

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

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan HICKORY SPRINGS EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2009
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) HICKORY SPRINGS MANUFACTURING COMPANY 235 SECOND AVE., NW HICKORY, NC 28603
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-0494395
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 828-328-2201
2d	Business code (see instructions) 332900

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.	05/01/2025	KATHERINE VERBECK
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 2813
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1) 2165 6a(2) 1927 6b 11 6c 380 6d 2318 6e 6 6f 2324 6g(1) 1404 6g(2) 1143 6h
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

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

b General Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

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

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

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

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

A Name of plan HICKORY SPRINGS EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HICKORY SPRINGS MANUFACTURING COMPANY	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-0494395

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

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(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)

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
37 60 64 65	RECORDKEEPER	89616	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

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

CAPFINANCIAL PARTNERS, LLC

26-0058143

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
49	OTHER SERVICES	30756	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

FORVIS MAZARS, LLP

44-0160260

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
49	OTHER SERVICES	20900	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

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

WILLIS TOWERS WATSON US LLC

53-0181291

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
49	OTHER SERVICES	18811	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

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

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(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.	
JPM MIDCAP VALUE L - DST ASSET MAN 430 W 7TH STREET STE 219432 KANSAS CITY, MO 64105	0.15%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	FORVIS, LLP	b EIN:	44-0160560
c Position:	AUDITOR		
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation: WE HAVE THE SAME AUDITOR, THEY HAVE UPDATED THEIR NAME.

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

a Name:		b EIN:	
c Position:			
d Address:		e Telephone:	

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan HICKORY SPRINGS EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HICKORY SPRINGS MANUFACTURING COMPANY	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-0494395

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MFS LRG CAP VALUE CT

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): GREAT GRAY TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 38-4139822-616	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 4496178
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NT ACWI EX-US INDEX

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST INVESTMENTS, INC.

c EIN-PN 45-6138589-223	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 77852
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NT AGGREG BOND INDEX

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST INVESTMENTS, INC.

c EIN-PN 45-6138589-088	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 241907
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NT EXT EQ MKT IDX

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST INVESTMENTS, INC.

c EIN-PN 45-6138589-110	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 299516
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NT S&P 500 INDEX

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST INVESTMENTS, INC.

c EIN-PN 45-6138589-002	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 8887610
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MIP CL 2

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): FIDELITY MANAGEMENT TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN 04-3022712-024	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 9832053
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)

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

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

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan HICKORY SPRINGS EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HICKORY SPRINGS MANUFACTURING COMPANY	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-0494395	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		
1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.			
	Assets	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	12576	8155
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	957334	1192276
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	23812871	23835116
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	38807404	45594345
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	63590185	70629892
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h Operating payables	1h	0	0
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	63590185	70629892

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	1678012	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	3493629	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	561731	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		5733372
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	304	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	66242	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		66546
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	2402914	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		2402914
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		2714313
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		4768780
c Other income	2c		0
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		15685925

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	8482958	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		8482958
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		0
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		3178
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	300	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	89316	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)	0	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	0	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)	0	
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)	0	
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)	0	
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)	0	
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)	0	
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	70466	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		160082
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		8646218

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		7039707
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		0
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		0

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: **FORVIS MAZARS, LLP**

(2) EIN: **44-0160260**

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

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

Part IV Compliance Questions

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

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		☒	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		5000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.		☒	

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan HICKORY SPRINGS EMPLOYEES 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HICKORY SPRINGS MANUFACTURING COMPANY	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-0494395	

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

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 04-6568107	
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	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
---------	--

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

Part III	Amendments
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9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
---	--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
---------	--

10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No	
21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).	
☐ Design-based safe harbor method	
☐ "Prior year" ADP test	
☒ "Current year" ADP test	
☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>06 / 30 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q702438A</u> .	



Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan

EIN 56-0494395 PN 003

**Independent Auditor's Report, Financial Statements,
and Supplemental Schedule**

December 31, 2023 and 2022



Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
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December 31, 2023 and 2022

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Independent Auditor's Report

Retirement Committee
Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Hickory, North Carolina

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's ("DOL") Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

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

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

Basis for Opinion on the Financial Statements

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that these financial statements are available to be issued.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

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

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

Other Matter – Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

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

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Forvis Mazars, LLP

**Winston-Salem, North Carolina
April 30, 2025**

Federal Employer Identification Number: 44-0150260

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value	\$ 70,031,124	\$ 63,491,483
Notes receivable from participants	<u>1,294,683</u>	<u>1,060,224</u>
Net Assets Available for Benefits	<u><u>\$ 71,325,807</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 64,551,707</u></u>

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions

Investment Income

Interest and dividends	\$ 2,607,376
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	<u>7,013,809</u>

Total Investment Income	<u>9,621,185</u>
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Interest Income on Notes Receivable from Participants	<u>71,898</u>
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Contributions

Participant	3,493,629
Company	1,678,012
Rollovers	<u>561,731</u>

Total Contributions	<u>5,733,372</u>
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Total Additions	<u>15,426,455</u>
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Deductions

Benefits paid to participants	8,492,273
Administrative expenses	<u>160,082</u>

Total Deductions	<u>8,652,355</u>
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Net Change	6,774,100
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Net Assets Available for Benefits, Beginning of Year	<u>64,551,707</u>
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Net Assets Available for Benefits, End of Year	<u><u>\$ 71,325,807</u></u>
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Note 1. Description of Plan

The following description of the Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company and Subsidiaries (the "Company"). The Plan covers all employees who have completed 1 month of employment and attained 18 years of age. The Retirement Committee of the Company controls and manages the operations and administration of the Plan. Fidelity Management Trust Company ("Fidelity") serves as the trustee of the Plan (the "trustee"). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

Contributions

Participants are eligible to contribute between 1% and 75% of their pre-tax or after-tax annual compensation, as defined by the Plan, subject to Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") limitations. Participants eligible for catch-up contributions are eligible to contribute up to 100% of their pre-tax or after-tax annual compensation. Participants who have attained age 50 and are contributing the maximum allowable contributions before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants also make Roth after-tax contributions and may contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. The Company makes safe harbor matching contributions equal to 100% of the first 3% of base compensation that a participant contributed to the Plan and 50% of a participant's contributions in excess of 3%, but not greater than 5% of a participant's compensation. The Company may also make discretionary matching contributions each Plan year. The Company elected not to make any discretionary matching contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023. Contributions are subject to certain limitations.

Investment Options

Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan offers a variety of mutual funds, a money market fund, and common collective trust funds as investment options for participants.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of the Company's contributions and plan earnings (losses), and charged with benefit payments, transaction fees related to notes receivable from participants and distributions, and allocations of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or 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.

**Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022**

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions, the Company's matching contributions, and actual earnings thereon. Prior profit-sharing contributions for participants transferring in from the Atlanta Attachment Company 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan vest based on the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vested Percentage</u>
Less than 1	0%
1	0%
2	20%
3	40%
4	60%
5 or more	100%

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000, or 50% of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest based on current rates available from commercial lending institutions for similar loans. At December 31, 2023, outstanding loans bore interest rates between 4.25% and 9.50%, with various maturities through April 2029. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Benefit Payments

On termination of service due to death, disability, or retirement, a participant or beneficiary may elect to receive an amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account in either a lump-sum amount, in installments under a systematic withdrawal plan, or as a partial withdrawal. Participants are also entitled to withdraw all or a portion of their vested account balance upon attaining age 59½. A participant with a balance equal to or greater than \$1,000, who terminates prior to retirement, may elect to hold their benefit in the Plan until age 72. In certain hardship situations, as described in the plan document, participants may withdraw part of their vested account balance.

Forfeitures

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$2,399 and \$278, respectively. These accounts will be used to pay administrative expenses or to reduce future Company contributions. During 2023, forfeitures of \$8,089 were used pay administrative expenses.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets, liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

**Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022**

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Plan management determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the trustee. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

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

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the plan document.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded upon distribution.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan's administrative expenses are paid either by the Plan or the Company, as provided by the plan document. Certain administrative functions are performed by employees of the Company. No such employee receives compensation from the Plan. Expenses relating to specific participant transactions (such as distributions and loans) are charged directly to the participant's account.

