

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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.

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, a single-employer plan, a DFE, etc.
B This return/report is: the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report, etc.
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, etc.
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: CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 003
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/1993
2a Plan sponsor's name, mailing address, city or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 71-0657673
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 479-273-9472
2d Business code (see instructions): 541330

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

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

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>	167
<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>	132
	<b>6a(2)</b>	125
	<b>6b</b>	0
	<b>6c</b>	33
	<b>6d</b>	158
	<b>6e</b>	0
	<b>6f</b>	158
	<b>6g(1)</b>	158
<b>6g(2)</b>	158	
<b>6h</b>	23	
<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:  
20 3H

**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 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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**SCHEDULE H  
(Form 5500)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor  
Employee Benefits Security Administration  
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

**Financial Information**

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

**2024**

**This Form is Open to Public Inspection**

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

<b>A</b> Name of plan CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN		<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	003
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC.		<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) 71-0657673	

**Part I Asset and Liability Statement**

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

Assets	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
<b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash .....	169445	60285
<b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):		
<b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....	17072	311598
<b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....		
<b>(3)</b> Other .....	0	24988
<b>c</b> General investments:		
<b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....		
<b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....		
<b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):		
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....		
<b>(B)</b> All other .....		
<b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):		
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....		
<b>(B)</b> Common .....		
<b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....		
<b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....		
<b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....		
<b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....		
<b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....		
<b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....		
<b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....		
<b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....		
<b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	123103	128600
<b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) .....		
<b>(15)</b> Other .....		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	2354050	2973227
(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	2663670	3498698
<b>Liabilities</b>			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	0	0
<b>Net Assets</b>			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	2663670	3498698

**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
<b>a Contributions:</b>			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	380184	
(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)		380184
<b>b Earnings on investments:</b>			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(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)		0
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)	24988	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	5076	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C).....	2b(2)(D)		30064
(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)	619178	
(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 .....	<b>2b(6)</b>		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts .....	<b>2b(7)</b>		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts .....	<b>2b(8)</b>		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>2b(9)</b>		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>2b(10)</b>		422
<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>		1029848

**Expenses**

<b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers .....	<b>2e(1)</b>	194820	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits .....	<b>2e(2)</b>		
(3) Other .....	<b>2e(3)</b>		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines <b>2e(1)</b> through <b>(3)</b> .....	<b>2e(4)</b>		194820
<b>f</b> Corrective distributions (see instructions) .....	<b>2f</b>		
<b>g</b> Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions) .....	<b>2g</b>		
<b>h</b> Interest expense .....	<b>2h</b>		
<b>i</b> Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances .....	<b>2i(1)</b>		
(2) Contract administrator fees .....	<b>2i(2)</b>		
(3) Recordkeeping fees .....	<b>2i(3)</b>		
(4) IQPA audit fees .....	<b>2i(4)</b>		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees .....	<b>2i(5)</b>		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees .....	<b>2i(6)</b>		
(7) Actuarial fees .....	<b>2i(7)</b>		
(8) Legal fees .....	<b>2i(8)</b>		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees .....	<b>2i(9)</b>		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses .....	<b>2i(10)</b>		
(11) Other expenses .....	<b>2i(11)</b>		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines <b>2i(1)</b> through <b>(11)</b> .....	<b>2i(12)</b>		0
<b>j</b> Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total .....	<b>2j</b>		194820

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

<b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line <b>2j</b> from line <b>2d</b> .....	<b>2k</b>		835028
<b>l</b> Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan .....	<b>2l(1)</b>		
(2) From this plan .....	<b>2l(2)</b>		

**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: **HOGANTAYLOR, LLP**

(2) EIN: **73-1413977**

**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		1000000
<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>CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>003</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>71-0657673</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.**

**1** Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions..... 

1		0
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**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): 20-2733460

**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	
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<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.)
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**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) .....	<b>6a</b>	
<b>b</b> Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year .....	<b>6b</b>	
<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).....	<b>6c</b>	

**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.
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**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 Q702678A.

**CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC.  
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023,  
AND YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**WITH**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Participants, Audit Committee, and Trustees  
CEI Engineering Associates, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan

### Opinion

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

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 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 Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Emphasis of Matter – Investments

As discussed in Note 7, the financial statements include an investment representing 85% and 88% of total assets as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, whose fair value has been estimated by an independent appraisal, in the absence of readily ascertainable fair values, with the assistance of management and approved by the trustees. Because of the inherent uncertainty of the valuation, the estimated value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a market for the investment existed, and the difference could be material. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### 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 the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or available to be issued.

