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| <div>Form 5500</div> <div>Department of the Treasury<br/>Internal Revenue Service</div> <div>Department of Labor<br/>Employee Benefits Security<br/>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<br/>1210-0089</div> <div>2023</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</div> |
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|                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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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><input type="checkbox"/> a multiemployer plan</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> a single-employer plan</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> a DFE (specify) _____</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> the first return/report</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> the final return/report</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> an amended return/report</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)</div></div> |
| C                                                                                          | If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. .... ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| D                                                                                          | Check box if filing under: <div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Form 5558</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> automatic extension</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> the DFVC program</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> special extension (enter description) HURRICANE FRANCINE</div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| E                                                                                          | If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. .... ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Part II | Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1a      | Name of plan<br>ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1b      | Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 333                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1c      | Effective date of plan<br>01/01/1997                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2a      | Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)<br>Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)<br>City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)<br>EMPLOYER SUPPORT SERVICES<br><br>8530 ANSELMO LANE<br>BATON ROUGE, LA 70810 |
| 2b      | Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br>72-1311962                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2c      | Plan Sponsor's telephone number<br>225-766-2622                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2d      | Business code (see instructions)<br>561300                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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. | 02/03/2025 | JENNIFER RAGSDALE                                            |
|           | 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                      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN<br><br><b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number<br><br><div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>                                                                                      |
| <b>4</b> 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:<br><b>a</b> Sponsor's name<br><b>c</b> Plan Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>4b</b> EIN<br><br><b>4d</b> PN                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>5</b> 309                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ).<br><b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year .....<br><b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year .....<br><b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits .....<br><b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits .....<br><b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> . .....<br><b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits .....<br><b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> . .....<br><b>g(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) .....<br><b>g(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) .....<br><b>h</b> 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> <b>6a(1)</b> 243<br><b>6a(2)</b> 355<br><b>6b</b> 0<br><b>6c</b> 51<br><b>6d</b> 406<br><b>6e</b> 0<br><b>6f</b> 406<br><b>6g(1)</b> 215<br><b>6g(2)</b> 257<br><b>6h</b> 0 |
| <b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**8a** If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:  
 2E 2G 2J 2K 2T 2W

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)<br>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance<br>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts<br>(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust<br>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor | <b>9b</b> Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)<br>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance<br>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts<br>(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust<br>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**10** Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

**a Pension Schedules**

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) ☒ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

**b General Schedules**

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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

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

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

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

Receipt Confirmation Code \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                         |
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| <div>SCHEDULE C</div> <div>(Form 5500)</div> <div>Department of the Treasury<br/>Internal Revenue Service</div> <div>Department of Labor<br/>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 |                                                      |     |
| A Name of plan<br>ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN                                              | B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶                     | 333 |
|                                                                                            |                                                      |     |
| C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500<br>EMPLOYER SUPPORT SERVICES        | D Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br>72-1311962 |     |

|        |                                                 |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Part I | Service Provider Information (see instructions) |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|

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

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

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

|                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation |
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|                                                                                                            |
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| (b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation |
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| (b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation |
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**(b)** Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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

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

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**(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)

CAPITAL GROUP RETIREMENT PLAN SERVI

6455 IRVINE CENTER DRIVE  
IRVINE, CA 92618

| (b)<br>Service Code(s) | (c)<br>Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest | (d)<br>Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-. | (e)<br>Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor) | (f)<br>Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures? | (g)<br>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)<br>Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount? |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 64                     | RECORDKEEPER                                                                                      | 11560                                                                  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                                            | 0                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                          |

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

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

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

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

**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<br>(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<br>(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<br>(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)

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

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

|                                                                                                          |                                                                    |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning <b>01/01/2023</b> and ending <b>12/31/2023</b> |                                                                    |            |
| <b>A</b> Name of plan<br><b>ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN</b>                                              | <b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) <b>►</b>                     | <b>333</b> |
|                                                                                                          |                                                                    |            |
| <b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500<br><b>EMPLOYER SUPPORT SERVICES</b>        | <b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br><b>72-1311962</b> |            |

|               |                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b> | <b>Asset and Liability Statement</b> |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|

