiple-employer pension plans that are subject to section 210(a) of ERISA (see instructions for filing the Form 5500) must complete Part II, in addition to Part I, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information for each employer participating in the multiple-employer pension plan.

Defined contribution plans must complete lines 2a-2d. All other multiple-employer pension plans complete lines 2a-2c only. Complete as many entries as needed to list the required information for each participating employer that is not an individual person (see instructions).

2a Name of Participating Employer	2b EIN	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC CINCINNATI	45-3212322	2.95	1202876
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC DURHAM	45-3212322	0.80	251048
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC	20-8198093	3.26	1719904
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTEL, LLC GARAGE BAR	45-3212322	0.27	153645
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC KANSAS CITY	45-3212322	0.84	128591
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC LEXINGTON	45-3212322	1.22	624956
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC LOUISVILLE	45-3212322	2.74	1881227
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC NASHVILLE	45-3212322	0.35	232830
SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC OKLAHOMA	45-3212322	0.41	216209

CAUTION Do not individually list information for working owners (see instructions and 29 CFR 2510.3-55(d)(2)) or other individuals who are participants or beneficiaries in the plan or arrangement that are no longer associated with a particular participating employer or participating employer plan (see instructions). Providing identifying information for individuals may result in rejection of this filing. If there are any such individuals in the plan, answer "Yes" to line 2e and provide the total information for all such individuals, without providing names or other identifying information.

Part II Participating Employer Information (Continued).

Use this page for additional participating employer information.

2 All multiple-employer pension plans that are subject to section 210(a) of ERISA (see instructions for filing the Form 5500) must complete Part II, in addition to Part I, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information for each employer participating in the multiple-employer pension plan.

Defined contribution plans must complete lines 2a-2d. All other multiple-employer pension plans complete lines 2a-2c only. Complete as many entries as needed to list the required information for each participating employer that is not an individual person (see instructions).

2a Name of Participating Employer SNP/21C MUSEUM HOTELS, LLC ST LOUIS	2b EIN 45-3212322	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year 0.34	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer 176398
2a Name of Participating Employer	2b EIN	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer
2a Name of Participating Employer	2b EIN	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer
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2a Name of Participating Employer	2b EIN	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer

CAUTION Do not individually list information for working owners (see instructions and 29 CFR 2510.3-55(d)(2)) or other individuals who are participants or beneficiaries in the plan or arrangement that are no longer associated with a particular participating employer or participating employer plan (see instructions). Providing identifying information for individuals may result in rejection of this filing. If there are any such individuals in the plan, answer "Yes" to line 2e and provide the total information for all such individuals, without providing names or other identifying information.

Part III

Pooled Employer Plan Information

Line 3. All Pooled employer plans must answer all of the questions in Part III, in addition to completing all of Parts I and II.

3a

Is the pooled plan provider (identified as the plan sponsor and administrator in Part II of the Form 5500) currently in compliance with the Form PR (Pooled Plan Provider Registration Statement) requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2510.3-44)

☒ Yes ☐ No

3b

If line 3a is "Yes", enter the ACK ID for the most recent Form PR that was required to be filed under the Form PR filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid ACK ID will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

ACK ID R1A2D4LKB

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN
REPORT ON AUDITS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator and Those Charged with Governance
PEP Smart National Pooled Employer Plan
Shrewsbury, New Jersey

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of PEP Smart National Pooled Employer Plan (the Plan or PEP), 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, and 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 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 (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 (qualified institution), provided that the information or statements regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the qualified institution, in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Management has obtained certifications from the qualified institutions 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 of our report:

- 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 (U.S. GAAP).
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by the qualified institutions 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

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 for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit of the Financial Statements 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 certifications, 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.