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

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

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

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

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

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 Information Required by ERISA**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental information, schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of 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 (DOL) 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 information, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

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

*Hogan Taylor LLP*

Fayetteville, Arkansas  
October 13, 2025

**CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

**STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**

**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash, noninterest bearing	\$ 60,285	\$ 169,445
Investments, at fair value:		
CEI Engineering Associates, Inc. common stock	2,973,227	2,354,050
Mutual fund	<u>128,600</u>	<u>123,103</u>
Total investments	3,101,827	2,477,153
Receivables:		
Employer contribution receivable	311,598	17,072
Dividends receivable	<u>24,988</u>	<u>-</u>
Total receivables	<u>336,586</u>	<u>17,072</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u><u>\$ 3,498,698</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,663,670</u></u>

**CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**

**Year ended December 31, 2024**

**Changes to net assets**

Investment income:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments

\$ 619,600

Dividend income

30,064

Net investment income

649,664

Employer contributions

380,184

Benefits paid to participants

(194,820)

Net increase

835,028

Net assets available for benefits:

Beginning of year

2,663,670

End of year

\$ 3,498,698

# CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024 and 2023

### Note 1 – Description of the Plan

CEI Engineering Associates, Inc. (the Company or Employer) sponsors the CEI Engineering Associates, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the Plan). The following description provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

#### General

The Company established the Plan effective January 1, 1993. The Plan operates as an employee stock ownership plan and a stock bonus plan established for the benefit of the Company's employees, except for employees under a collective bargaining agreement, leased employees, and nonresident alien employees. The Plan is designed to comply with Sections 4975(e)(7) and 401(a) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), as amended. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The Plan is administered by certain officers and directors of the Company who serve as the Plan's trustees. Recordkeeping services are provided by USI Insurance Services. The Plan's investment in the Company's common stock is held by the trustees of the Plan. Employer contributions are held by a financial institution and managed by the trustees. The trustees invest cash received and make distributions to participants.

The primary purpose of the Plan is to enable eligible employees of the Company to share in the growth and prosperity of the Company and to provide eligible employees with an opportunity to accumulate capital for their retirement needs.

#### Eligibility

Nonexcluded employees who have reached 21 years of age and have completed nine months of service are eligible to participate in the Plan. Participants are automatically enrolled in the Plan on the first day of the Plan year or the first day of July after satisfying eligibility requirements.

#### Contributions

Contributions to the Plan are discretionary and are determined each year by the Plan's trustees. Employer contributions are generally made to fund benefits paid to participants. Contributions are subject to certain limitations of the Code. Participant contributions are not permitted.

#### Participant accounts

Each participant's account is credited as of the last day of the Plan year with an allocation of shares of the Company's common stock, Employer contributions, Plan earnings, and forfeitures of terminated participants' nonvested accounts. Generally, only those participants who are eligible employees on the last day of the Plan year and have worked 1,000 hours during the Plan year will receive an allocation. Plan

earnings are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's beginning of the year account balance to all participants' beginning of the year account balances. Other allocations are based on the participant's eligible compensation, relative to total eligible compensation, as defined in the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

### Vesting

A participant will vest in the balance in his or her account based on years of service with the Company according to the following schedule:

<u>Years of service</u>	<u>Vesting percentage</u>
Less than two years	0%
Two, but less than three	20%
Three, but less than four	40%
Four, but less than five	60%
Five, but less than six	80%
Six years or more	100%

Participants automatically become 100% vested upon normal retirement (attainment of age 65), early retirement (attainment of age 55 after completion of ten years of service, as defined in the Plan document), disability, or death. Participants who terminate for any other reason are entitled to the vested amount of their accounts.

### Payment of benefits

Distributions from the Plan will not be made until a participant's retirement, termination, disability or death. In the event of a participant's death, payment shall be made to his or her beneficiary or, if none, his or her legal representatives. Distributions are based on the value of a participant's vested account balance as of the Plan year-end coinciding with or immediately preceding the date of actual distribution of Plan benefits. Distributions are payable in a lump sum or in periodic installments in accordance with Plan provisions and are generally made in cash; however, participants have the option to receive distributions in shares of Company common stock. Distributions are generally made subsequent to the Plan year in which the participant has a one-year break in service. Upon termination, automatic distributions are required for balances of less than \$5,000. Automatic distributions above \$1,000 made without the participant's consent are rolled into an individual retirement account designated by the trustees.

Under the provisions of the Plan, the Company has the option to repurchase shares which have been distributed under the terms of the Plan. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Company did not repurchase any shares from participants.