**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 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash .....                                                      | <b>1a</b>       |                       |                 |
| <b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):                                       |                 |                       |                 |
| <b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....                                                            | <b>1b(1)</b>    | 24795                 | 23935           |
| <b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....                                                         | <b>1b(2)</b>    | 2165                  | 6758            |
| <b>(3)</b> Other .....                                                                             | <b>1b(3)</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>c</b> General investments:                                                                      |                 |                       |                 |
| <b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....   | <b>1c(1)</b>    | 0                     | 0               |
| <b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....                                                        | <b>1c(2)</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):                            |                 |                       |                 |
| <b>(A)</b> Preferred .....                                                                         | <b>1c(3)(A)</b> |                       |                 |
| <b>(B)</b> All other .....                                                                         | <b>1c(3)(B)</b> |                       |                 |
| <b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):                                      |                 |                       |                 |
| <b>(A)</b> Preferred .....                                                                         | <b>1c(4)(A)</b> |                       |                 |
| <b>(B)</b> Common .....                                                                            | <b>1c(4)(B)</b> |                       |                 |
| <b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....                                               | <b>1c(5)</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....                                   | <b>1c(6)</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....                                                | <b>1c(7)</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....                                                                 | <b>1c(8)</b>    | 49844                 | 188066          |
| <b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....                                     | <b>1c(9)</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....                                    | <b>1c(10)</b>   |                       |                 |
| <b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....                            | <b>1c(11)</b>   |                       |                 |
| <b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....                                  | <b>1c(12)</b>   |                       |                 |
| <b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....        | <b>1c(13)</b>   | 7915222               | 10014149        |
| <b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) ..... | <b>1c(14)</b>   |                       |                 |
| <b>(15)</b> Other .....                                                                            | <b>1c(15)</b>   |                       |                 |

|                                                                           |              |                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1d</b> Employer-related investments:                                   |              | (a) Beginning of Year | (b) End of Year |
| (1) Employer securities .....                                             | <b>1d(1)</b> |                       |                 |
| (2) Employer real property .....                                          | <b>1d(2)</b> |                       |                 |
| <b>e</b> Buildings and other property used in plan operation .....        | <b>1e</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>f</b> Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e) .....      | <b>1f</b>    | 7992026               | 10232908        |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                                        |              |                       |                 |
| <b>g</b> Benefit claims payable .....                                     | <b>1g</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>h</b> Operating payables .....                                         | <b>1h</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>i</b> Acquisition indebtedness .....                                   | <b>1i</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>j</b> Other liabilities .....                                          | <b>1j</b>    |                       |                 |
| <b>k</b> Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j) ..... | <b>1k</b>    | 0                     | 0               |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                                                         |              |                       |                 |
| <b>l</b> Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f) .....                 | <b>1l</b>    | 7992026               | 10232908        |

**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.

|                                                                                                            |                 |            |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Income</b>                                                                                              |                 | (a) Amount | (b) Total |
| <b>a</b> Contributions:                                                                                    |                 |            |           |
| (1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers .....                                               | <b>2a(1)(A)</b> | 115397     |           |
| (B) Participants .....                                                                                     | <b>2a(1)(B)</b> | 548472     |           |
| (C) Others (including rollovers) .....                                                                     | <b>2a(1)(C)</b> | 336285     |           |
| (2) Noncash contributions .....                                                                            | <b>2a(2)</b>    |            |           |
| (3) Total contributions. Add lines <b>2a(1)(A)</b> , <b>(B)</b> , <b>(C)</b> , and line <b>2a(2)</b> ..... | <b>2a(3)</b>    |            | 1000154   |
| <b>b</b> Earnings on investments:                                                                          |                 |            |           |
| (1) Interest:                                                                                              |                 |            |           |
| (A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit) .....              | <b>2b(1)(A)</b> |            |           |
| (B) U.S. Government securities .....                                                                       | <b>2b(1)(B)</b> |            |           |
| (C) Corporate debt instruments .....                                                                       | <b>2b(1)(C)</b> |            |           |
| (D) Loans (other than to participants) .....                                                               | <b>2b(1)(D)</b> |            |           |
| (E) Participant loans .....                                                                                | <b>2b(1)(E)</b> | 7268       |           |
| (F) Other .....                                                                                            | <b>2b(1)(F)</b> |            |           |
| (G) Total interest. Add lines <b>2b(1)(A)</b> through <b>(F)</b> .....                                     | <b>2b(1)(G)</b> |            | 7268      |
| (2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock .....                                                                   | <b>2b(2)(A)</b> |            |           |
| (B) Common stock .....                                                                                     | <b>2b(2)(B)</b> |            |           |
| (C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds) .....                                         | <b>2b(2)(C)</b> | 362295     |           |
| (D) Total dividends. Add lines <b>2b(2)(A)</b> , <b>(B)</b> , and <b>(C)</b> .....                         | <b>2b(2)(D)</b> |            | 362295    |
| (3) Rents .....                                                                                            | <b>2b(3)</b>    |            |           |
| (4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds .....                                        | <b>2b(4)(A)</b> |            |           |
| (B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions) .....                                                     | <b>2b(4)(B)</b> |            |           |
| (C) Subtract line <b>2b(4)(B)</b> from line <b>2b(4)(A)</b> and enter result .....                         | <b>2b(4)(C)</b> |            |           |
| (5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate .....                                | <b>2b(5)(A)</b> |            |           |
| (B) Other .....                                                                                            | <b>2b(5)(B)</b> |            |           |
| (C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines <b>2b(5)(A)</b> and <b>(B)</b> .....                | <b>2b(5)(C)</b> |            |           |