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through April 30, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 3. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value, as defined under GAAP, is an exit price representing 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. GAAP establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include:

- Level 1** Observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets.
- Level 2** Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that is either directly or indirectly observable.
- Level 3** Unobservable inputs about which little or no market data exists, therefore, requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Plan's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment and may affect the valuation of fair value assets and liabilities, and their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels.

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

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

Mutual Funds and Money Market Fund

Mutual funds and money market funds are publicly traded investments and are valued daily at the closing price reported on the active market on which the funds are traded.

Common Collective Trust Funds

These funds are valued at the net asset value ("NAV") of units of the collective funds as determined by the trustee. The NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. This practical expedient would not be used if it is determined to be probable that the funds will sell the investments for an amount different from the reported net asset value. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. The common collective trust funds are not required to be classified within a level on the fair value hierarchy.

The following tables set forth by level within the fair value hierarchy the Plan's assets accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31:

	2023			
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mutual funds and money market fund	\$ 45,602,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,602,500
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 45,602,500</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	45,602,500
Investments measured at net asset value ^(A)				<u>24,428,624</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 70,031,124</u>

	2022			
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mutual funds	\$ 38,819,980	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,819,980
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 38,819,980</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	38,819,980
Investments measured at net asset value ^(A)				<u>24,671,503</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 63,491,483</u>

(A) In accordance with Topic 820, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

The following table summarizes investments for which fair value is measured using the NAV per share practical expedient as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. There are no participant redemption restrictions for these investments; the redemption notice period is applicable only to the Plan.

	<u>Fair Value at December 31, 2023</u>	<u>Fair Value at December 31, 2022</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Other Redemption Restrictions</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Managed Income Portfolio Class II	\$ 10,425,561	\$ 12,719,544	None	Daily	N/A
ACQI ex-US Index	77,852	40,584	None	Daily	N/A
Aggregate Bond Index Fund	241,907	267,135	None	Daily	N/A
Extended Equity Market Index Fund	299,516	178,455	None	Daily	N/A
S&P 500 Index	8,887,610	6,963,973	None	Daily	N/A
Large Cap Value Ct	4,496,178	4,501,812	None	Daily	N/A

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future 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.

Note 4. Unaudited Investment Information Certified by Trustee

The accompanying financial statements include the following unaudited information as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, that was obtained from data prepared and certified to be complete and accurate by the Plan's trustee.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Investments	\$ <u>70,031,124</u>	\$ <u>63,491,483</u>
Notes receivable from participants	\$ <u>1,294,683</u>	\$ <u>1,060,224</u>
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	\$ <u>7,013,809</u>	
Interest and dividend income	\$ <u>2,607,376</u>	
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	\$ <u>71,898</u>	

The certification mentioned above includes all investment information discussed in Note 3.

Note 5. Plan Termination

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

Note 6. Exempt Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are managed by Fidelity, the trustee as defined by the Plan, and therefore these transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Plan to Fidelity for the investment management services and recordkeeping services amounted to \$89,616 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Note 7. Tax Status

The Plan has not obtained a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") stating that the Plan was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. The Plan is relying on the IRS approval of the Volume Submitter Profit Sharing Plan with CODA that it is utilizing. The IRS has determined and informed the volume submitter plan sponsor by a letter dated June 30, 2020, that the volume submitter plan document was designed in accordance with applicable provisions of the IRC. The Plan has been amended since receiving the opinion letter. However, the plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IRC. Therefore, the plan administrator believes that the Plan was qualified and the related trust was tax exempt as of the financial statement date.

GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authorities. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 8. Risks and Uncertainties

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

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 9. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The Form 5500 has been prepared using the fair value of the underlying investments held by collective trust investments managed by the trustee, instead of using NAV as the practical expedient to estimate fair value (see Note 3). The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2023 and 2022 to Schedule H of Form 5500:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 71,325,807	\$ 64,551,707
Adjustment from NAV to fair value for common collective trust investments	(593,508)	(858,632)
Deemed defaulted loans	<u>(102,407)</u>	<u>(102,890)</u>
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$ 70,629,892</u>	<u>\$ 63,590,185</u>

