

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 <h1 style="text-align: center;">2023</h1> 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 11/01/2023 and ending 10/31/2024

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) _____

B This return/report is: the first return/report the final return/report

an amended return/report a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

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

D Check box if filing under: Form 5558 automatic extension the DFVC program

special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan <u>HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>002</u>
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC.</u> <u>8900 WEST TOWER AVENUE</u> <u>MILWAUKEE, WI 53224</u>	1c Effective date of plan <u>11/01/2014</u> 2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>39-0342040</u> 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>414-354-2411</u> 2d Business code (see instructions) <u>335900</u>

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

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

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	07/18/2025	TOM LAUER
	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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	233
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)	209
	6a(2)	215
	6b	0
	6c	16
	6d	231
	6e	1
	6f	232
	6g(1)	221
6g(2)	232	
6h	10	
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2I 2P 2Q 3I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 11/01/2023 and ending 10/31/2024	
A Name of plan HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 39-0342040

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	2038	84098
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	8456398	9482755
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	8458436	9566853
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h	2038	638
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	3739330	3475849
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	3741368	3476487
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	4717068	6090366

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)	200000	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		200000
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	3128	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		3128
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	525456	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C)	2b(2)(D)		525456
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	1026358	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		1754942

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	269464	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		269464
f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		112180
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances.....	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		0
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		381644

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		1373298
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP

(2) EIN: 41-0746749

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.)		X	
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.)		X	
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.)		X	
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.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
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?		X	
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?		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
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.)		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
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) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 11/01/2023 and ending 10/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>39-0342040</u>	

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

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	<u>0</u>
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): <u>33-6134835</u>		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

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

Part III	Amendments
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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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

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

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

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

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

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

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment.....

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

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment.....

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
 High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
 0-5 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? Yes No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:
 Yes.
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. Other. Provide explanation.....

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? Yes No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).
 Design-based safe harbor method
 "Prior year" ADP test
 "Current year" ADP test
 N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ___/___/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.

**HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
ERISA-REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE**

**AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024**



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**HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
TABLE OF CONTENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024**

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT	1
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	4
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	5
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	6
ERISA-REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE (ATTACHMENT TO FORM 5500)	
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i—SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)	14



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Plan Administrators
Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of October 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended October 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of October 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended October 31, 2024, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

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

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

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

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

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of October 31, 2024 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
July 14, 2025

HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

	2024			2023		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
ASSETS						
CASH	\$ 84,098	\$ -	\$ 84,098	\$ 2,039	\$ -	\$ 2,039
INVESTMENTS (AT ESTIMATED FAIR VALUE)						
Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. Common Stock	4,879,877	4,602,878	9,482,755	3,978,554	4,477,843	8,456,397
Total Assets	4,963,975	4,602,878	9,566,853	3,980,593	4,477,843	8,458,436
LIABILITIES						
NOTE PAYABLE	-	3,475,849	3,475,849	-	3,739,330	3,739,330
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES PAYABLE	638	-	638	2,038	-	2,038
Total Liabilities	638	3,475,849	3,476,487	2,038	3,739,330	3,741,368
NET ASSETS						
AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$ 4,963,337</u>	<u>\$ 1,127,029</u>	<u>\$ 6,090,366</u>	<u>\$ 3,978,555</u>	<u>\$ 738,513</u>	<u>\$ 4,717,068</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024**

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
ADDITIONS:			
Net Appreciation in Estimated Fair Value of Investments	\$ 482,879	\$ 543,479	\$ 1,026,358
Interest Income	3,128	-	3,128
Dividend Income	247,216	278,240	525,456
Employer Contributions	102,579	97,421	200,000
Allocation of 10,835 Shares of Employer Common Stock at Estimated Fair Value	418,444	-	418,444
Total Additions	<u>1,254,246</u>	<u>919,140</u>	<u>2,173,386</u>
DEDUCTIONS:			
Distributions to Participants	269,464	-	269,464
Interest Expense	-	112,180	112,180
Administrative Expense	-	-	-
Allocation of 10,835 Shares of Employer Common Stock at Estimated Fair Value	-	418,444	418,444
Total Deductions	<u>269,464</u>	<u>530,624</u>	<u>800,088</u>
NET INCREASE	984,782	388,516	1,373,298
Net Assets Available for Benefits - Beginning of Year	<u>3,978,555</u>	<u>738,513</u>	<u>4,717,068</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 4,963,337</u>	<u>\$ 1,127,029</u>	<u>\$ 6,090,366</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024

NOTE 1 DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership 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 an employee stock ownership plan executed on October 29, 2015, with an effective date of November 1, 2014, which allows employees to share in the ownership of Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. (the Company). The Plan is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC), as amended, and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Plan is designed to invest primarily in the stock of the Company. However, the Plan may contain other investments.