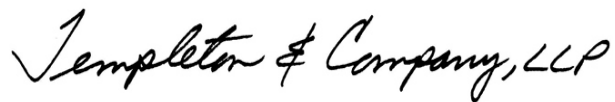
Supplemental Information Required by ERISA

The supplemental information of Schedule H, line 4a – schedule of delinquent participant contributions and Schedule H, line 4i – schedule of assets (held at end of year), as of or 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 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 Department of Labor'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 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 Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by the qualified institutions agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by the qualified institutions that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).



Fort Lauderdale, Florida
October 15, 2024

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
Investments:		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 53,276,984	\$ 35,567,297
Investment, at contract value	<u>950,964</u>	<u>828,608</u>
Total investments	<u>54,227,948</u>	<u>36,395,905</u>
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	750,364	582,104
Participant contributions	103,470	16,358
Employer contributions	170,057	4,126
Transfer in from other qualified plan receivable	<u>-</u>	<u>1,112,354</u>
Total receivables	<u>1,023,891</u>	<u>1,714,942</u>
Total assets	<u>55,251,839</u>	<u>38,110,847</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS		
Liabilities:		
Refunds payable for excess contributions	<u>30,190</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 55,221,649</u>	<u>\$ 38,110,847</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions to net assets attributed to:

Investment income:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 6,095,502
Dividend, interest, and other income	<u>523,465</u>

Total net investment income	<u>6,618,967</u>
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Interest income on notes receivable from participants	<u>35,401</u>
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Contributions:

Participants	4,920,809
Employer	1,960,703
Rollover	<u>1,244,593</u>

Total contributions	<u>8,126,105</u>
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Total additions	<u>14,780,473</u>
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Deductions from net assets attributed to:

Benefits paid to participants	5,710,346
Administrative expenses	<u>278,349</u>

Total deductions	<u>5,988,695</u>
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Change in net assets before plan transfers	8,791,778
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Plan transfers:

Transfers in from other qualified plans	<u>8,319,024</u>
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Change in net assets	17,110,802
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Net assets available for benefits:

Beginning of year	<u>38,110,847</u>
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End of year	<u><u>\$ 55,221,649</u></u>
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PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 – Description of Plan

The following description of the PEP Smart National Pooled Employer Plan (the PEP or the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the PEP basic plan document, and the applicable adoption agreement for the participant's employer which has chosen to participate in the PEP (Participating Employer), for a more complete description of the PEP's provisions.

General

The PEP is a pooled employer plan established and administered by Plan Professionals, LLC, the Pooled Plan Provider (PPP). The PEP was established under the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 (SECURE Act) on January 1, 2022. The PEP is a defined contribution plan covering eligible employees of the Participating Employers and is intended to qualify under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), sections 401(a) and 501(a). The PEP is intended to constitute a multiple employer plan, as described under IRC sections 410(a), 411, 413, and 415. Each Participating Employer elects its own provisions related to eligibility, contributions, notes receivable from participants, and payment of benefits. The PEP is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

The PPP is responsible for oversight of the Plan, determining the appropriateness of investment offerings, and monitoring investment performance. The Plan contracted with Empower Trust Company, LLC (the Trustee) to serve as the Plan's Trustee. The Trustee holds the Plan's investment assets and executes investment transactions. The Trustee's affiliate, Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York is the issuer of the PEP's group annuity contract and its affiliate, Empower Retirement, LLC (Empower), provides recordkeeper services to the PEP.

Eligibility

Only those employees specifically designated as eligible by their Participating Employers in its adoption agreement are eligible to participate in the PEP. Participating Employers may define eligibility requirements based on factors such as age, service, or employee type. Participants are eligible to make contributions and receive employer contributions to the extent specified in the applicable adoption agreement or otherwise provided by the PEP.

Contributions

Each year, eligible participants may make pre-tax, Roth, and/or after-tax contributions of their eligible annual compensation, as defined by the PEP and Participating Employer adoption agreement, subject to applicable Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limits. Under certain circumstances, eligible employees may make rollover contributions to the PEP. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the PEP year are eligible to make catch-up contributions.