The following is a reconciliation of the change in the net assets available for benefits per the accompanying 2023 financial statements to net income per Schedule H of Form 5500:

Net change in net assets per the financial statements	\$ 6,774,100
Change in deemed defaulted loans	483
Change in adjustment from NAV to fair value of common collective trust investments	<u>265,124</u>
Net income per Form 5500	<u>\$ 7,039,707</u>

Supplemental Schedule

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
EIN 56-0494395 PN 003
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Date	(d) Cost**	(e) Current Value
Mutual Funds				
	American Funds	EuroPacific Growth Fund R6		\$ 2,520,147
	Carillon	Eagle Mid Cap Growth Fund R6		6,826,048
	JP Morgan	Mid Cap Value Fund L		1,280,178
	MFS	International Value R6		1,667,215
	MainStay	Winslow Large Cap Growth R6		5,896,748
	PGIM	Total Return Bond R6		2,467,825
	Vanguard	Explorer ADM		2,487,533
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2065		88,874
	Vanguard	Target Retirement Income		3,766,182
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2020		1,495,803
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2025		3,956,043
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030		4,733,321
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035		3,168,865
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2040		1,622,106
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2045		1,029,015
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050		1,055,230
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2055		657,471
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2060		337,824
	Victory	Sycamore SMCO Opportunity R6		537,917
Common Collective Trust Funds				
*	Fidelity	Managed Income Portfolio Class 2		9,832,053
	Northern Trust	ACWI ex-US Index		77,852
	Northern Trust	Aggregate Bond Index Fund		241,907
	Northern Trust	Extended Equity Market Index Fund		299,516
	Northern Trust	S&P 500 Index		8,887,610
	MFS	Large Cap Value Ct		4,496,178
Money Market Fund				
*	Fidelity	Government Money Market Fund		8,155
*	Participant Loans***	Interest-bearing at 4.25% - 9.50%, maturing through April 2029		1,192,276
				<u><u>\$ 70,629,892</u></u>

* Indicates party in interest.

** Cost information omitted for participant-directed investments.

*** The accompanying financial statements classify participant loans as notes receivable from participants.



Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan

EIN 56-0494395 PN 003

**Independent Auditor's Report, Financial Statements,
and Supplemental Schedule**

December 31, 2023 and 2022



Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
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December 31, 2023 and 2022

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Independent Auditor's Report

Retirement Committee
Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Hickory, North Carolina

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's ("DOL") Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

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

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

Basis for Opinion on the Financial Statements

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that these financial statements are available to be issued.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

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

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

Other Matter – Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

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

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Forvis Mazars, LLP

**Winston-Salem, North Carolina
April 30, 2025**

Federal Employer Identification Number: 44-0150260

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
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Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions

Investment Income

Interest and dividends	\$ 2,607,376
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	<u>7,013,809</u>

Total Investment Income 9,621,185

Interest Income on Notes Receivable from Participants 71,898

Contributions

Participant	3,493,629
Company	1,678,012
Rollovers	<u>561,731</u>

Total Contributions 5,733,372

Total Additions 15,426,455

Deductions

Benefits paid to participants	8,492,273
Administrative expenses	<u>160,082</u>

Total Deductions 8,652,355

Net Change 6,774,100

Net Assets Available for Benefits, Beginning of Year 64,551,707

Net Assets Available for Benefits, End of Year \$ 71,325,807

Note 1. Description of Plan

The following description of the Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company and Subsidiaries (the "Company"). The Plan covers all employees who have completed 1 month of employment and attained 18 years of age. The Retirement Committee of the Company controls and manages the operations and administration of the Plan. Fidelity Management Trust Company ("Fidelity") serves as the trustee of the Plan (the "trustee"). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

Contributions

Participants are eligible to contribute between 1% and 75% of their pre-tax or after-tax annual compensation, as defined by the Plan, subject to Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") limitations. Participants eligible for catch-up contributions are eligible to contribute up to 100% of their pre-tax or after-tax annual compensation. Participants who have attained age 50 and are contributing the maximum allowable contributions before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants also make Roth after-tax contributions and may contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. The Company makes safe harbor matching contributions equal to 100% of the first 3% of base compensation that a participant contributed to the Plan and 50% of a participant's contributions in excess of 3%, but not greater than 5% of a participant's compensation. The Company may also make discretionary matching contributions each Plan year. The Company elected not to make any discretionary matching contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023. Contributions are subject to certain limitations.