On November 20, 2015, the Plan purchased 2,670 voting shares of the Company's common stock with a loan of \$6,591,030. On November 21, 2015, the Company declared a stock split in which the 2,670 shares purchased increased to 245,540. As the Plan makes each payment of principal and interest, an appropriate percentage of stock is allocated to eligible employees' accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the IRC.

The loan is collateralized by the unallocated shares of common stock and is guaranteed by the Company. The lender has no rights against shares of common stock once they are allocated to participants in accordance with the terms of the ESOP. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan as of October 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended October 31, 2024, present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to:

- (a) the accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated common stock (Allocated) and
- (b) common stock not yet allocated to employees (Unallocated).

Eligibility

Employees of the Company are generally eligible to participate within the Plan on the first day of the Plan year quarter beginning at least 12 months after employment, providing they worked at least 1,000 hours during such period and have attained 18 years of age. Participants who do not have at least 1,000 hours during such period or are not employed on the last working day of the Plan year are generally not eligible to receive an allocation of Company contributions for such year, unless they terminated employment due to reaching normal retirement age. A year of service will include years in which the employee completed at least 1,000 hours of service with the Company during a Plan year.

**HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 1 DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (CONTINUED)

Contributions

For each Plan year, the Company may make contributions to the Plan in either cash, Company stock, dividends, or other property that is acceptable to the trustee. The amount of contributions is determined annually by the Company's Board of Directors and is subject to limitations established by the IRC. To the extent the Plan has obligations outstanding for exempt loans, the Company is obligated to make contributions to the Plan equal to the amount necessary for the Plan to pay its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest.

Terminated Participants

Included in net assets available for benefits are amounts allocated to individuals who have elected to take a distribution from the Plan, including diversifications allowed by the Plan to other qualified retirement plans, but have not yet been paid. Vested plan assets allocated to these participants were \$125,689 at October 31, 2024.

Participant Accounts

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each participant. Each participant's account is credited as of the last day of each Plan year with an allocation of shares of the Company's common stock released by the trustee from the unallocated account and forfeitures of terminated participants' nonvested accounts. Only those participants who are eligible employees of the Company as of the last day of the Plan year will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation, relative to total eligible compensation, as defined. Plan earnings or losses are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's account balance. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided by the participant's account.

Vesting

Vesting of participant's accounts is based on years of credited service with the Company. A participant's account becomes fully vested after six years of credited service with the Company, under a graded vesting schedule. A participant is fully vested upon reaching normal retirement age, death, or permanent disability.

Voting Rights

In general, the trustee shall vote the Company stock held as part of Plan assets as directed by the independent fiduciary or by the administrator. The trustee shall vote 10% of the Company Stock using the trustee's own discretion, and for the remaining 90%, the trustee shall vote as directed jointly by the other shareholders.

In certain circumstances, such as: approval or disapproval of any corporate merger or consolidation, recapitalization, reclassification, liquidation, dissolution, sale of substantially all assets of the business, or similar transaction as provided by in the treasury regulations, each participant or beneficiary is entitled to direct the independent fiduciary and trustee as to the manner in which such shares shall be voted.

**HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 1 DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (CONTINUED)

Put Option

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

Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Company stock into investments that are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a six-year period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25% of the number of shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50%. Participants who elect to diversify may receive a cash distribution, transfer the diversified amount to the Company's 401(k) plan, or redeem the diversified stock and invest the proceeds among one or more of at least three investment options.

Payment of Benefits

On termination of service, a participant may receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, or annual installments over a period not longer than five years. Separated employees with balances less than \$5,000 will receive a mandatory distribution.

The amount to be distributed is based upon the most recent valuation date. Due to the Company being structured as an S corporation, all distributions are made in cash.

Forfeited Accounts

Plan forfeitures are allocated to each participant's account based upon the relation of the participant's compensation to total compensation for the Plan year. Forfeitures of terminated nonvested account balances allocated to remaining participants at October 31, 2024 were \$23,575. There were no balances in forfeited nonvested accounts at October 31, 2024 and 2023.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

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

**HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Use of Estimates

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

Allocations

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

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The shares of Company common stock are valued at estimated fair value. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are reported on the average cost method. 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.

Benefit Payments

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

As provided in the Plan document, administrative expenses may be paid either by the Plan or by the Company. The Company has historically paid the majority of the operating expenses for the Plan.

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through July 14, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 INVESTMENTS

The Plan's investment in Company securities consists of 245,540 shares of the outstanding common stock of Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. The estimated fair market value, as determined by independent appraisal as of October 31, 2024 and 2023, was \$38.62 and \$34.44 per share, respectively.

HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024

NOTE 3 INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

During 2024, 10,835 shares were released and allocated to participants.