|                                                                                                 |        | (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) |            | 1250518   |
| <b>c</b> Other income .....                                                                     | 2c     |            | 752       |
| <b>d</b> Total income. Add all <b>income</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total .....        | 2d     |            | 2620987   |

**Expenses**

|                                                                                             |        |        |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:                                  |        |        |        |
| (1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers .....             | 2e(1)  | 366365 |        |
| (2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....                                | 2e(2)  |        |        |
| (3) Other .....                                                                             | 2e(3)  |        |        |
| (4) Total benefit payments. Add lines <b>2e(1)</b> through <b>(3)</b> .....                 | 2e(4)  |        | 366365 |
| <b>f</b> Corrective distributions (see instructions) .....                                  | 2f     |        |        |
| <b>g</b> Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions) .....         | 2g     |        |        |
| <b>h</b> Interest expense .....                                                             | 2h     |        |        |
| <b>i</b> Administrative expenses:                                                           |        |        |        |
| (1) Salaries and allowances .....                                                           | 2i(1)  |        |        |
| (2) Contract administrator fees.....                                                        | 2i(2)  | -16620 |        |
| (3) Recordkeeping fees.....                                                                 | 2i(3)  | 10910  |        |
| (4) IQPA audit fees.....                                                                    | 2i(4)  | 19450  |        |
| (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 <b>2i(1)</b> through <b>(11)</b> .....        | 2i(12) |        | 13740  |
| <b>j</b> Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total ..... | 2j     |        | 380105 |

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

|                                                                               |       |  |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--|---------|
| <b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line <b>2j</b> from line <b>2d</b> ..... | 2k    |  | 2240882 |
| <b>l</b> 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: **ERICKSEN KRENTEL LLP**

(2) EIN: **72-0549733**

**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 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>a</b> 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.) .....                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 64956  |
| <b>b</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.) ..... | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>c</b> 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.) .....                                                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>d</b> 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.) .....                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>e</b> Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 500000 |
| <b>f</b> Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty? .....                                                                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>g</b> 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? .....                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>h</b> 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? .....                                                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>i</b> Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.) .....                                                                                                                                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |        |
| <b>j</b> 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.) .....                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>k</b> Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC? .....                                                                                                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>l</b> Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>m</b> If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.) .....                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |        |
| <b>n</b> 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. ....                                                                                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |        |

**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.)

| <b>5b(1)</b> Name of plan(s) | <b>5b(2)</b> EIN(s) | <b>5b(3)</b> PN(s) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                              |                     |                    |
|                              |                     |                    |
|                              |                     |                    |
|                              |                     |                    |

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

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>SCHEDULE R<br/>(Form 5500)<br/><br/>Department of the Treasury<br/>Internal Revenue Service<br/><br/>Department of Labor<br/>Employee Benefits Security Administration<br/><br/>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<br>ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN                                              | B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶                     | 333 |
| C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500<br>EMPLOYER SUPPORT SERVICES        | D Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br>72-1311962 |     |

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| 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):<br><br>EIN(s): 95-1411033 |   |   |
| 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)? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 _____<br>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? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> 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? .....                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> 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. .... | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease | <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> 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? .....                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 11 | a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? .....                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.) ..... | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 12 | Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? .....                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                        |            |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--|
| <b>15</b> 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: |            |  |
| <b>a</b> The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year .....                                                                                  | <b>15a</b> |  |
| <b>b</b> The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year .....                                                                                                             | <b>15b</b> |  |

|                                                                                                                                                                        |            |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--|
| <b>16</b> Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:                                                         |            |  |
| <b>a</b> Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year .....                                                                               | <b>16a</b> |  |
| <b>b</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 ..... | <b>16b</b> |  |

