

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☒ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 020
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/1987
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) HOWARD ENERGY CO., INC. 12220 WORLD TRADE DR SAN DIEGO CA, CA 92128-3737
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 91-1218779
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 760-730-7342
2d	Business code (see instructions) 211120

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.	10/22/2024	JENNIFER BEES
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 119
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 25 6a(2) 35 6b 0 6c 84 6d 119 6e 4 6f 123 6g(1) 112 6g(2) 113 6h 0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

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

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 0
- (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 _____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500. ▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	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 HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 020
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HOWARD ENERGY CO., INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 91-1218779

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
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(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
42-0127290	61271	376538	123	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
0	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

(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	

(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	0
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	13396301

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 ▶ **FLEXIBLE INVESTMENT ANNUITY**

b Balance at the end of the previous year**7b****c** Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year**7c(1)**

(2) Dividends and credits

7c(2)

(3) Interest credited during the year

7c(3)

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

7c(4)

(5) Other (specify below)

7c(5)

▶

(6) Total additions.....

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

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

7e(1)

(2) Administration charge made by carrier

7e(2)

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

7e(3)

(4) Other (specify below)

7e(4)

▶

(5) Total deductions.....

7e(5)**f** Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)**7f****0**

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. ▶

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

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	020
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HOWARD ENERGY CO., INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 91-1218779	

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

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

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

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
42-0127290

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

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

PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

42-0127290

(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 37 50 64	CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR	1511	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	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:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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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 <u>HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>020</u>	
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>HOWARD ENERGY CO., INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>91-1218779</u>	

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)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRINCIPAL STABLE VALUE FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL GLOBAL INVESTORS TRUST CO

c EIN-PN <u>93-6274328-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>628319</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN GOVT & HQ BOND SA-R6

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>42-0127290-007</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>160082</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN U.S. PROPERTY SEP ACCT-R6

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>42-0127290-027</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>187304</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN CORE PLUS BD SEP ACCT-R6

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>42-0127290-005</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>114619</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN DIVERSIFIED INTL SA-R6

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>42-0127290-015</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>253578</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LGCAP S&P 500 INDEX SA-R6

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>42-0127290-016</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>2764699</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN MIDCAP VALUE I SA-R6

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>42-0127290-043</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>1136911</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN SMCAP S&P 600 INDEX SA-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-028	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1158009
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN MIDCAP S&P 400 IDX SA-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-023	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 697155
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN MIDCAP GROWTH III SA-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-026	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 15135
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN SMALLCAP GROWTH I SA-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-070	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 81782
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LARGE CAP VALUE III SA-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-068	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1668240
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2010 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-075	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2020 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-076	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 414069
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2030 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-077	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 293773
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2040 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-078	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 153296
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2050 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-079	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 687046

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME STRAT INC SA-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-080	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 129361
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2015 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-110	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2016
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2025 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-111	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 590593
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2035 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-112	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 279700
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2045 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-113	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 576886
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2055 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-114	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 67230
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2060 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-130	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 17398
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN BLUE CHIP SA-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-133	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1945384
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETIME 2065 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-173	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2035
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRIN LIFETM 2070 SEP ACCT-R6		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 42-0127290-179	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0

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
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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 HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	020
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HOWARD ENERGY CO., INC.		
		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 91-1218779

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)		79338
(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)		2277
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	1909925	628319
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	11270899	13396301
(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)	407120	25624
(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	13587944	14131859
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	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	13587944	14131859

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)	84238	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	404904	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	47615	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		536757
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)	177	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		177
(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)	1835	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		1835
(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)		16738
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		2103382
(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)		13971
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		2672860

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	2127433	
(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)		2127433
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)	1512	
(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)		1512
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		2128945

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		543915
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: **YSR CPA GROUP P.C.**

(2) EIN: **82-1853384**

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

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

Part IV Compliance Questions

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

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		☒	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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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 HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	020
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HOWARD ENERGY CO., INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 91-1218779	

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

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 42-0127290		
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.)
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4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.				
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.				
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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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.
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10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for: a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment) b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment) c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14a 14b 14c	
15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to: a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15a 15b	
16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year: a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16a 16b	
17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b): a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____% b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20. a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box: ☐ Yes. ☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date. ☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date. ☐ No. Other. Provide explanation: _____	

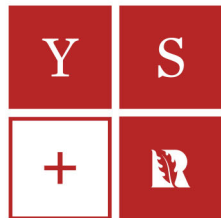
Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No 21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2). ☐ Design-based safe harbor method ☒ "Prior year" ADP test ☐ "Current year" ADP test ☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ____/____/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.	

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

December 31, 2023 and 2022



YSR CPA GROUP, P.C.