The Plan's investment at October 31 is presented in the following table:

	2024		2023	
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>
Helwig Carbon Products, Inc. Common Shares:				
Number of Shares	<u>126,356</u>	<u>119,184</u>	<u>115,521</u>	<u>130,019</u>
Cost	<u>\$ 6,436,586</u>	<u>\$ 6,071,222</u>	<u>\$ 5,363,640</u>	<u>\$ 6,036,782</u>
Estimated Fair Value	<u>\$ 4,879,877</u>	<u>\$ 4,602,878</u>	<u>\$ 3,978,554</u>	<u>\$ 4,477,843</u>

NOTE 4 FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS

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

Level 1 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, such as:

- quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

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

Level 3 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair market value measurement.

HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024

NOTE 4 FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the valuation methodologies used at October 31, 2024 and 2023.

Company Common Stock – The common stock of the Company is valued at estimated fair value. Estimated fair market value for the Company common stock is determined by an independent third-party appraisal as there is no established market for this stock. ESI Equity performed the independent appraisals as of October 31, 2024 and 2023. The valuations were based primarily on the application of methodologies that are commonly used and accepted within the financial and appraisal community. These included a discounted cash flow analysis, which involves developing future cash flow projections and determining their present value. The appraised value is discounted to reflect marketability of the Company stock.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of October 31:

	2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Company Common Stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,482,755	\$ 9,482,755
	2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Company Common Stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,456,397	\$ 8,456,397

The following table sets forth a summary of certain changes in the fair value of the Plan's Level 3 assets for the year ended October 31, 2024:

	Company Common Stock
Purchases	\$ -
Issuances	-
Transfers In	-
Transfers Out	-

**HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024**

NOTE 5 NOTE PAYABLE

In November 2015, the Plan entered into a \$6,591,030 term loan agreement with the Company. The proceeds of the loan were used to purchase the Company's common stock. Unallocated shares are collateral for the loan. Shares are released from collateral and allocated to participants as payments of principal and interest are made. The Plan has a note payable related to the purchase of Company stock on October 31 as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Note payable to the Company, due in annual principal and interest payments of \$375,661, interest fixed at 3.0%, due October 31, 2035	<u>\$ 3,475,849</u>	<u>\$ 3,739,330</u>

While the Company reserves the right to change the amounts and the timing of contributions to the Plan, the scheduled amortization of the Plan's loan and related Plan contributions for the next five years are as follows:

<u>Year Ending October 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$ 271,385
2026	279,527
2027	287,913
2028	296,550
2029	305,447
Thereafter	<u>2,035,027</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,475,849</u>

NOTE 6 PLAN TERMINATION

The Company reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions. Upon such termination of the Plan, the interest of each participant in the trust fund will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the IRC. Upon termination of the Plan, the Board of Directors shall direct the trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the trust fund and to sell shares of financed stock held in the loan suspense account to the extent it determines such a sale to be necessary in order to repay the loan. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2024

NOTE 7 PLAN TAX STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined and informed the Company, by a letter dated August 2, 2017, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, they believe that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require 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 IRS. 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 investments consist primarily of the Company's common stock, which is exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows and/or other such techniques. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumption process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

NOTE 9 RELATED PARTY AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

The Plan holds 245,540 shares of the outstanding common stock of the Company, the sponsoring employer, as of October 31, 2024 and 2023. All transactions between the Company, the trustee, and the participants are considered party-in-interest transactions.

The Plan has a note payable to the Company and receives dividends from the Company.

Certain employees and officers of the Plan Sponsor, who are also participants in the Plan, perform administrative services to the Plan at no cost to the Plan.

All of these party-in-interest transactions are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA.

HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
E.I.N. 39-0342040 PLAN NO. 002
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i—SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
OCTOBER 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	Cost	Current Value	
*	Helwig Carbon Products, Inc.	Common Stock 245,540 Shares Allocated - 126,356 Unallocated - 119,184	\$ 6,436,586 <u>6,071,222</u>	\$ 4,879,877 <u>4,602,878</u>
		<u>\$ 12,507,808</u>	<u>\$ 9,482,755</u>	

(a) * *Designates party-in-interest*



CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP) is a network member of CLA Global. See CLAGlobal.com/disclaimer. Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor.

HELWIG CARBON PRODUCTS, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
E.I.N. 39-0342040 PLAN NO. 002
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i—SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
OCTOBER 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	Cost	Current Value	
*	Helwig Carbon Products, Inc.	Common Stock 245,540 Shares Allocated - 126,356 Unallocated - 119,184	\$ 6,436,586 <u>6,071,222</u>	\$ 4,879,877 <u>4,602,878</u>
		<u>\$ 12,507,808</u>	<u>\$ 9,482,755</u>	

(a) * *Designates party-in-interest*