**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..... ☐

|                |                                                                                                   |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Part VI</b> | <b>Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans</b> |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**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. \_\_\_\_\_

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Part VII</b> | <b>IRS Compliance Questions</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|

**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 \_\_\_\_\_.

|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SCHEDULE MEP<br/>(Form 5500)</b><br><br>Department of the Treasury<br>Internal Revenue Service<br><br>Department of Labor<br>Employee Benefits Security Administration | <b>MULTIPLE-EMPLOYER RETIREMENT<br/>PLAN INFORMATION</b><br><br>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the<br>Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and<br>Section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code)<br><br>▶ <b>File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b> | OMB No. 1210-0110<br><br><b>2023</b><br><br><b>This Form is Open to Public<br/>Inspection</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                               |                                                  |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023                    |                                                  |     |
| <b>A</b> Name of plan<br>ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN                                                          | <b>B</b> Three-digit<br>Plan number (PN) ..... ▶ | 333 |
|                                                                                                               |                                                  |     |
| <b>C</b> Plan administrator's name as shown on line 3a of Form 5500/Form 5500-SF<br>EMPLOYER SUPPORT SERVICES | <b>D</b> Administrator's EIN<br>72-1311962       |     |

|               |                                                                                                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b> | <b>Type of Multiple-Employer Pension Plan.</b> All multiple-employer pension plans must complete. |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

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

|                |                                            |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Part II</b> | <b>Participating Employer Information.</b> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|

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

|                                          |               |                                                               |                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2a</b> Name of Participating Employer | <b>2b</b> EIN | <b>2c</b> Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year | <b>2d</b> Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer |
|                                          |               |                                                               |                                                                             |
| <b>2a</b> Name of Participating Employer | <b>2b</b> EIN | <b>2c</b> Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year | <b>2d</b> Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer |
|                                          |               |                                                               |                                                                             |

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

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

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

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

Part III

Pooled Employer Plan Information

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

- 3a

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

☐ Yes ☐ No
- 3b

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

ACK ID .....

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**  
**AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**  
**AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023**



**ERICKSEN KRENTEL**<sup>LLP</sup>  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS • CONSULTANTS

## **CONTENTS**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

Exhibit "A" Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022

Exhibit "B" Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the Year Ended  
December 31, 2023

Notes to Financial Statements

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Schedule "1" Form 5500, Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of  
December 31, 2023

Schedule "2" Form 5500, Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant  
Contributions as of December 31, 2023



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Plan Administrator and Management of  
ESS Retirement Savings Plan

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

We have performed an audit of the accompanying financial statements of the ESS Retirement 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 statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

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

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 8 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 referred to above, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



To the Plan Administrator of  
ESS Retirement Savings Plan  
February 1, 2025  
Page 2

- the information in the financial statements referred to above related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 the ESS Retirement Savings Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with 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, which raise substantial doubt about the ESS Retirement 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.



To the Plan Administrator of  
ESS Retirement Savings Plan  
February 1, 2025  
Page 3

### **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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the ESS Retirement 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, which raise substantial doubt about the ESS Retirement Savings Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.



To the Plan Administrator of  
ESS Retirement Savings Plan  
February 1, 2025  
Page 4

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 Matters—Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA**

The supplemental Schedules of Assets (Held at Year End) and Delinquent Participant Contributions 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 included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedules 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 schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.



ERICKSEN KRENTEL<sup>LLP</sup>

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS • CONSULTANTS

To the Plan Administrator of  
ESS Retirement Savings Plan  
February 1, 2025  
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In our opinion

- the form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by 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).

New Orleans, Louisiana  
February 1, 2025

*Erickson Krentel, LLP*  
Certified Public Accountants

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

|                                                 | <u>2023</u>          | <u>2022</u>         |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>ASSETS:</u></b>                           |                      |                     |
| Participant-directed investments at fair value: |                      |                     |
| Mutual funds                                    | \$ 10,014,149        | \$ 7,915,222        |
| Receivables:                                    |                      |                     |
| Employers' contributions                        | 23,935               | 24,795              |
| Participants' contributions                     | 6,758                | 2,165               |
| Notes receivable from participants              | <u>188,066</u>       | <u>49,844</u>       |
| Total receivables                               | <u>218,759</u>       | <u>76,804</u>       |
| Net assets available for benefits               | <u>\$ 10,232,908</u> | <u>\$ 7,992,026</u> |

