

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

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- 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.) [x] 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: [x] 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: STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 001
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/1990
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): STEL, INC.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 22-2360739
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 716-366-7792
2d Business code (see instructions): 813000
715 CENTRAL AVENUE
DUNKIRK, NY 14048

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

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

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

<b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	<b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN	
	<b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number	
<b>4</b> If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: <b>a</b> Sponsor's name <b>c</b> Plan Name	<b>4b</b> EIN	
	<b>4d</b> PN	
<b>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<b>5</b>	171
<b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ). <b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year ..... <b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year ..... <b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... <b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits ..... <b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> ..... <b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. .... <b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> ..... <b>g(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>g(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>h</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<b>6a(1)</b>	116
	<b>6a(2)</b>	110
	<b>6b</b>	3
	<b>6c</b>	50
	<b>6d</b>	163
	<b>6e</b>	0
	<b>6f</b>	163
	<b>6g(1)</b>	161
	<b>6g(2)</b>	159
<b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item) .....	<b>7</b>	

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

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

<b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	<b>9b</b> 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)

<b>a Pension Schedules</b>	<b>b General Schedules</b>
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>R</b> (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>H</b> (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MB</b> (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I</b> (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SB</b> (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A</b> (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>0</u>
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DCG</b> (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>C</b> (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MEP</b> (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>D</b> (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>G</b> (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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**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.

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**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 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

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

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<b>SCHEDULE C</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Service Provider Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

<b>A</b> Name of plan <b>STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<b>001</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>STEL, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>22-2360739</b>	

**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

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

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

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

P&A RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES, INC

6400 MAIN STREET  
SUITE 210  
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

16-1533601

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13 15 37 50 64 65	NONE	15482	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

(b) 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

(b) 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

**Part I Service Provider Information (continued)**

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

<b>(a)</b> Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	<b>(b)</b> Service Codes (see instructions)	<b>(c)</b> Enter amount of indirect compensation
<b>(d)</b> Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	<b>(e)</b> Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
<b>(a)</b> Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	<b>(b)</b> Service Codes (see instructions)	<b>(c)</b> Enter amount of indirect compensation
<b>(d)</b> Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	<b>(e)</b> Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
<b>(a)</b> Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	<b>(b)</b> Service Codes (see instructions)	<b>(c)</b> Enter amount of indirect compensation
<b>(d)</b> Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	<b>(e)</b> 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.

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

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

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

<b>SCHEDULE H</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Financial Information</b>  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).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning <b>01/01/2024</b> and ending <b>12/31/2024</b>	
<b>A</b> Name of plan <b>STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) <b>▶</b> <b>001</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>STEL, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>22-2360739</b>

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Asset and Liability Statement</b>
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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
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash .....	<b>1a</b>	20722	1134
<b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
<b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....	<b>1b(1)</b>	231882	43132
<b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....	<b>1b(2)</b>	0	0
<b>(3)</b> Other .....	<b>1b(3)</b>	0	0
<b>c</b> General investments:			
<b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....	<b>1c(1)</b>	0	0
<b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....	<b>1c(2)</b>	0	0
<b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(3)(A)</b>	0	0
<b>(B)</b> All other .....	<b>1c(3)(B)</b>	0	0
<b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(4)(A)</b>	0	0
<b>(B)</b> Common .....	<b>1c(4)(B)</b>	0	0
<b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....	<b>1c(5)</b>	0	0
<b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....	<b>1c(6)</b>	0	0
<b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....	<b>1c(7)</b>	0	0
<b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....	<b>1c(8)</b>	145147	115302
<b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....	<b>1c(9)</b>	0	0
<b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....	<b>1c(10)</b>	0	0
<b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....	<b>1c(11)</b>	0	0
<b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>1c(12)</b>	0	0
<b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>1c(13)</b>	3204884	3668139
<b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) .....	<b>1c(14)</b>	0	0
<b>(15)</b> Other .....	<b>1c(15)</b>	0	0