Investment Options

Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan offers a variety of mutual funds, a money market fund, and common collective trust funds as investment options for participants.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of the Company's contributions and plan earnings (losses), and charged with benefit payments, transaction fees related to notes receivable from participants and distributions, and allocations of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or 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.

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
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Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions, the Company's matching contributions, and actual earnings thereon. Prior profit-sharing contributions for participants transferring in from the Atlanta Attachment Company 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan vest based on the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vested Percentage</u>
Less than 1	0%
1	0%
2	20%
3	40%
4	60%
5 or more	100%

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000, or 50% of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest based on current rates available from commercial lending institutions for similar loans. At December 31, 2023, outstanding loans bore interest rates between 4.25% and 9.50%, with various maturities through April 2029. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Benefit Payments

On termination of service due to death, disability, or retirement, a participant or beneficiary may elect to receive an amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account in either a lump-sum amount, in installments under a systematic withdrawal plan, or as a partial withdrawal. Participants are also entitled to withdraw all or a portion of their vested account balance upon attaining age 59½. A participant with a balance equal to or greater than \$1,000, who terminates prior to retirement, may elect to hold their benefit in the Plan until age 72. In certain hardship situations, as described in the plan document, participants may withdraw part of their vested account balance.

Forfeitures

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$2,399 and \$278, respectively. These accounts will be used to pay administrative expenses or to reduce future Company contributions. During 2023, forfeitures of \$8,089 were used pay administrative expenses.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets, liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

**Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
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Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Plan management determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the trustee. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

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

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the plan document.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded upon distribution.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan's administrative expenses are paid either by the Plan or the Company, as provided by the plan document. Certain administrative functions are performed by employees of the Company. No such employee receives compensation from the Plan. Expenses relating to specific participant transactions (such as distributions and loans) are charged directly to the participant's account.

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through April 30, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 3. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value, as defined under GAAP, is an exit price representing 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. GAAP establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include:

- Level 1** Observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets.
- Level 2** Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that is either directly or indirectly observable.
- Level 3** Unobservable inputs about which little or no market data exists, therefore, requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Plan's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment and may affect the valuation of fair value assets and liabilities, and their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels.

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

Mutual Funds and Money Market Fund

Mutual funds and money market funds are publicly traded investments and are valued daily at the closing price reported on the active market on which the funds are traded.

Common Collective Trust Funds

These funds are valued at the net asset value ("NAV") of units of the collective funds as determined by the trustee. The NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. This practical expedient would not be used if it is determined to be probable that the funds will sell the investments for an amount different from the reported net asset value. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. The common collective trust funds are not required to be classified within a level on the fair value hierarchy.

The following tables set forth by level within the fair value hierarchy the Plan's assets accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31:

	2023			
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mutual funds and money market fund	\$ 45,602,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,602,500
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 45,602,500</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	45,602,500
Investments measured at net asset value ^(A)				<u>24,428,624</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 70,031,124</u>

	2022			
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mutual funds	\$ 38,819,980	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,819,980
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 38,819,980</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	38,819,980
Investments measured at net asset value ^(A)				<u>24,671,503</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 63,491,483</u>

(A) In accordance with Topic 820, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

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The following table summarizes investments for which fair value is measured using the NAV per share practical expedient as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. There are no participant redemption restrictions for these investments; the redemption notice period is applicable only to the Plan.

	<u>Fair Value at December 31, 2023</u>	<u>Fair Value at December 31, 2022</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Other Redemption Restrictions</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Managed Income Portfolio Class II	\$ 10,425,561	\$ 12,719,544	None	Daily	N/A
ACQI ex-US Index	77,852	40,584	None	Daily	N/A
Aggregate Bond Index Fund	241,907	267,135	None	Daily	N/A
Extended Equity Market Index Fund	299,516	178,455	None	Daily	N/A
S&P 500 Index	8,887,610	6,963,973	None	Daily	N/A
Large Cap Value Ct	4,496,178	4,501,812	None	Daily	N/A

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future 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.