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**ADDITIONS:**

Additions to net assets attributed to:

|                                                       |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Investment income:                                    |                  |
| Dividends                                             | \$ 362,295       |
| Net appreciation in fair value of investments         | 1,250,518        |
| Other income                                          | <u>752</u>       |
| Total investment gain                                 | <u>1,613,565</u> |
| Interest income on notes receivable from participants | <u>7,268</u>     |
| Contributions:                                        |                  |
| Participants'                                         | 548,472          |
| Employer's                                            | 115,397          |
| Rollovers                                             | <u>336,285</u>   |
| Total contributions                                   | <u>1,000,154</u> |
| Total additions                                       | <u>2,620,987</u> |

**DEDUCTIONS:**

Deductions from net assets attributed to:

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Benefits paid to participants | 366,365          |
| Administrative expenses       | <u>13,740</u>    |
| Total deductions              | <u>380,105</u>   |
| Net increase in net assets    | <u>2,240,882</u> |

**NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:**

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Beginning of year | <u>7,992,026</u>            |
| End of year       | <u><u>\$ 10,232,908</u></u> |

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

**(1) DESCRIPTION OF PLAN**

The following description of ESS Retirement Savings Plan (“the Plan”) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

**General**

The Plan, sponsored by Employer Support Services, Inc., is a multiple-employer defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of nine related employers (“Employers”): The Clear Fork Hospice Group, LLC; H+B Industry, LLC; Armstrong McCall; Aquapersions North America, Ltd.; Delta College, Inc.; Employer Support Services, Inc.; ITI Technical College, Inc.; Kleinpeter Physical Therapy; and Wedge Kyes Import Specialties, Inc. The merged assets of the individual plans totaling \$9,431,767 were transferred into this Plan on December 31, 2021 and the Plan was amended and restated effective January 1, 2022. The Plan was amended again effective December 1, 2023 to include a new feature for the employers’ discretionary contributions. See below under Contributions.

Under the provisions of the Plan, employees who have completed one (1) year of service (1,000 hours) and have attained 18 years of age are eligible to participate in the Plan. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

**Contributions**

Employees electing to participate in this Plan may contribute up to 80% of their compensation, not to exceed the maximum allowable amount under the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are invested according to the participants’ fund election. The Plan provides for matching contributions by the employer that is determined by each individual employer within the Plan. Effective December 1, 2023, the employers may also make other discretionary contributions, which includes non-elective contributions by group, where each participant is a group.

**Participant Accounts**

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, the employer's contributions, and an allocated portion of the Plan's earnings and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based upon participant account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

**(1) DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (CONTINUED)**

**Notes Receivable from Participants**

Participants may borrow from their accounts a maximum of 50% of the account balance, not to exceed \$50,000. The loans are collateralized by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates ranging from 4.25% to 9.50%, which are commensurate with current prevailing rates as determined quarterly by the Plan Administrator. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. Participants who fail to make payments when they are due under the terms of the loan are considered to be in default. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, no loans were considered to be in default.

**Vesting**

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions and qualified employer contributions plus actual earnings on these contributions.

Effective January 1, 2022, vesting in the employer's matching and discretionary contributions is based on the following vesting schedule:

| <u>Full Years<br/>of Service</u> | <u>Percentage Vested</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0 - 1                            | 0%                       |
| 1                                | 25%                      |
| 2                                | 50%                      |
| 3                                | 75%                      |
| 4                                | 100%                     |

Effective December 1, 2023, vesting in the employer's non-elective contributions is based on the following vesting schedule:

| <u>Full Years<br/>of Service</u> | <u>Percentage Vested</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0 - 2                            | 0%                       |
| 2                                | 20%                      |
| 3                                | 40%                      |
| 4                                | 60%                      |
| 5                                | 80%                      |
| 6                                | 100%                     |

**Payment of Benefits**

Upon termination of service, participants are entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to the value of their vested account balance.

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

**(1) DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (CONTINUED)**

**Forfeited Accounts**

If a participant terminates his employment with the employer before becoming entitled to his full benefits under the Plan, the non-vested portion of his account is forfeited and may be used first to pay administrative expenses incurred by the Plan and then to be used to reduce employer contributions to the Plan. In 2023, forfeited amounts were not used to reduce plan expenses.

**(2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting, and investments are valued at current fair value as quoted in active markets. All assets of the Plan are participant directed.