<b>1d</b> Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	<b>1d(1)</b>	0	0
(2) Employer real property.....	<b>1d(2)</b>	0	0
<b>e</b> Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	<b>1e</b>	0	0
<b>f</b> Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	<b>1f</b>	3602635	3827707
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>g</b> Benefit claims payable.....	<b>1g</b>	0	0
<b>h</b> Operating payables.....	<b>1h</b>	0	0
<b>i</b> Acquisition indebtedness.....	<b>1i</b>	0	0
<b>j</b> Other liabilities.....	<b>1j</b>	0	0
<b>k</b> Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	<b>1k</b>	0	0
<b>Net Assets</b>			
<b>l</b> Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	<b>1l</b>	3602635	3827707

**Part II Income and Expense Statement**

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

<b>Income</b>		(a) Amount	(b) Total
<b>a Contributions:</b>			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: <b>(A)</b> Employers.....	<b>2a(1)(A)</b>	43132	
<b>(B)</b> Participants.....	<b>2a(1)(B)</b>	0	
<b>(C)</b> Others (including rollovers).....	<b>2a(1)(C)</b>	0	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	<b>2a(2)</b>	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines <b>2a(1)(A)</b> , <b>(B)</b> , <b>(C)</b> , and line <b>2a(2)</b> .....	<b>2a(3)</b>		43132
<b>b Earnings on investments:</b>			
<b>(1) Interest:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	<b>2b(1)(A)</b>	0	
<b>(B)</b> U.S. Government securities.....	<b>2b(1)(B)</b>	0	
<b>(C)</b> Corporate debt instruments.....	<b>2b(1)(C)</b>	0	
<b>(D)</b> Loans (other than to participants).....	<b>2b(1)(D)</b>	0	
<b>(E)</b> Participant loans.....	<b>2b(1)(E)</b>	9759	
<b>(F)</b> Other.....	<b>2b(1)(F)</b>	0	
<b>(G)</b> Total interest. Add lines <b>2b(1)(A)</b> through <b>(F)</b> .....	<b>2b(1)(G)</b>		9759
<b>(2) Dividends:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred stock.....	<b>2b(2)(A)</b>	0	
<b>(B)</b> Common stock.....	<b>2b(2)(B)</b>	0	
<b>(C)</b> Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	<b>2b(2)(C)</b>	98069	
<b>(D)</b> Total dividends. Add lines <b>2b(2)(A)</b> , <b>(B)</b> , and <b>(C)</b> .....	<b>2b(2)(D)</b>		98069
<b>(3)</b> Rents.....	<b>2b(3)</b>		
<b>(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Aggregate proceeds.....	<b>2b(4)(A)</b>	0	
<b>(B)</b> Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	<b>2b(4)(B)</b>	0	
<b>(C)</b> Subtract line <b>2b(4)(B)</b> from line <b>2b(4)(A)</b> and enter result.....	<b>2b(4)(C)</b>		
<b>(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Real estate.....	<b>2b(5)(A)</b>	0	
<b>(B)</b> Other.....	<b>2b(5)(B)</b>	0	
<b>(C)</b> Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines <b>2b(5)(A)</b> and <b>(B)</b> .....	<b>2b(5)(C)</b>		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts .....	<b>2b(6)</b>		0
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts .....	<b>2b(7)</b>		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts .....	<b>2b(8)</b>		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>2b(9)</b>		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>2b(10)</b>		356467
<b>c</b> Other income .....	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b> Total income. Add all <b>income</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	<b>2d</b>		507427