The Participating Employers in the PEP may elect automatic enrollment and escalation features. Accordingly, the Participating Employer will automatically withhold a defined percentage of an eligible participant's compensation based on the Participating Employer's adoption agreement, unless the participant affirmatively opts out.

Under the terms of the Participating Employer adoption agreements, the Participating Employers may elect to make matching contributions, profit-sharing contributions, safe harbor, and nonelective contributions to the PEP. Participating Employers may also elect to make true-up matching contributions. Participating Employer contributions, if any, are recorded in the year for which the contributions apply. Aggregate Participating Employer contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023 totaled \$1,960,703. Participating Employer contributions are invested in funds in accordance with the participant's direction and the PEP's provisions.

Contributions are subject to certain IRS limitations.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED

Note 1 – Description of Plan, Continued

Participant accounts

Participant accounts are credited with the participant's contributions, their Participating Employer's contributions, if any, and investment earnings or losses thereon. Participants are charged with the participant's withdrawals, applicable transaction charges, and an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on earnings and losses of the participant's investments or participant 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. Participants direct their account balance into various investment options offered by the PEP.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their individual contributions and their Participating Employer's safe harbor and safe harbor nonelective contributions, plus earnings or losses thereon. Vesting in the Participating Employer's other contributions portion of their accounts, plus actual earnings thereon, is based on years of credited service ranging from immediate upon eligibility to a graduated vesting over six years, as elected by the Participating Employer. Participant accounts become fully vested upon reaching normal retirement age (65), death, or disability.

Forfeitures

Forfeitures in any year from the accounts of participants whose employment with a Participating Employer has terminated will be used by the applicable Participating Employer in accordance with the terms of the Participating Employers adoption agreement. For the year ended December 31, 2023, forfeited nonvested accounts utilized to offset Participating Employer contributions and pay Plan expenses totaled \$26,000. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, available forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$415,932 and \$351,752, respectively.

Notes receivable from participants

Participants are permitted to borrow from their account a minimum \$1,000 and up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of the participant's vested account balance. Loan terms range from one to five years unless the loan is used to acquire a principal residence of the participant which must be repaid in a reasonable period of time not to exceed thirty years. Loans are secured by the vested account balance in the participant's account, and bear interest at the prime rate plus 1%. A participant may only have one (1) loan outstanding at any time. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the PEP document. Principal and interest are repaid through regular payroll deductions.

Payment of benefits

Upon termination of employment (including but not limited to termination by reason of retirement, disability or death), participants or their beneficiaries are eligible to receive a lump-sum, partial distributions, or periodic required minimum distributions. Participants with vested amounts less than \$5,000 will receive a lump-sum distribution. Active employees may take withdrawals of all or a part of their vested account balances upon attainment of age 59½. Distributions are available to satisfy a financial hardship meeting the requirements of IRS regulations. Participants, at any time, may also withdraw amounts attributable to their after-tax contributions, rollover contributions and/or any portion of their transferred balance that is available under a grandfathered withdrawal option. Other in-service withdrawals are also available to participants subject to certain limitations defined by the Participating Employer's adoption agreement.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED

Note 1 – Description of Plan, Continued

Administrative expenses

Certain administrative expenses are paid by the PPP or Participating Employers and are not included in these financial statements. Loan administration and distribution fees are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. The PEP pays certain investment advisory and PEP administration fees from PEP assets.

Plan administration

The PPP is responsible for the management and administration of the PEP. The Trustee holds the PEP's investment assets and executes investment transactions. The PEP contracted with Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York (the Custodian) as the custodian of the PEP's group annuity contracts. Plan Professionals, LLC is the PPP and its affiliate, National Professional Planning Group, Inc. (NPPG), is the PEP's third-party administrator.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

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

Investment valuation and income recognition

Investments are reported at fair value (except for the fully benefit-responsive investment contract, which is reported at contract 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. The PEP's Investment Committee determines the PEP's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the PEP's investment advisors and the Trustee.