**Use of Estimates**

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

**Payment of Benefits**

Benefits are recorded when paid.

**Investment Valuation and Income Recognition**

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Shares of mutual funds, common stock, and the money market account are valued at quoted market prices which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Net appreciation or depreciation in the fair value of investments is calculated based on the changes in market values from the beginning of the period to the end of the period. See Note 3 for a discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on the trade-date basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net investment gain of investments includes gains and losses on investments sold during the year as well as appreciation and depreciation of the investments held at the end of the year.

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

**(2) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

Fees for certain transactions, such as withdrawals and loan processing, are charged directly to the account of the participant reporting such a transaction and are included in administrative expenses. Investment-related expenses are included in the net investment gain from investments.

**Notes Receivable from Participants**

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are charged directly to the borrowing participant's account and are included in administrative expenses when incurred. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based on the terms of the Plan document.

**Date of Management's Review**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through February 1, 2025, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

**(3) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

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

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy consists of three broad levels: Level 1 inputs consist of unadjusted quoted prices in the active markets for identical assets and have the highest priority, Level 2 inputs consist of observable inputs other than quoted prices for identical assets, and Level 3 inputs consist of unobservable inputs and have the lowest priority. The Plan uses appropriate valuation techniques based on the available inputs to measure the fair value of its investments. When available, the Plan measures the fair value using Level 1 inputs because they generally provide the most reliable evidence of the fair value.

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

**(3) FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**Level 1 Fair Value Measurements**

The fair value of mutual funds is based on quoted net asset values of the shares held by the Plan at year end.

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

|                           | 2023          |           |           | Total         |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
|                           | (Level 1)     | (Level 2) | (Level 3) |               |
| Mutual funds              | \$ 10,014,149 | \$ -      | \$ -      | \$ 10,014,149 |
| Investments at fair value | \$ 10,014,149 | \$ -      | \$ -      | \$ 10,014,149 |

  

|                           | 2022         |           |           | Total        |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
|                           | (Level 1)    | (Level 2) | (Level 3) |              |
| Mutual funds              | \$ 7,915,222 | \$ -      | \$ -      | \$ 7,915,222 |
| Investments at fair value | \$ 7,915,222 | \$ -      | \$ -      | \$ 7,915,222 |

Gains and losses included in changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023 are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

**(4) PLAN TERMINATION**

Although they have not expressed any intent to do so, the sponsor has the right under the Plan to discontinue their contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

**(5) RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Plan provides for various investment options in any combination of mutual funds with registered investment companies. The funds are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with mutual funds, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of the funds will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

**(6) TAX STATUS**

Management has analyzed the Plan's tax positions taken on Federal income tax returns for all open tax years (current and prior three years) and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023, no provision for income tax is required in the Plan's financial statements. The Plan's Federal tax return for tax years for which the applicable statutes of limitations have not expired are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Plan has adopted a prototype plan which received a favorable determination from the Internal Revenue Service on June 30, 2020. The Plan itself has not separately applied for recognition of tax-exempt status. However, the Plan administrator believes 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.

On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 was enacted, encompassing a suite of retirement provisions colloquially termed "SECURE 2.0." This legislative package builds upon the foundational reforms introduced by the 2019 SECURE Act, with a central aim of expanding participation in the retirement ecosystem and enhancing avenues for asset accumulation. The provisions set forth by SECURE 2.0 will be progressively effective from 2023 onwards.

The Act presents a blend of mandatory and elective provisions. Plan and Company management will evaluate and decide upon the elective components in alignment with the Plan's objectives and the best interests of participants and the Company. As of the report date, the Plan has not been formally amended to incorporate the provisions of SECURE 2.0. However, the Plan is operating in compliance with all mandatory elements as prescribed by the Act.

**(7) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Certain plan investments are held and managed by American Funds, an affiliate of Capital Bank and Trust Company. Since Capital Bank and Trust Company is the Plan trustee, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Fees incurred by the Plan for the investment management services are included in the net investment gain, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment. The Company may also directly pay other fees related to the Plan's operations. All of these party-in-interest transactions are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA.