**Expenses**

<b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	<b>2e(1)</b>	263833	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits .....	<b>2e(2)</b>	0	
(3) Other.....	<b>2e(3)</b>	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines <b>2e(1)</b> through <b>(3)</b> .....	<b>2e(4)</b>		263833
<b>f</b> Corrective distributions (see instructions) .....	<b>2f</b>		0
<b>g</b> Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	<b>2g</b>		3040
<b>h</b> Interest expense.....	<b>2h</b>		0
<b>i</b> Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances .....	<b>2i(1)</b>	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees .....	<b>2i(2)</b>	6380	
(3) Recordkeeping fees .....	<b>2i(3)</b>	9102	
(4) IQPA audit fees .....	<b>2i(4)</b>	0	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees .....	<b>2i(5)</b>	0	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees .....	<b>2i(6)</b>	0	
(7) Actuarial fees .....	<b>2i(7)</b>	0	
(8) Legal fees .....	<b>2i(8)</b>	0	
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees .....	<b>2i(9)</b>	0	
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses .....	<b>2i(10)</b>	0	
(11) Other expenses.....	<b>2i(11)</b>	0	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines <b>2i(1)</b> through <b>(11)</b> .....	<b>2i(12)</b>		15482
<b>j</b> Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	<b>2j</b>		282355

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

<b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line <b>2j</b> from line <b>2d</b> .....	<b>2k</b>		225072
<b>l</b> Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	<b>2l(1)</b>		0
(2) From this plan .....	<b>2l(2)</b>		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: JOHN S TRUSSALO CPA P.C.

(2) EIN: 16-1506673

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

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

**Part IV Compliance Questions**

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

During the plan year:

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

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

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

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

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

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

<b>SCHEDULE R</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Retirement Plan Information</b>  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).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>STEL, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>22-2360739</u>	

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Distributions</b>
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**All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.**

<b>1</b> Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
---	---	---

**2** Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):  
 EIN(s): 75-3182674

**Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.**

<b>3</b> Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year .....	3	
--	---	--

<b>Part II</b>	<b>Funding Information</b> (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.**

<b>6 a</b> Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) .....	6a	
<b>b</b> Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year .....	6b	
<b>c</b> 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

<b>Part III</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
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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

<b>Part IV</b>	<b>ESOPs</b> (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:

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

**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:

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

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

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

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

**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 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q703912A.

*Financial Statements*

***STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN***

***DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023***

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**

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# JOHN S. TRUSSALO

*Certified Public Accountant, P.C.*

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## *Independent Auditor's Report*

To the Plan Trustees and Participants  
STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan  
Dunkirk, New York

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

I have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan, an employee benefits 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, 2024 and 2023, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

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

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

### *Opinion*

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

**Basis for Opinion**

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

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are 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 my report, my 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 my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect 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 judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, I:

- Exercise professional judgement 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.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Cont'd)**

- 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 STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution 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 my judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

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

I am 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 I identified during the audit.

**Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA**


The supplemental Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2024 and Schedule of Delinquent Participant Loan Remittances for the year ended December 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 included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, I compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming my opinion of the supplemental schedules, I evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

**Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA (Cont'd)**

In my opinion

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

 CPA P.C.

**JOHN S. TRUSSALO, CPA, P.C.**  
**Jamestown, New York**  
**October 1, 2025**

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**  
**STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
Investments, at fair value:		
Registered investment companies	\$ 3,668,139	\$ 3,204,884
Non-interest bearing cash	<u>1,134</u>	<u>20,722</u>
Total investments, at fair value	<u>3,669,273</u>	<u>3,225,606</u>
Receivable:		
Employer contribution	43,076	231,882
Qualified non-elective contribution	<u>56</u>	<u>-</u>
Total receivable	<u>43,132</u>	<u>231,882</u>
Notes receivable from participants	<u>115,302</u>	<u>145,147</u>
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,827,707</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,602,635</u></b>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>2024</u>
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>	
Additions to net assets attributed to:	
Investment income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 356,467
Dividends and interest	98,069
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	9,759
Contributions - Employer	<u>43,132</u>
Total additions	<u>507,427</u>
<b>DEDUCTIONS:</b>	
Deductions from net assets attributed to:	
Benefits paid to participants	263,833
Certain deemed distribution of participant loans	3,040
Administrative expenses	<u>15,482</u>
Total deductions	<u>282,355</u>
Net increase	225,072
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:</b>	
Beginning of year	<u>3,602,635</u>
End of year	<u><b>\$3,827,707</b></u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN**

