

<div>Form 5500</div> <div>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</div> <div>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</div> <div>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>	<div>Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan</div> <div>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).</div> <div>▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</div>	<div>OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089</div> <div>2023</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</div>
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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: <div><div>☐ a multiemployer plan</div><div>☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)</div><div>☒ a single-employer plan</div><div>☐ a DFE (specify) _____</div><div>☐ the first return/report</div><div>☐ the final return/report</div><div>☒ an amended return/report</div><div>☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)</div></div>
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: <div><div>☐ Form 5558</div><div>☐ automatic extension</div><div>☐ the DFVC program</div><div>☒ special extension (enter description) HURRICANE HELENE</div></div>
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 CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2005
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) CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION 6820 MOQUIN DRIVE HUNTSVILLE, AL 35806
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 63-0944385
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 256-726-4841
2d	Business code (see instructions) 541330

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

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

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	12/11/2024	CHRISTOPHER TWYMAN
	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 <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 229
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> 6a(1) 208 6a(2) 249 6b 0 6c 14 6d 263 6e 1 6f 264 6g(1) 157 6g(2) 232 6h 15
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:

2I 2K 2P 2Q 3I

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 _____
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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

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

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

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

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

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

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

<div>A</div> <div>Name of plan</div> <div>CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</div>	<div>B</div> <div>Three-digit plan number (PN)</div> <div>002</div>
<div>C</div> <div>Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500</div> <div>CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION</div>	<div>D</div> <div>Employer Identification Number (EIN)</div> <div>63-0944385</div>

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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

1

Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).....

No

Yes

☒
- b

If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b)

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

(b)

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

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

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

(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 ☐

(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 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 CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION		
		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 63-0944385

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)	1741	
(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)	611527	989854
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	20802391	43352040
(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	21415659	44341894
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j	2684124	14653899
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	2684124	14653899
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	18731535	29687995

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)	1945603	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1945603
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	14836	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		14836
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	3910190	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		5870629

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	256445	
(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)		256445
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		67425
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	350	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		350
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		324220

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		5546409
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		6059793
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		649742

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: **WARREN AVERETT, LLC**

(2) EIN: **45-4084437**

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?	☒		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

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

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

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)
401K PLAN	42-0127290	002
401K PLAN	42-0127290	002

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

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

<div>SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>	<div>Retirement Plan Information</div> <div>This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div>	<div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2023</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</div>
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 63-0944385
Part I	Distributions	
All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.		
1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....		1 0
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 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.)	
4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.		
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.		
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)		6a
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year		6b
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)		6c
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.		
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
Part III	Amendments	
9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ☐ Increase ☐ Decrease ☐ Both ☐ No		
Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.	
10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?		☐ Yes ☒ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?		☐ Yes ☒ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)		☐ Yes ☒ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?		☒ Yes ☐ No
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.		
Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023 v. 230707		

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES**

DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
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DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Trustee
CFD Research Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Opinion

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of CFD Research Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about CFD Research Corporation Employee Stock Ownership 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

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 CFD Research Corporation Employee Stock Ownership 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 CFD Research Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Other Matter

Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2023, and Schedule H, Line 4j – Schedule of Reportable Transactions, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are 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 has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, 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 information in the accompanying schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Warren Averett, LLC

Huntsville, Alabama

October 25, 2024

CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	December 31, 2023			December 31, 2022		
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS						
Investments, at fair value:						
Common stock of CFD						
Research Corporation	\$25,348,849	\$18,003,191	\$43,352,040	\$15,705,572	\$5,096,819	\$20,802,391
Investments – interest-bearing cash	989,854	-	989,854	611,527	-	611,527
Receivables:						
Employer contributions	-	-	-	1,741	-	1,741
TOTAL ASSETS	26,338,703	18,003,191	44,341,894	16,318,840	5,096,819	21,415,659
LIABILITIES						
Interest payable	-	338,707	338,707	-	30,425	30,425
Loans payable to related parties	-	14,653,899	14,653,899	-	2,684,124	2,684,124
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	14,992,606	14,992,606	-	2,714,549	2,714,549
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$26,338,703</u>	<u>\$ 3,010,585</u>	<u>\$29,349,288</u>	<u>\$16,318,840</u>	<u>\$2,382,270</u>	<u>\$18,701,110</u>

See notes to the financial statements.

**CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
ADDITIONS			
Investment income:			
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 2,157,779	\$ 1,752,411	\$ 3,910,190
Interest earned	14,836	-	14,836
Employer contributions	1,268,287	677,316	1,945,603
Allocation of 279,550 shares	<u>1,425,705</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,425,705</u>
Total additions to net assets	4,866,607	2,429,727	7,296,334
DEDUCTIONS			
Distributions paid to participants	256,445	-	256,445
Interest expense	-	375,707	375,707
Administrative expense	350	-	350
Allocation of 279,550 shares	<u>-</u>	<u>1,425,705</u>	<u>1,425,705</u>
Total deductions from net assets	<u>256,795</u>	<u>1,801,412</u>	<u>2,058,207</u>
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	4,609,812	628,315	5,238,127
TRANSFER IN FROM OTHER PLAN	6,059,793	-	6,059,793
TRANSFER OUT TO OTHER PLAN	(649,742)	-	(649,742)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS AT			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>16,318,840</u>	<u>2,382,270</u>	<u>18,701,110</u>
END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 26,338,703</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,010,585</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 29,349,288</u></u>

See notes to the financial statements.

CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the CFD Research Corporation (the Company and Sponsor) Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for complete information.

General

The Company established the Plan effective January 1, 2005. As of January 1, 2010, the Plan was amended and operates, in relevant part, as a leveraged employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC), as amended, and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. The Plan is administered by CFD Research Corporation. The Company has authority to control and manage the operation and administration of the Plan and has all powers necessary to enable it to carry its duties. The Company is responsible for oversight of the Plan. John Zollo is the Plan's Trustee.

In 2023, the Plan became the 100% owner of the Company through a transaction that included a \$6,059,793 one-time transfer from participants balances, not to exceed \$300,000 individually, held in the CFD Research Corporation 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan, and issuance of a note payable to the existing owners of the Company (see Note 5).

The Plan purchased Company common stock using the proceeds of Company officers borrowing (Note 5) guaranteed by Company common stock and holds the common stock in a Trust established under the Plan. The borrowings are to be repaid over a specified number of years by fully deductible Company contributions to the Trust fund. As the Plan makes each payment of principal, an appropriate percentage of stock will be allocated to eligible employees' accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the IRC. Shares vest at a rate of 25% per year over four years upon allocation.

The borrowings are collateralized by the unallocated shares of common stock and are guaranteed by the Company. The lenders have no rights against shares of common stock once they are allocated under the provisions of the ESOP. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to:

1. The accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated common stock (Allocated), and
2. Common stock not yet allocated to employees (Unallocated).

Eligibility

Effective January 1, 2023, employees of the Company are generally eligible to participate in the Plan, regardless of age or service. Prior to this date, employees who did not have at least 1,000 hours of service during such Plan year were generally not eligible for an allocation of Company contributions for such year.

Eligibility for the 401(k)-employer match to the Plan is based on participation in the Company's 401(k) plan. The amount of the match is based on employee deferrals and the provisions of the Company's 401(k) plan.

CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Contributions

The Company's Board of Directors determines the form (either in Company stock or cash) and amount of employer contributions. During any year during which the Company has elected to be treated as a "Subchapter S Corporation," the Trust may also receive its share of any distributed earnings (S Corporation Distributions) paid to the Company's stockholders. Participants in the Company's 401(k) plan may also elect to have their Company match contributed to the Plan instead of to their account in the 401(k) plan. Employee contributions are not permitted.

Payments of Benefits

Distributions on account of death, disability or retirement are made in a lump sum or annual installments in the Plan year following the event. The method of payment will either be cash or stock distribution as required by the Plan Document.

Administrative Expenses

As provided in the Plan agreement, administrative expenses may be paid either by the Plan or by the Company. Normal brokerage charges that are included in the cost of securities purchased (or charged to proceeds in the case of sales) shall be paid by the Plan. The Company shall pay all expenses in connection with the design, establishment or termination of the Plan. The Trust shall pay all costs of administering the Plan and Trust, unless such expenses are paid by the Company.

Voting Rights

All Company stock held by the Trust shall be voted by the Trustee on behalf of the collective best interest of Plan participants and beneficiaries in accordance with the Employee Benefits Administration Committee. However, each participant is entitled to direct the voting of any voting shares of Company stock allocated to his or her account with respect to any vote required for the approval or disapproval of certain events as defined in the Plan Document. The Trustee will vote any unallocated shares held by the Trust as well as any allocated shares for which a Participant has failed to give timely voting direction.