Note 4. Unaudited Investment Information Certified by Trustee

The accompanying financial statements include the following unaudited information as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, that was obtained from data prepared and certified to be complete and accurate by the Plan's trustee.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Investments	\$ <u>70,031,124</u>	\$ <u>63,491,483</u>
Notes receivable from participants	\$ <u>1,294,683</u>	\$ <u>1,060,224</u>
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	\$ <u>7,013,809</u>	
Interest and dividend income	\$ <u>2,607,376</u>	
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	\$ <u>71,898</u>	

The certification mentioned above includes all investment information discussed in Note 3.

Note 5. Plan Termination

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

Note 6. Exempt Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are managed by Fidelity, the trustee as defined by the Plan, and therefore these transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Plan to Fidelity for the investment management services and recordkeeping services amounted to \$89,616 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Note 7. Tax Status

The Plan has not obtained a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") stating that the Plan was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. The Plan is relying on the IRS approval of the Volume Submitter Profit Sharing Plan with CODA that it is utilizing. The IRS has determined and informed the volume submitter plan sponsor by a letter dated June 30, 2020, that the volume submitter plan document was designed in accordance with applicable provisions of the IRC. The Plan has been amended since receiving the opinion letter. However, the plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IRC. Therefore, the plan administrator believes that the Plan was qualified and the related trust was tax exempt as of the financial statement date.

GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authorities. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 8. Risks and Uncertainties

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

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
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Note 9. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The Form 5500 has been prepared using the fair value of the underlying investments held by collective trust investments managed by the trustee, instead of using NAV as the practical expedient to estimate fair value (see Note 3). The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2023 and 2022 to Schedule H of Form 5500:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 71,325,807	\$ 64,551,707
Adjustment from NAV to fair value for common collective trust investments	(593,508)	(858,632)
Deemed defaulted loans	<u>(102,407)</u>	<u>(102,890)</u>
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$ 70,629,892</u>	<u>\$ 63,590,185</u>

The following is a reconciliation of the change in the net assets available for benefits per the accompanying 2023 financial statements to net income per Schedule H of Form 5500:

Net change in net assets per the financial statements	\$ 6,774,100
Change in deemed defaulted loans	483
Change in adjustment from NAV to fair value of common collective trust investments	<u>265,124</u>
Net income per Form 5500	<u>\$ 7,039,707</u>

Supplemental Schedule

Hickory Springs Employees 401(k) Plan
EIN 56-0494395 PN 003
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Date	(d) Cost**	(e) Current Value
Mutual Funds				
	American Funds	EuroPacific Growth Fund R6		\$ 2,520,147
	Carillon	Eagle Mid Cap Growth Fund R6		6,826,048
	JP Morgan	Mid Cap Value Fund L		1,280,178
	MFS	International Value R6		1,667,215
	MainStay	Winslow Large Cap Growth R6		5,896,748
	PGIM	Total Return Bond R6		2,467,825
	Vanguard	Explorer ADM		2,487,533
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2065		88,874
	Vanguard	Target Retirement Income		3,766,182
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2020		1,495,803
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2025		3,956,043
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030		4,733,321
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035		3,168,865
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2040		1,622,106
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2045		1,029,015
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050		1,055,230
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2055		657,471
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2060		337,824
	Victory	Sycamore SMCO Opportunity R6		537,917
Common Collective Trust Funds				
*	Fidelity	Managed Income Portfolio Class 2		9,832,053
	Northern Trust	ACWI ex-US Index		77,852
	Northern Trust	Aggregate Bond Index Fund		241,907
	Northern Trust	Extended Equity Market Index Fund		299,516
	Northern Trust	S&P 500 Index		8,887,610
	MFS	Large Cap Value Ct		4,496,178
Money Market Fund				
*	Fidelity	Government Money Market Fund		8,155
*	Participant Loans***	Interest-bearing at 4.25% - 9.50%, maturing through April 2029		1,192,276
				<u><u>\$ 70,629,892</u></u>

* Indicates party in interest.

** Cost information omitted for participant-directed investments.

*** The accompanying financial statements classify participant loans as notes receivable from participants.