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HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
December 31, 2023 and 2022

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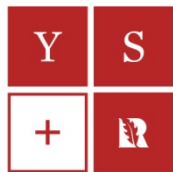
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Administrative Committee of
Howard Energy Tax Deferred Savings Plan

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Howard Energy Tax Deferred Savings Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement 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 Howard Energy Tax Deferred Savings 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 audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the year ended December 31, 2023 stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section—

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

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Howard Energy Tax Deferred Savings Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.



Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' 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 Howard Energy Tax Deferred Savings 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 Howard Energy Tax Deferred Savings Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

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

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

Other Matter—Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets held at end of year is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements, but are 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 schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

For information included in the supplemental schedule 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 schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion—

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule 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 schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

YSR CPA Group, P.C.

Los Angeles, California
August 21, 2024

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS:		
INVESTMENTS		
Participant-directed investments, at fair value	\$ <u>14,050,244</u>	\$ <u>13,587,944</u>
	14,050,244	13,587,944
RECEIVABLES		
Employer contributions	<u>79,338</u>	<u>-</u>
	79,338	-
NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM PARTICIPANTS	<u>2,277</u>	<u>-</u>
	2,277	-
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ <u><u>14,131,859</u></u>	\$ <u><u>13,587,944</u></u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to the financial statements

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>
ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
Investment income (loss):	
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 2,134,091
Dividends	<u>1,835</u>
	2,135,926
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	177
Contributions:	
Participants	404,904
Rollover	47,615
Employer	<u>84,238</u>
	<u>536,757</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	2,672,860
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
Benefits paid to participants	2,127,433
Administrative expenses	<u>1,512</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>2,128,945</u>
NET INCREASE	543,915
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>13,587,944</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 14,131,859</u>

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to the financial statements

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Howard Energy Tax Deferred Savings Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan's date of inception was January 1, 1987. The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of the Howard Energy Co., Inc. and other participating employers (collectively, "Company"). Eligible employees have completed three months of service and are 21 years of age or older. It is subject to the provision of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Plan was restated January 1, 2014.

Contributions

Employee Contributions:

The Plan provides for an automatic election to have elective deferral contributions. The automatic elective deferral contributions are pre-tax elective deferral contributions and 4% of compensation. The automatic elective deferral contribution is automatically increased on or after each first day of the Plan year by 1% up to a maximum automatic elective deferral contribution of 10%. Participants may affirmatively elect a different percentage up to an annual maximum as determined by the Internal Revenue Code or elect not to make elective deferral contributions. Participants direct the investment of their contributions and their share of the Company's matching contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan.

Matching Contributions:

The Company matches each participant's contribution in an amount equal to 50% of the elective deferral contributions up to 4% of the participant's eligible compensation. Participants are eligible for a matching contribution if employed on December 31 of the Plan year. The Company may also elect to make discretionary contributions to the Plan at any time. No discretionary contributions were made during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, the Company's matching contribution, Plan earnings and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are made by the Plan Administrator in a manner which recognizes each participant's account balance, investment selection and timing of contributions and withdrawals. The benefit a participant is entitled to is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Investment Options

Participants direct the investment of their contributions and their share of the Company's matching contributions into any of a variety of investment options held by Principal Financial Group.

Vesting

Participants are fully vested in their contributions, safe harbor employer contributions, rollover contributions match or discretionary contributions and all earnings thereon.

Forfeitures

Forfeitures may be used to pay administrative expenses or to reduce Employer Contributions (other than Elective Deferral Contributions).

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (continued)

Notes Receivable from Participants

A participant may borrow from their account up to a maximum of the lesser of (i) 50% of their vested account balance or (ii) \$50,000 less the highest outstanding loan balance, if any, during the prior year. Participant loans are secured by the participant's vested account balance and bear interest at prevailing rates on the date of the loan. At any given time, the number of outstanding loans is limited to one. A participant may have no more than two loans approved in any 12-month period. Interest rate was 7% on an outstanding loan as of December 31, 2023. There was a balance of \$2,277 and \$0 for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Payment of Benefits

The Plan allows for participants to make withdrawals from the Plan upon reaching age of 59 1/2 or in the case of serious financial hardship, as approved by the administrator. Additionally, the value of participants' contributions and the value of all vested Company contributions are payable to participants or their designated beneficiaries upon death, disability, retirement or upon termination of employment with the Company. If the participant is an active employee at the time of his/her death or disability, the account balance will automatically become 100% vested. At the participant's election, payment may be made in cash as a single lump sum or in installments.

On termination of service due to death, disability or retirement, or for termination of service due to other reasons, a participant may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account or may elect to direct or partially direct transfer to an individual retirement account (IRA), an individual retirement annuity, or another qualified plan.