Participant Accounts

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each participant. Each participant's account can be credited with an allocation of (1) the Company's contributions, (2) Company matched funds as directed from the 401(k) plan, (3) Plan earnings or losses based on changes in the price of the Company stock and (4) forfeitures of terminated participant's non-vested accounts. Only those participants who are eligible employees of the Company as of the last day of the Plan year will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation or account balances, as defined in the Plan Document. Plan earnings are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's account balance.

Vesting

Employees entering the Plan prior to January 1, 2017, vest in the Company's contributions and related earnings at a rate of 25% per year over four years. Employees entering the Plan on or after January 1, 2017, vest in the Company's contributions and related earnings at a rate of 20% per year after one year of service and are fully vested after six years. Employees are also fully vested upon reaching the normal retirement date as defined by the Plan Document, death of a participant or total and permanent disability as defined by the Plan Document.

CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Put Option

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

Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Company common stock into investments, which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a six-year period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25% of the number of post-1986 shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50%. Participants who elect to diversify receive a cash distribution. Participants eligible to diversify make their election after year end based on the number of shares of the employer's stock held in their account at year end.

Forfeitures

Plan forfeitures are allocated to each participant's account based upon the relation of the participant's compensation to total compensation for the Plan year. Forfeitures of terminated, non-vested account balances allocated to remaining participants at December 31, 2023, totaled \$5,902.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

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

Use of Estimates

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

Allocations

The financial statements of the Plan present separately the assets and liabilities, and changes therein pertaining to (1) the accounts of employees with rights in allocated stock (allocated) and (2) stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated), including shares that are committed to be released. Shares are released from collateral and become allocated generally in the period in which debt service is actually paid.

**CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The shares of Company common stock are reported at fair value. See Note 4 for a discussion of the fair value measurements. Dividend income is accrued on the ex-dividend date. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are reported on the average cost method. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

3. INVESTMENTS

The Plan's investments at December 31 are presented in the following table:

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2022	
	Allocated	Unallocated	Allocated	Unallocated
Sponsor				
Common shares:				
Number of shares	4,970,363	3,530,037	3,384,822	1,098,452
Cost	\$ 9,581,962	\$ 2,007,928	\$ 2,902,714	\$ 2,627,384
Fair market value	\$ 25,348,849	\$ 18,003,191	\$ 15,705,572	\$ 5,096,819

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

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

- Level 1 Fair Value Measurements – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.
- Level 2 Fair Value Measurements – Inputs to the valuation methodology include: quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the net asset or liability; and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

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

- Level 3 Fair Value Market Measurements – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

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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.

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

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,352,040	\$ 43,352,040
Investment at fair value	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,352,040	\$ 43,352,040
Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,802,391	\$ 20,802,391
Investment at fair value	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,802,391	\$ 20,802,391

The following table sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Plan's level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2023:

Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 20,802,391
Unrealized appreciation in estimated fair value	3,910,190
Purchase of common stock	18,639,459
Balance at December 31, 2023	\$ 43,352,040

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets available for the period above are reported in net appreciation in the fair value of investments in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

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

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The CFD Research Corporation's common stock held by the Plan is reported at fair value based on an appraisal. This appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques consistent with prior years, as illustrated in the following table.

Instrument	Fair Value	Principal Valuation Technique	Unobservable Inputs
CFD Research Corporation Common Stock	\$43,352,040	Income	EBITDA, Net Income, Weighted Average, Cost of Capital, Discount Rate, Discount for Lack of Marketability
		Market	Public Comparables, Revenue Multiple, EBITDA Multiple Discount for Lack of Marketability

The valuation process involves the selection of an appraiser under contract for a term of three years with the right to cancel such contract at any time. Plan management accumulates the data for the appraiser from historical and projected financial information of the Company. The appraiser prepares a report of estimated per share value that a participant will receive upon distribution, which Plan management, along with the ESOP Trustee, reviews in detail, discusses and approves.

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

5. LOANS PAYABLE TO RELATED PARTIES AND PARTIES-IN-INTEREST

In 2017, the Plan Sponsor entered into a \$1,800,000, seven-year promissory agreement with an officer of the Company who is a related party and party-in-interest. The loan incurs interest at 1.78% and is payable in annual installments of \$255,095 through 2025. In 2020, the Plan Sponsor paid \$200,000 immediately and entered into a \$2,099,997, seven-year promissory agreement with an officer of the Company who is a related party and party-in-interest. The loan incurs interest at 2.79% and is payable in annual installments of \$422,220 through 2027. The proceeds of the loans were used to purchase the Company's common stock. Unallocated shares are collateral for the loan. Shares are released from collateral and allocated to participants when principal and interest payments are made. The number of shares released in any year is the number of shares held as collateral, multiplied by the ratio of the current year payments, divided by the total current year's payments, plus all future years' principal and interest payments. This resulted in 279,550 shares being released and allocated for the Plan year ended December 31, 2023.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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In October 2023, the Plan entered into a \$12,579,666, 30-year promissory agreement with four officers of the Company who are related parties and parties-in-interest. The loans incur interest at 10%, which is payable quarterly, and the principal amount is payable in full in 2030. See subsequent refinancing in Note 11.