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

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires the Plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates and those differences may be material.

Notes receivable from participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded on an accrual basis. Delinquent notes are reclassified as distributions based on the terms of the PEP basic plan document and participant loan program. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, no allowance for credit losses has been recorded.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Transfer in from other qualified plan receivable

Transfer in from other qualified plan receivable consists of assets in transit that where conversion had not been completed and the assets were not certified by the Trustee as of December 31, 2022. Such amounts were received by the Trustee in 2023 and related participant accounts funded with the assets transferred by the Participating Employer.

Risks and uncertainties

The PEP provides various investment options. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate risk, market risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, including the uncertainty related to changes in the value of investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible changes in such risks in the near term would materially affect participant account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, two Participating Employers comprised approximately 66% of total contributions.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, two Participating Employers individually comprised 5% or more of transfers in from the other qualified plans and in the aggregate, these Participating Employers comprised approximately 99% of transfers in from other qualified plans.

Payment of benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Excess contributions payable

Amounts payable to participants totaling \$30,190 for 2023 participant contributions in excess of amounts allowed by the IRS are recorded as a liability as of December 31, 2023 and included as a part of corrective distributions for the year ended December 31, 2023. Subsequent to December 31, 2023, the Plan distributed the excess contributions to the applicable participants.

Administrative expenses

Reasonable expenses of the PEP, including custodian, attorneys, advisors, fiduciaries, and service providers are paid by the PEP, unless otherwise paid by the PPP or the Participating Employers. Expenses that are paid by the PPP or the Participating Employers are excluded from these financial statements.

Investment advisor fees are paid by the PEP. Expenses paid by the PEP are included in administrative expenses on the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits. Fees related to administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to participants accounts and are also included in administrative expenses. Additionally, certain investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

Uncertain tax positions

U.S. GAAP requires the PEP administrator to assess its uncertain tax positions for the likelihood they would be overturned upon examination by the IRS. In accordance with this guidance, PEP Administrator has determined it does not have any positions at December 31, 2023 that it would be unable to substantiate.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED

Note 3 – Certified Investment Information

The PPP has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 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. Accordingly, Empower Trust Company, LLC and Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York, qualified institutions, have certified that the following investment information included in the accompanying financial statements and ERISA-required supplemental information is complete and accurate:

- Investments and notes receivable from participants as shown on the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022;
- Net investment activity and interest income on notes receivable from participants as shown in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023; and
- Investment information included in the Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023, as shown on the ERISA-required supplemental information.

At the request of the PEP's Administrator, the PEP's independent auditors did not perform auditing procedures with respect to this certified information, except for comparing such certified information to the related investment information included in the financial statements, including the disclosures related to the investments to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. GAAP, and in the ERISA-required supplemental information, including assessing whether the supplemental information is in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

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.

An investment's 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 were no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022. During the year ended December 31, 2023, there were no transfers of investments into or out of Level 3.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements, Continued

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

Mutual funds – valued at quoted market prices, which represent their daily net asset value (NAV) and, therefore, are classified as Level 1. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are traded on national exchanges (active markets).

Collective trust funds (CTs) – valued at the net asset value (NAV) of units held, based on the fair value of the underlying investments less liabilities. NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The practical expedient would not be used if it were determined to be probable that the CTs will sell its underlying investments for an amount different from the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily at NAV. The CTs provide for daily redemptions by the Plan at reported NAV with no advance notice. There are no unfunded commitments related to these investments. These are direct filing entities.