Administrative Expenses

Certain contract administration fees and Plan expenses are deducted from participant accounts or investment income. The remainder of any Plan expenses are paid by the Company.

NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"), except for benefits paid to participants, which are recorded when paid.

Managements' Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires the Plan Administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and changes therein, as well as disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year. See note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants represent participant loans that are recorded at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the Plan's administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced, and a benefit payment is recorded.

NOTE 3. INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE PLAN'S INSURANCE COMPANY AND TRUSTEE

The Plan Administrator has elected the method of compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosures under ERISA. Accordingly, Principal Life Insurance Company, Principal Trust Company and Principal Life Insurance Company on behalf of Principal Global Investors Trust Company, Trustee of the Principal Stable Value Fund, have certified as being complete and accurate the investments on the statement of net assets available for benefits as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the investment activity reflected in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits and the investment information included in the supplemental schedule for the year ended December 31, 2023.

NOTE 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) *Accounting Standards Codification* (ASC 820), *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides the framework for measuring fair value. Fair value is defined as 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 and is measured according to a hierarchy that includes: "Level 1" inputs, such as quoted prices in an active market for identical assets or liabilities; "Level 2" inputs, which are observable inputs for similar assets; or "Level 3" inputs, which are unobservable inputs.

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

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

Mutual funds: Share Prices/Net Asset Values (NAVs) reported on the Plan Summary Reports for NAV mutual funds are generally obtained from a file feed from the National Securities Clearing Corporation, and/or directly from the fund house, or a secondary pricing source, such as Interactive Data Corporation (IDC). Mutual funds are reported as a level 1 asset.

Pooled separate accounts: pooled separate account ("PSA") invests in a single mutual fund. The fair value of the mutual fund is a publicly quoted pricing input used in determining the net asset value ("NAV") of the pooled separate account, which is not publicly quoted but is available to current investors via the Employer website or when plan participants access their account values. The NAV is the basis for current transactions and the PSA can be redeemed at NAV as of the measurement date. This investment has a "Readily Determinable Fair Value". The NAV is calculated in a manner consistent with GAAP for investment companies. The fair value of the underlying mutual fund is based on third-party pricing vendors and utilize observable market information. Because it is valued similarly to mutual funds, PSAs are reported as a level 1 asset. PSAs typically can be redeemed on a daily basis. Unfunded commitments typically are found in private equity funds and therefore are not applicable to PSAs.

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

Principal Stable Value Fund: stable value collective investment trust ("CIT") is valued at the NAV of shares held which is based on the value of the underlying assets of the trust. Investments held by a CIT are required to be reported at fair value, however, contract value is the relevant measurement characteristic for that portion of the net assets of a CIT attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. Contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the underlying defined-contribution plans. The NAV of the CIT is not publicly quoted but is available to current investors via the Employer website or when plan participants access their account values. The NAV is the basis for current transactions and the CIT can be redeemed at NAV as of the measurement date. This investment has a "Readily Determinable Fair Value". The NAV is calculated in a manner consistent with GAAP for investment companies. Because it is valued similarly to mutual funds, the CIT is reported as a level 1 asset.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Plan's investments in common/collective trusts have no unfunded commitments.

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. Although the Plan Administrator 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 may result in a different fair value measurement as of the reporting date.

The following are the major categories of assets and liabilities measured at Level 1 fair value on a recurring basis during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, using quoted prices in active markets for identical assets:

	2023	2022
Separate accounts		
Large U.S. equity	\$ 6,378,323	\$ 5,225,536
Small/Mid U.S. equity	3,088,992	2,728,088
International equity	253,578	217,193
Balanced/asset allocation	3,213,403	2,636,002
Fixed income	274,701	258,847
Other	187,304	205,234
Total separate accounts	13,396,301	11,270,900
Mutual funds		
Small/Mid U.S. equity	632	166,989
International equity	11,845	10,109
Fixed income	13,147	230,021
Total mutual funds	25,624	407,119
Collective investment trust	628,319	1,909,925
Total investments at fair value	\$ 14,050,244	\$ 13,587,944

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 5. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES AND PARTIES-IN-INTEREST

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company was the Plan Sponsor, and Principal Financial Group was the custodian and record-keeper as defined in the Plan document and, therefore, these transactions qualify as allowable party-in-interest transactions. Participant loans also qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions.

Additionally, the Plan Sponsor is a party-in-interest to the Plan; however, there were no transactions with the Plan Sponsor other than the funding of contributions to the Plan and payment of certain administrative expenses of the Plan.

NOTE 6. ADMINISTRATION OF PLAN ASSETS

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan.

NOTE 7. TAX STATUS

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on December 29, 2010, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan Administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate certain tax positions taken by the plan and recognize a tax liability (asset) if the organization has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements.

The plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions, however there are currently no audits for any tax period in progress. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to December 31, 2019.

NOTE 8. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in risks in the near term would materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits and the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits.

The Plan invests through mutual funds in the securities of foreign companies, which involve special risks and considerations not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies. These risks include devaluation of currencies, less reliable information about issuers, different securities transaction clearance and settlement practices, and possible adverse political and economic developments. Moreover, securities of many foreign companies and their markets may be less liquid and their prices more volatile than those of securities of comparable U.S. companies.

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

NOTE 9. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

NOTE 10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through August 21, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

SCHEDULE H Line 4i

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD AT END OF YEAR

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 91-1218779 PLAN NUMBER 020

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Blue Chip - Pooled Sep Acct	-	1,945,384
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Core Plus Bd - Pooled Sep Acct	-	114,619
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Diversified Intl - Pooled Sep Acct	-	253,578
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Govt & HQ Bond - Pooled Sep Acct	-	160,082
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LargeCap Value III - Pooled Sep Acct	-	1,668,240
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LgCap S&P 500 Index - Pooled Sep Acct	-	2,764,699
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2015 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	2,016
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2020 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	414,069
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2025 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	590,593
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2030 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	293,773
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2035 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	279,700
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2040 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	153,296
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2045 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	576,886
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2050 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	687,046
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2055 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	67,230
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2060 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	17,398
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime 2065 - Pooled Sep Acct	-	2,035
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	LifeTime Strat Inc - Pooled Sep Acct	-	129,361
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	MidCap S&P 400 Idx - Pooled Sep Acct	-	697,155
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	MidCap Value I - Pooled Sep Acct	-	1,136,911
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	MidCap Growth III - Pooled Sep Acct	-	15,135
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	SmallCap Growth I - Pooled Sep Acct	-	81,782
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	SmCap S&P 600 Idx - Pooled Sep Acct	-	1,158,009
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	U.S. Property - Pooled Sep Acct	-	187,304
Total pooled separate accounts - participant directed				13,396,301
	Heartland Value Plus Fund	Mutual Fund	-	632
	Inv Dev Mark A Fd	Mutual Fund	-	11,845
	PIMCO Real Return A Fund	Mutual Fund	-	13,147
Total mutual funds - participant directed				25,624
*	Principal Stable Value Fund	Common/collective trust	-	628,319
Total common/collective trust funds - participant directed				628,319
*	Participant loans	7.0%	-	2,277
Total participant loans				2,277
Total assets held at end of year				\$ 14,052,521

* Party in interest

Column (d) has been omitted as historical cost is not required as all investments are participant-directed.

See accompanying independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

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

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

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

EIN 91 1218779
 PLAN NUMBER 020
 PLAN YEAR 01/01/2023 TO 12/31/2023

(A)	(B) Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor or similar party.	(C) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value.	(D) Cost	(E) Current Value
	Heartland Funds	Registered Investment Company Heartland Value Plus Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 632.27
	Oppenheimer	Registered Investment Company Inv Dev Mark A Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 11,844.66
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin Blue Chip SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,945,384.49
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin Core Plus Bd Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 114,618.92
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin Diversified Intl SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 253,578.07
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin Govt & HQ Bond SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 160,081.75
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LargeCap Value III SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,668,240.08
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LgCap S&P 500 Index SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,764,699.28
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime Strat Inc SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 129,361.12
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2015 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,015.97
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2020 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 414,069.11
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2025 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 590,592.73
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2030 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 293,773.31
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2035 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 279,699.72
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2040 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 153,296.34

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

HOWARD ENERGY TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN

EIN 91 1218779
 PLAN NUMBER 020
 PLAN YEAR 01/01/2023 TO 12/31/2023

(A)	(B) Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor or similar party.	(C) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value.	(D) Cost	(E) Current Value
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2045 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 576,885.89
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2050 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 687,046.24
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2055 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 67,230.01
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin LifeTime 2060 Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 17,397.79
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin MidCap Growth III SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 15,135.37
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin MidCap S&P 400 Idx SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 697,154.79
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin MidCap Value I SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,136,910.74
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin SmallCap Growth I SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 81,782.11
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin SmCap S&P 600 Index SA-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,158,009.30
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin U.S. Property Sep Acct-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 187,303.62
*	Principal Global Investors Trust Co	Common/Collective Trust Principal Stable Value Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 628,319.00
	PIMCO Funds	Registered Investment Company PIMCO Real Return A Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 13,147.12
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts PRIN LIFETIME 2065 SEP ACCT-R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,034.68
*	Participant Loans	Range of Interest Rates Rates Range From 7.00% To 7.00%	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,277.00