The fair value of the notes payable as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, totaled \$14,653,899 and \$2,684,124, respectively, determined by using interest rates currently available for issuance of debt with similar terms, maturity dates and nonperformance risk.

Future maturities of the loans payable are summarized as follows:

<u>For the Years Ending December 31,</u>	<u>Principal</u>
2024	\$ 624,463
2025	639,399
2026	399,611
2027	410,760
2028	-
Thereafter	12,579,666
	<u>\$ 14,653,899</u>

6. RELATED PARTY AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

The Plan invests in Company common stock and has loans payable to officers of the Company guaranteed by the Company. These are related party and party-in-interest transactions. As described in Note 1, the Company pays the majority of the expenses of the Plan. The Plan has a number of service providers. Such parties are parties-in-interest under ERISA.

Principal Financial Group provides record keeping services for the Plan, and therefore qualifies as a party-in-interest. As described in Note 1, fees related to the Plan's operations were paid by the Sponsor directly to Principal Financial Group during 2023.

7. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

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

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8. PLAN TERMINATION

The Company reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions. Upon termination of the Plan, the Employee Benefits Administration Committee directs the Trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the ESOP and to sell shares of financed common stock held as collateral to the extent it determines such sale to be necessary in order to repay the loan. Subsequently, the interest of each participant in the Trust fund will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the IRC.

9. TAX STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated December 10, 2014, that the Plan is qualified, and the Trust established under the Plan is tax-exempt, under the appropriate sections of the IRC. 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 IRC. Therefore, they believe that the Plan was qualified, and the related Trust was tax-exempt as of the financial statement date.

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

10. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per financial statements at December 31, 2023 and 2022, to the Form 5500:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 29,349,288	\$ 18,701,110
Accrued interest on loans payable	<u>338,707</u>	<u>30,425</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	<u><u>\$ 29,687,995</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 18,731,535</u></u>

CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

The following is a reconciliation of net income per the financial statements at December 31, 2023, to net income per the Form 5500:

Change in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 5,238,127
Accrued interest on loans payable at December 31, 2022	(30,425)
Accrued interest on loans payable at December 31, 2023	<u>338,707</u>
Change in net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	<u><u>\$ 5,546,409</u></u>

11. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Effective January 1, 2024, participants of the Plan must be actively employed on the last day of the Plan year to be eligible to share in contributions for the year.

On March 31, 2024, the Plan entered into a loan agreement with the Company to refinance the 2023 loans with aggregate principal amounts totaling \$12,579,666. Interest will accrue at 4.4% and be paid quarterly commencing on July 15, 2024. Principal will be paid in annual installments of \$49,322 commencing on April 15, 2026, and continuing through the maturity date of April 1, 2056.

The Plan's management has evaluated subsequent events through October 25, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES

CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
EMPLOYER ID # 63-0944385
PLAN # 002
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i –
SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
DECEMBER 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Parties	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	CFD Research Corporation	CFD Research Corporation Common Stock (8,500,400 shares)	\$24,179,933	\$43,352,040
	BB&T	Cash	989,854	989,854
			<u>\$25,169,787</u>	<u>\$44,341,894</u>

* Represents a party-in-interest

This schedule is presented in compliance with DOL filing requirements.

CFD RESEARCH CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
EMPLOYER ID # 63-0944385
PLAN # 002
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4j –
SCHEDULE OF REPORTABLE TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(a) Identity of Party Involved	(b) Description of Asset	(c) Purchase Price	(d) Selling Price	(e) Lease Rental	(f) Expense Incurred With Transaction	(g) Cost of Asset	(h) Current Value of Asset on Transaction Date	(i) Net Gain (Loss)
CFD Research Corporation	Company stock	\$ 18,639,459	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 18,639,459	\$ 18,639,459	N/A

This schedule is presented in compliance with DOL filing requirements.