The preceding methods 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 management 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 following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the PEP's investments, measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 12,676,169	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,676,169
Collective trust funds*	-	-	-	40,600,815
Investments, at fair value	<u>\$ 12,676,169</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 53,276,984</u>
Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2022				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 5,834,037	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,834,037
Collective trust funds*	-	-	-	29,733,260
Investments, at fair value	<u>\$ 5,834,037</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 35,567,297</u>

* Certain investments that were measured at NAV per share (or its equivalent) practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to present the reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to line items presented on the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Note 5 – Group Annuity Contract with Insurance Company

The PEP invests in a fully benefit-responsive investment contract through a group annuity contract with Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York (Empower Life & Annuity) as the issuer, with a contract value \$950,964 and \$828,608, respectively, at December 31, 2023 and 2022. The contributions are maintained in a general account. The Empower Investments Fixed Account (EIFA) is a general account product offered through a group annuity contract.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED

Note 5 – Group Annuity Contract with Insurance Company, Continued

Participant's principal and interest are fully guaranteed by the general accounts of Empower Life & Annuity. The methodology for calculating the interest crediting rate is based on the earnings on the underlying investments in the entire medium-long-term new portfolio compared to the minimum interest crediting rate, as stated in the contract, and prevailing market conditions.

Empower Life & Annuity is contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. The crediting rate is reviewed on a quarterly basis for resetting. The guaranteed investment contract does not permit Empower Life & Annuity to terminate the agreement prior to the scheduled maturity date.

The contract meets the fully benefit-responsive investment criteria and, therefore, is reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measurement for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, because it is the amount received by participants if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Under the terms of the group annuity contract, participants may direct the withdrawal or transfer transactions of all or a portion of their balance in the investment option at contract value. Contract value, as reported to the Plan by (the issuer), represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and expenses.

The PEP's ability to receive amounts due is dependent on Empower Life & Annuity's ability to meet its financial obligations. Empower Life & Annuity's ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic and regulatory developments.

Certain events limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value. Such events include, but may not be limited to, amendments to the Plan documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan), changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions, bankruptcy of the PPP or other PPP events that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan, the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA or premature termination of the contract.

The Plan Administrator does not believe any events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with Empower Life & Annuity and that also would limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

In addition, certain events allow Empower Life & Annuity to terminate the contract with the Plan and settle at an amount different from contract value. Such events include an uncured violation of the Plan's investment guidelines, a breach of a material obligation under the contract, a material misrepresentation, or a material amendment to the agreement without the consent of Empower Life & Annuity.

Note 6 – Party-In-Interest Transactions

Parties-in-interest are defined under DOL Regulations as any fiduciary of the PEP, any party rendering service to the PEP, the Pooled Plan Provider (PPP), the Participating Employers, and certain others. The PEP's investments are held by ETC and Empower Life & Annuity. Therefore, transactions with ETC and Empower Life & Annuity are considered party-in-interest transactions. The PEP issues loans to participants, which are secured by the vested balance in the participants' accounts. Such transactions are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules under ERISA.

The PEP's PPP is Plan Professionals, LLC. NPPG is an affiliate of the PPP and provides third-party administrative services. Therefore, transactions with the PPP and NPPG qualify as party-in-interest transactions. The PEP compensates the PPP and NPPG directly for such services which is included in administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2023 in the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED

Note 6 – Party-In-Interest Transactions, Continued

The Plan utilizes an plan expense account (PEA). Fees for the expense budget account, such as investment management fees are included in net investment income as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment. The PEA is used to pay certain Plan expenses, as needed. The balance of the PEA as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, was approximately \$108,000 and \$56,000, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2023, funds in the PEA used to pay Plan expenses totaled \$2,395.

Note 7 – PEP Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the PPP has the right under the PEP to discontinue its allowance of contributions at any time and to terminate the PEP subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of PEP termination, participants will become 100% vested in the Participating Employer's contributions. Any unallocated assets of the PEP shall be allocated to participant accounts and distributed in such a manner as the PPP may determine. Additionally, Participating Employers have the right to transfer the assets attributable to their participants to another Plan should the PEP terminate.