The following description of the STEL, Inc. Employer Contribution Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants and users of the financial statements should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

**General**

The Plan is a qualified retirement plan commonly referred to as a profit sharing plan covering all eligible employees of Southern Tier Environments For Living, Inc. who have completed one year of service, completed 1,000 hours of service, and attained age 21. The Entry Date to the Plan will be the first day of the plan year or the first day of the seventh month of the plan year coinciding with or next following the date the eligibility requirements are satisfied. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Board of Trustees oversees governance of the Plan.

**Contributions to the Plan**

Participants may not contribute to the Plan. Plan contributions consist solely of employer discretionary profit sharing contributions which are excluded from the participants gross income for federal income tax purposes. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers various mutual funds as investment options for participants.

**Participant Accounts**

Each participant's account is credited with allocations of (a) the Company's contributions and (b) Plan earnings (losses), and charged with an allocation 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.

**Vesting**

Vesting in the Company's contribution is based upon years of continuous service. Participants become vested as follows:

<b><u>Years of Vesting Service</u></b>	<b><u>Vesting %</u></b>
Less than One year	0%
One year but less than Two years	0%
Three years but less than Four years	50%
Four years but less than Five years	100%
Five years but less than Six years	100%
Six or More years	100%

**Notes Receivable From Participants**

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts up to a maximum of \$50,000 or 50% of the vested account balance. The minimum loan is \$1,000. Any expense of setting up the loan is charged to the participant. Loan terms range from 1 to 5 years. The notes are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rates ranging from 5.25% to 10.50%, which are commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined quarterly by the Plan administrator. Principal and interest is paid ratably in accordance with a definite repayment schedule not to exceed the earlier of five years or the participant's normal retirement date.

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Cont'd)**

**Payment of Benefits**

Payment of benefits during active employment are not permitted with the exception of certain hardship cases as defined in the Plan document. Payment of benefits are distributed in a single lump sum in the event of retirement, death, termination of employment or total and permanent disability.

**Forfeitures**

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the balance of forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$615 and \$3,387, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, forfeited nonvested account activity follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Balance of forfeited nonvested accounts, beginning of year	\$ 3,387	\$ 1,781
Participant forfeitures	5,072	2,334
Investment earnings	325	125
Utilization:		
Reduce current year employer contribution	(7,957)	-
Reduce administration fees	(212)	(850)
Forfeiture account fees	-	(3)
<b>Balance of forfeited nonvested accounts, end of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 615</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,387</u></b>

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of Accounting**

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Investments held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**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. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest and dividends are recorded when received. Net appreciation includes the plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)**

**Notes Receivable from Participants**

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance. Interest income is recorded when received. Related fees are charged directly to the borrowing participant's account and are included in administrative expenses when incurred. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, no allowance for credit losses has been recorded. If a participant does not make loan repayments and the plan administrator considers the participant loan to be in default, the loan balance is reduced, and the delinquent participant note receivable is recorded as a benefit payment based on the terms of the Plan document.

**Excess Contributions Payable**

There were no excess contributions for the year ended December 31, 2024.

**Payment of Benefits**

Benefits are recorded when paid.

**Expenses**

The Plan is administered by Southern Tier Environments For Living, Inc. (the "Organization"). The Organization's powers and duties relate to submitting employee and employer contributions to the plan custodian, authorizing disbursements from the Plan and resolving any questions of Plan interpretation. The assets of the Plan are maintained and administered by Broadridge-Matrix Trust Company. Administrative expenses paid by the Plan are comprised of investment fees paid to the Plan custodian. The Company pays other administrative costs of the Plan, including the salaries, benefits and other costs involved in administering the Plan. Fees for the administration of notes receivable from participants are included in administrative expenses and charged directly to the participant's account.