**(8) INFORMATION PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY TRUSTEE**

As pursuant to CFR 2520.103-8, the Plan qualified for an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit in 2023 and 2022. Information relating to investment assets, investment transactions, and investment earnings was certified as complete and accurate by the Trustee, Capital Bank and Trust Company, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

**(8) INFORMATION PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY TRUSTEE (CONTINUED)**

The following information included in the accompanying financial statements was obtained from data that has been prepared and certified to as complete and accurate by the Trustee.

|                                                              | <u>2023</u>         | <u>2022</u>  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| <u>Participant directed investments at fair value:</u>       |                     |              |
| Mutual funds                                                 | \$ 10,014,149       | \$ 7,915,222 |
| <u>Receivables:</u>                                          |                     |              |
| Notes receivable from participants                           | \$ 188,066          | \$ 49,844    |
| <u>Investment activity:</u>                                  |                     |              |
| Interest and dividends                                       | \$ 362,295          |              |
| Net appreciation in fair value of investments                | <u>1,250,518</u>    |              |
| Total investment income                                      | <u>\$ 1,612,813</u> |              |
| <u>Interest income on notes receivable from participants</u> | <u>\$ 7,268</u>     |              |

In addition, all information included in Schedule "1" Schedule of Assets (Held at Year End) has been certified as complete and accurate by the trustee.

**(9) DELINQUENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

As disclosed in the accompanying supplemental schedule during 2023, certain employee deferrals totaling \$64,956 were not remitted to the Plan within the timeframe required by the Department of Labor. The Companies will remit the related lost earnings to the affected participant accounts into the Plan.

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**Employer Identification Number: 72-1311962**  
**Plan Number: 333**  
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i)  
SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT YEAR END)  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

| (A) | (B)                               | (C)                                            | (D)  | (E)                  |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------|
|     | Issuer                            | Investment<br>Description                      | Cost | Current<br>Value     |
|     |                                   | <b><u>Mutual Funds:</u></b>                    |      |                      |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Money Market                                   | **   | \$ 466,647           |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2010 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 23,831               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2015 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 34,170               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2020 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 102,705              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2025 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 430,182              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2030 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 422,394              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2035 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 721,319              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2040 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 512,781              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2045 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 218,389              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2050 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 270,529              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2055 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 128,555              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2060 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 72,632               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2065 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 12,783               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Europacific Growth Fund                        | **   | 34,271               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Growth Fund of America                         | **   | 1,817,677            |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | U.S. Government Securities Fund                | **   | 165,570              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Investment Company of America                  | **   | 664,866              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | American Balanced Fund                         | **   | 98,415               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Washington Mutual Investors Fund               | **   | 466,644              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Income Fund of America                         | **   | 107,391              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Interim Bond Fund of America                   | **   | 3,853                |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Global Balanced Fund                           | **   | 60,108               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Bond Fund of America                           | **   | 27,166               |
|     | BlackRock Investments, LLC        | Mid-Cap Growth Equity Portfolio Investor       | **   | 501,667              |
|     | BlackRock Investments, LLC        | International Opportunities Portfolio Investor | **   | 220,257              |
|     | BlackRock Investments, LLC        | Technology Opportunities Fund Investor         | **   | 230,187              |
|     | ClearBridge Investments, LLC      | Dividend Strategy Fund                         | **   | 414,455              |
|     | Invesco                           | Global Opportunities Fund                      | **   | 20,929               |
|     | Invesco                           | Main Street Mid Cap Fund                       | **   | 500,939              |
|     | MFS Investment Management         | Value Class Fund                               | **   | 434,091              |
|     | MFS Investment Management         | Total Return Fund                              | **   | 112,211              |
|     | Franklin Templeton Investments    | Global Bond Fund                               | **   | 7,649                |
|     | Franklin Templeton Investments    | Growth Fund, Inc.                              | **   | <u>708,886</u>       |
|     |                                   | Total mutual funds                             |      | <u>10,014,149</u>    |
|     | Participant loans                 | Interest rates ranging from 4.25% - 9.50%      |      | <u>188,066</u>       |
|     |                                   | Total assets held for investment purposes      |      | <u>\$ 10,202,215</u> |

\* Party-in-interest

\*\* Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments and therefore is not included.