Note 8 – Plan Transfers

Upon termination or new entrance of a Participating Employer, funds may be transferred to or from other qualified plans. During the year ended December 31, 2023, transfers into the PEP from other qualified plans totaled \$8,319,024.

In the normal course of business, as Participating Employers adopt the Plan, assets from individual qualified plans that such participating employers previously sponsored are transferred into the PEP. Likewise, as Participating Employers leave the PEP, assets attributable to these outgoing Participating Employers are transferred out of the PEP.

Note 9 – Tax Status

The PEP adopted a Non-Standardized Pre-Approved Profit-Sharing Plan, which received an opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, in which the IRS stated that the non-standardized, pre-approved profit-sharing plan document, the PEP, as then designed, qualifies under IRC Section 401(a) and, therefore, the related trust is tax-exempt. The PEP has not received a determination letter specific to the PEP itself. The PEP has been amended since adoption, however, the PPP and the PEP's tax counsel believe that the PEP is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the PEP's financial statements.

The PEP is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 10 – Delinquent Participant Contributions

During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, participant contributions and loan repayments totaling \$179,498 and \$248,364, respectively, were not remitted to the Plan within the period prescribed by DOL regulations. Such transactions constitute non-exempt party-in-interest transactions as defined by ERISA. The Participating Employers and the Plan's third-party administrator are in the process of correcting these transactions. The related lost earnings are expected to be remitted to the Plan during 2024.

Note 11 – Subsequent Events

The PEP evaluated events occurring subsequent to December 31, 2023 through October 15, 2024, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued, for matters that should be recorded in the financial statements or disclosed in the footnotes thereto.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

SPONSOR'S EIN: 85-3213245

PLAN NUMBER: 003

SCHEDULE H, Line 4a - SCHEDULE OF DELINQUENT PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Year	Check if Late Loan Repayments Are Included	Participant Contributions Transferred Late To Plan	Total That Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2002-51
			Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	
2023	✓	\$ 179,498	\$ 179,498	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2022	✓	\$ 248,364	\$ 248,364	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

SPONSOR'S EIN: 85-3213245

PLAN NUMBER: 003

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of issue or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Values
	Mutual funds:			
	MFS	Mid Cap Growth Fund Class R6	**	\$ 403,751
	Fidelity	500 Index Fund	**	4,769,998
	T. Rowe Price	Blue Chip Growth	**	175,057
	American Century	Mid Cap Value R6	**	619,292
	Invesco Limited	International Diversified R6	**	36,612
	American Century	Global Real Estate R6	**	269,434
	Putnam	Research R6	**	213,665
	Franklin Templeton	Small Cap Value R6	**	589,246
	Janus Henderson	Triton I	**	115,499
	Fidelity	Inflation Protected Bond Index	**	481,133
	iShares	MSCI AEFE International Index Fund	**	755,251
	American Funds	New World Fund Class R-6	**	541,563
	PGIM	High Yield Class R6	**	154,016
	Franklin Templeton	Small Cap Value R6	**	203
	Fidelity	Advisor Equity Growth Z	**	914,275
	Fidelity	US Bond Index	**	333,097
	Fidelity	Mid Cap Index	**	803,682
	Western Asset	Core Plus Bond Fund	**	138,851
	American Century	Equity Income R6	**	551,408
	MFS	International Equity R6	**	158,065
	Fidelity	Small Cap Index	**	<u>652,071</u>
	Total mutual funds			12,676,169
	Collective trust funds:			
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2035 Trust Class I Fund	**	6,557,115
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2025 Trust Class I Fund	**	3,001,178
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2050 Trust Class I Fund	**	5,598,048
	American Century	Retirement Date Hybrid Income Trust	**	2,038,865
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2060 Trust Class I Fund	**	1,332,493
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2045 Trust Class I Fund	**	5,603,265
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2055 Trust Class I Fund	**	4,252,171
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2030 Trust Class I Fund	**	5,910,060
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2040 Trust Class I Fund	**	6,083,392
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2065 Trust Class I Fund	**	<u>224,228</u>
	Total collective trust funds		**	40,600,815
	Guaranteed investment contract:			
*	Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York	EI Fixed Account - Series Class I	**	<u>950,964</u>
	Total investments			54,227,948
*	Notes receivable from participants	Loans to participants, interest ranging from 8.00% - 10.25%, various maturities.	-	<u>750,364</u>
	Total assets held			<u>\$ 54,978,312</u>