**Date of Management's Review of Subsequent Events**

Subsequent events were evaluated through October 1, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 3 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

**Fair Value Measurements**

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

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy consists of three broad levels: Level 1 inputs consist of unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and have the highest priority, Level 2 inputs consist of observable inputs other than quoted prices for identical assets, and Level 3 inputs are unobservable and have the lowest priority. The Plan uses appropriate valuation techniques based on the available inputs to measure the fair value of its investments. When available, the Plan measures fair value using Level 1 inputs because they generally provide the most reliable evidence of fair value. No Level 2 or Level 3 inputs were available to the Plan.

**Level 1 Fair Value Measurements**

The fair value of mutual funds is based upon quoted net asset values of the shares held by the Plan at year end. The fair value of mutual funds are based on the closing price reported on the active market where the securities are traded.

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

		<b>Fair Value Measurements At the End of the Year Using: <i>Quoted Prices In Active Markets for Identical Assets</i></b>
<b><u>As of December 31, 2024</u></b>	<b><u>Fair Value</u></b>	<b><u>Level 1</u></b>
Registered Investment Companies	\$3,668,139	\$3,668,139
Non-interest bearing cash	1,134	1,134
	<u>\$3,669,273</u>	<u>\$3,669,273</u>
<b><u>As of December 31, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>Fair Value</u></b>	<b><u>Level 1</u></b>
Registered Investment Companies	\$3,204,884	\$3,204,884
Non-interest bearing cash	20,722	20,722
	<u>\$3,225,606</u>	<u>\$3,225,606</u>

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 4 - INFORMATION PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY PLAN CUSTODIAN**

Certain information related to investments disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, and net appreciation or depreciation in fair value of investments, was obtained or derived from information supplied to the plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by Broadridge-Matrix Trust Company, the plan custodian, as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Registered Investment Companies, at fair value	\$ 3,668,139	\$ 3,204,884
Non-interest bearing cash	<u>1,134</u>	<u>20,722</u>
	<u>\$ 3,669,273</u>	<u>\$ 3,225,606</u>
<b>2024</b>		
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 356,467	
Dividends, Registered investment companies	<u>98,069</u>	
Total investment income	<u>\$ 454,356</u>	

**NOTE 5 - NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM PARTICIPANTS**

For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the change in notes receivable from participants was comprised of the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Notes receivable from participants, beginning of year	\$ 145,147	\$ 146,761
Loan issuances	26,200	57,600
Loan principal repayments	(53,005)	(54,850)
Deemed distribution of participant loans	<u>(3,040)</u>	<u>(4,364)</u>
<b>Notes receivable from participants, end of year</b>	<u><b>\$ 115,302</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 145,147</b></u>

**NOTE 6 - PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS**

**P&A Retirement Plan Services, Inc.**

Plan administration fees paid to P&A Retirement Plan Services, Inc. totaled \$15,482 and \$14,893 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Revenue sharing reimbursement received by the Plan from P&A Retirement Plan Services, Inc. totaled \$0 and \$4,460 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

**Broadridge-Matrix Trust Company**

Broadridge-Matrix Trust Company, LLC served as the custodian of the Plan's investment assets as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. As custodian, Broadridge - Matrix Trust Company receives fees directly from the mutual funds held by the Plan.

**Notes Receivable from Participants**

Notes receivable from participants are party-in-interest transactions.

The aforementioned party-in-interest transactions are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA.

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 7 - PLAN TERMINATION**

Although it has not expressed any intention 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 set forth in ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their employer contributions.

**NOTE 8 - TAX STATUS**

The Plan was established using a prototype plan document. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a favorable opinion letter dated June 30, 2020 to the prototype sponsor stating that the plan document, as designed, is in compliance with the applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). An employer adopting a pre-approved plan may rely on the opinion letter, provided the plan is operated in accordance with the terms of the plan document and the employer's adoption agreement.