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**Employer Identification Number: 72-1311962**  
**Plan Number: 333**  
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(a)  
**SCHEDULE OF DELINQUENT PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS**  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

| Plan<br>Year | Participant contributions transferred<br>late to plan                                               | Total that constitute nonexempt prohibited transactions |                                         |                                                | Total fully<br>corrected<br>VFCP and<br>PTE 2002-51 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|              | Check here if late participant loan<br>repayments are included: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Contributions not<br>corrected                          | Contributions Corrected<br>Outside VFCP | Contributions<br>pending correction in<br>VFCP |                                                     |
| 2023         | \$ 64,956                                                                                           | \$ 64,956                                               | \$ -                                    | \$ -                                           | \$ -                                                |
| 2022         | 249,972                                                                                             | -                                                       | 249,972                                 | -                                              | -                                                   |
| Total        | <u>\$ 314,928</u>                                                                                   | <u>\$ 64,956</u>                                        | <u>\$ 249,972</u>                       | <u>\$ -</u>                                    | <u>\$ -</u>                                         |

**See Independent Auditors' Report**

**Multiple Employer Plan Participating Employer Information**

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN 72-1311962,333**

|                                                      |            |        |                |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------|----------------|
| Wedge Kyes Import Specialties, Inc                   | 72-1122087 | 2.46%  | \$424,345.52   |
| Reinschmidt Enterprises Inc. dba<br>Armstrong McCall | 76-0702227 | 12.26% | \$498,479.12   |
| ITI Technical College, Inc.                          | 72-1203201 | 26.68% | \$3,423,532.54 |
| Delta College etal                                   | 72-1214962 | 21.46% | \$2,629,727.44 |
| Kleinpeter Physical Therapy                          | 72-1472756 | 7.95%  | \$1,511,112.29 |
| Employer Support Services                            | 72-1311962 | 1.66%  | \$635,952.66   |
| Clear Fork Hospice Group, LLC                        | 46-3168577 | 22.94% | \$153,906.86   |
| H & B Industry, LLC                                  | 47-0938201 | .07%   | \$253.72       |
| Aquaspersions North America, Ltd                     | 88-4064470 | 4.96%  | \$327,106.10   |
|                                                      |            |        |                |
|                                                      |            |        |                |

**ESS RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
**Employer Identification Number: 72-1311962**  
**Plan Number: 333**  
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i)  
SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT YEAR END)  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

| (A) | (B)                               | (C)                                            | (D)  | (E)                  |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------|
|     | Issuer                            | Investment<br>Description                      | Cost | Current<br>Value     |
|     |                                   | <b><u>Mutual Funds:</u></b>                    |      |                      |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Money Market                                   | **   | \$ 466,647           |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2010 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 23,831               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2015 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 34,170               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2020 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 102,705              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2025 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 430,182              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2030 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 422,394              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2035 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 721,319              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2040 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 512,781              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2045 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 218,389              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2050 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 270,529              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2055 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 128,555              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | 2060 Target Date Fund                          | **   | 72,632               |
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| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Europacific Growth Fund                        | **   | 34,271               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Growth Fund of America                         | **   | 1,817,677            |
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| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Investment Company of America                  | **   | 664,866              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | American Balanced Fund                         | **   | 98,415               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Washington Mutual Investors Fund               | **   | 466,644              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Income Fund of America                         | **   | 107,391              |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Interim Bond Fund of America                   | **   | 3,853                |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Global Balanced Fund                           | **   | 60,108               |
| *   | American Funds Distributors, Inc. | Bond Fund of America                           | **   | 27,166               |
|     | BlackRock Investments, LLC        | Mid-Cap Growth Equity Portfolio Investor       | **   | 501,667              |
|     | BlackRock Investments, LLC        | International Opportunities Portfolio Investor | **   | 220,257              |
|     | BlackRock Investments, LLC        | Technology Opportunities Fund Investor         | **   | 230,187              |
|     | ClearBridge Investments, LLC      | Dividend Strategy Fund                         | **   | 414,455              |
|     | Invesco                           | Global Opportunities Fund                      | **   | 20,929               |
|     | Invesco                           | Main Street Mid Cap Fund                       | **   | 500,939              |
|     | MFS Investment Management         | Value Class Fund                               | **   | 434,091              |
|     | MFS Investment Management         | Total Return Fund                              | **   | 112,211              |
|     | Franklin Templeton Investments    | Global Bond Fund                               | **   | 7,649                |
|     | Franklin Templeton Investments    | Growth Fund, Inc.                              | **   | <u>708,886</u>       |
|     |                                   | Total mutual funds                             |      | <u>10,014,149</u>    |
|     | Participant loans                 | Interest rates ranging from 4.25% - 9.50%      |      | <u>188,066</u>       |
|     |                                   | Total assets held for investment purposes      |      | <u>\$ 10,202,215</u> |

\* Party-in-interest

\*\* Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments and therefore is not included.