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

** The cost of participant-directed investments is not required to be disclosed.

PEP SMART NATIONAL POOLED EMPLOYER PLAN

SPONSOR'S EIN: 85-3213245

PLAN NUMBER: 003

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of issue or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Values
	Mutual funds:			
	MFS	Mid Cap Growth Fund Class R6	**	\$ 403,751
	Fidelity	500 Index Fund	**	4,769,998
	T. Rowe Price	Blue Chip Growth	**	175,057
	American Century	Mid Cap Value R6	**	619,292
	Invesco Limited	International Diversified R6	**	36,612
	American Century	Global Real Estate R6	**	269,434
	Putnam	Research R6	**	213,665
	Franklin Templeton	Small Cap Value R6	**	589,246
	Janus Henderson	Triton I	**	115,499
	Fidelity	Inflation Protected Bond Index	**	481,133
	iShares	MSCI AEFE International Index Fund	**	755,251
	American Funds	New World Fund Class R-6	**	541,563
	PGIM	High Yield Class R6	**	154,016
	Franklin Templeton	Small Cap Value R6	**	203
	Fidelity	Advisor Equity Growth Z	**	914,275
	Fidelity	US Bond Index	**	333,097
	Fidelity	Mid Cap Index	**	803,682
	Western Asset	Core Plus Bond Fund	**	138,851
	American Century	Equity Income R6	**	551,408
	MFS	International Equity R6	**	158,065
	Fidelity	Small Cap Index	**	<u>652,071</u>
	Total mutual funds			12,676,169
	Collective trust funds:			
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2035 Trust Class I Fund	**	6,557,115
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2025 Trust Class I Fund	**	3,001,178
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2050 Trust Class I Fund	**	5,598,048
	American Century	Retirement Date Hybrid Income Trust	**	2,038,865
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2060 Trust Class I Fund	**	1,332,493
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2045 Trust Class I Fund	**	5,603,265
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2055 Trust Class I Fund	**	4,252,171
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2030 Trust Class I Fund	**	5,910,060
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2040 Trust Class I Fund	**	6,083,392
	American Century	Retirement Hybrid 2065 Trust Class I Fund	**	<u>224,228</u>
	Total collective trust funds		**	40,600,815
	Guaranteed investment contract:			
*	Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York	EI Fixed Account - Series Class I	**	<u>950,964</u>
	Total investments			54,227,948
*	Notes receivable from participants	Loans to participants, interest ranging from 8.00% - 10.25%, various maturities.	-	<u>750,364</u>
	Total assets held			<u>\$ 54,978,312</u>

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

** The cost of participant-directed investments is not required to be disclosed.

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

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning		and ending	
A Name of plan	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶		
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	D Employer Identification Number (EIN)		

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

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f		

Liabilities

g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k		

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l		
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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)		
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		
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)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		
(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)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)		
(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)		
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)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(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)		
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		
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:

(2) EIN:

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, 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:

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.)

	Yes	No	Amount
4a			
4b			
4c			
4d			
4e			
4f			
4g			
4h			
4i			
4j			
4k			
4l			
4m			
4n			

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?

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

Attachment to 2023 Form 5500
Schedule H, line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions

Plan Name PEP Smart National Pooled Employer Plan

EIN: 85-3213245

Plan Sponsor's Name Plan Professionals, LLC

PN: 003

	Total that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			
Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
Check here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are included: ☒	248,364	0	0	0