An employer adopting a prototype plan cannot rely on the opinion letter regarding whether the plan satisfies the non-discrimination and coverage requirements of IRC Section 401(a)(4) and 410(b). The employer is responsible for ensuring that the plan meets these requirements in operation.

The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the terms of the plan document and all applicable requirements of the IRC and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Therefore, no provision has been made for income taxes in the accompanying financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the plan administrator to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability for any uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan is subject to routine audits by tax authorities.

**NOTE 9 - RISK AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonable possible that changes in the value 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 statement of net assets available for benefits.

STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN  
EIN: 22-2360739  
Plan Number: 001  
Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)  
December 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	<u>Identity of Issuer, Borrower Lessor or Similar Party</u>	<u>Description of Investment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Current Value</u>
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2050	Mutual Fund		\$ 851,711
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2040	Mutual Fund		\$ 804,927
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2030	Mutual Fund		\$ 690,422
	Vanguard 500 Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 391,155
	Vanguard Target Retirement Income	Mutual Fund		\$ 180,018
	JP Morgan Large Cap Growth Select	Mutual Fund		\$ 161,746
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2025	Mutual Fund		\$ 87,455
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2020	Mutual Fund		\$ 80,966
	American Fund - Bond Fund of America	Mutual Fund		\$ 54,872
	Blackrock Equity Dividend Institutional	Mutual Fund		\$ 45,749
	Vanguard Developed Markets Index	Mutual Fund		\$ 43,513
	Vanguard Mid Cap Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 39,470
	Vanguard Small Cap Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 35,180
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2010	Mutual Fund		\$ 34,154
	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities	Mutual Fund		\$ 29,545
	T Rowe Price Retirement 2015	Mutual Fund		\$ 26,407
	Vanguard Real Estate Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 18,763
	Harbor Bond Institutional	Mutual Fund		\$ 17,442
	Vanguard Selected Value	Mutual Fund		\$ 16,193
	Vanguard Small Cap Growth Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 13,621
	Vanguard Small Cap Value Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 13,195
	Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund	Mutual Fund		\$ 11,628
	Vanguard International Growth - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 7,614
	Dodge & Cox International Stock	Mutual Fund		\$ 5,499
	American Fund - Capital World Bond	Mutual Fund		\$ 2,647
	T Rowe Price Capital Appreciation	Mutual Fund		\$ 2,330
	Goldman Sachs Mid-Cap Growth Opportunities	Mutual Fund		\$ 1,917
*	Matrix Trust Company	Non-interest bearing cash		\$ 1,134
				<u>\$ 3,669,273</u>
	* Notes receivable from Participants	Notes receivable from Participants rates at 5.25% to 10.50%		<u>\$ 115,302</u>

**Note:**

- \* Column (a) indicates a party-in-interest.  
Column (d) is not applicable as all investments are participant directed.

**STEL, INC. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PLAN**  
**EIN: 22-2360739**  
**Plan Number: 001**  
**Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)**  
**December 31, 2024**

(a) (b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
<u>Identity of Issuer, Borrower Lessor or Similar Party</u>	<u>Description of Investment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Current Value</u>
T Rowe Price Retirement 2050	Mutual Fund		\$ 851,711
T Rowe Price Retirement 2040	Mutual Fund		\$ 804,927
T Rowe Price Retirement 2030	Mutual Fund		\$ 690,422
Vanguard 500 Index - Admiral	Mutual Fund		\$ 391,155
Vanguard Target Retirement Income	Mutual Fund		\$ 180,018
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T Rowe Price Capital Appreciation	Mutual Fund		\$ 2,330
Goldman Sachs Mid-Cap Growth Opportunities	Mutual Fund		\$ 1,917
* Matrix Trust Company	Non-interest bearing cash		\$ 1,134
			<u>\$ 3,669,273</u>
* Notes receivable from Participants	Notes receivable from Participants rates at 5.25% to 10.50%		<u>\$ 115,302</u>

**Note:**

- \* Column (a) indicates a party-in-interest.  
Column (d) is not applicable as all investments are participant directed.