### Reshuffle

The Plan permits reshuffling of shares of Company common stock. Reshuffling will occur annually as of December 31. To fund the reshuffle, the Company contributes cash to the Plan, which is allocated to nonterminated participants based on the participant's eligible compensation, relative to total eligible compensation. The reshuffled Company common stock is then transferred to nonterminated participants in exchange for the cash in the account of each nonterminating participant. For the year ended December 31, 2024, the Company contributed \$294,526 to the Plan to fund the transfer of Company common stock subject to the reshuffle.

### Forfeitures

Forfeitures may be used to reinstate previously forfeited account balances, to reduce Employer contributions, to pay Plan administrative expenses, or to be reallocated among participants as an additional Employer contribution. The Plan had no unallocated forfeitures as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. For the year ended December 31, 2024, forfeitures in the amount of \$13,715 were reallocated among participants as an additional Employer contribution.

### Voting rights

Each participant is entitled to exercise voting rights for certain transactions, as described in the Plan document, for those shares allocated to each participant's account and is notified by the trustees prior to the time that such rights are to be exercised. If participants do not timely exercise their right to vote, the trustees will vote such Company common stock. The trustees are required to vote any shares on behalf of the collective best interest of Plan participants and their beneficiaries.

### Put option

Under federal income tax regulations, the Company common 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 common stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the fair market value of the common stock. The Company may 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 common stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least ten 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 the participant's account, less any shares previously diversified. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50%. The election to diversify is made subsequent to year-end based upon the shares of Company common stock in the participant's account at year-end. For the year ended December 31, 2024, there were no diversifications.

### Administrative expenses

The Plan allows certain administrative expenses to be paid from Plan assets.

## **Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Plan have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

### Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. 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. The trustees determine the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the appraiser and investment advisor. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are recorded on the average cost method.

### Contributions

Employer contributions are recorded once approved by the Plan's trustees for the respective Plan year.

### Payment of benefits

Benefit payments are recorded when paid. There were no benefits requested before year-end that were not paid.

### Subsequent events

The Plan administrator has evaluated subsequent events through October 13, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

## **Note 3 – Fair Value Measurements**

Accounting guidance provides a framework for measuring fair value and 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	Unadjusted quoted prices for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities in active markets that a plan has the ability to access.
Level 2	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; and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.
Level 3	Significant unobservable inputs.

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. There have been no changes in the methodologies used as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. During the year ended December 31, 2024, there were no transfers of financial instruments into or out of Level 3. Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

*Company common stock* – The fair value of Company common stock held by the Plan is determined based upon an independent appraisal. This appraisal is based upon the income valuation technique.

The appraiser utilizes a capitalization of cash flows method, which takes into account historical earnings and estimated earnings capacity, while also considering Company specific risks and long-term growth rates to estimate a total equity value, then discounted for lack of marketability. The valuation process involves the trustees' selection of an independent appraiser. Plan and Company management accumulate the data for the appraiser from the audited financial statements of the Company, as well as completing interviews with the appraisal team. The appraiser prepares a preliminary report, which Plan trustees review in detail, discuss and approve.

*Mutual fund* – Valued at quoted market price, which represents the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end.

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

Investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis consisted of the following types of instruments as of December 31:

	Fair value measurements as of December 31, 2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Company common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,973,227	\$ 2,973,227
Mutual fund	128,600	-	-	128,600
Total investments at fair value	\$ 128,600	\$ -	\$ 2,973,227	\$ 3,101,827

  

	Fair value measurements as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Company common stock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,354,050	\$ 2,354,050
Mutual fund	123,103	-	-	123,103
Total investments at fair value	\$ 123,103	\$ -	\$ 2,354,050	\$ 2,477,153

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

	Company common stock
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 2,354,050
Unrealized gains relating to instruments still held at the reporting date	619,177
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 2,973,227</u>
The amount of total gains or losses for the period included in changes in net assets attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at the reporting date	<u>\$ 619,177</u>

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

<u>Investment</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Company common stock:		
Number of shares	17,854	17,854
Cost	\$ 1,515,811	\$ 1,515,811
Fair value	\$ 2,973,227	\$ 2,354,050

#### **Note 4 – Related Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions**

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers and employees of the Company. No officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan for these services. Certain administrative expenses, totaling approximately \$46,000, were paid by the Company on behalf of the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2024. The Company does not expect reimbursement from the Plan for these expenses.

The Plan invests in Company common stock. Such transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions. All investments are nonparticipant directed.

#### **Note 5 – Plan Termination**

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

#### **Note 6 – Tax Status**

The Company adopted a nonstandardized preapproved ESOP plan (the Preapproved Plan) sponsored by McAfee & Taft. The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Preapproved Plan sponsor by a favorable opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, that the Preapproved Plan is designed in accordance with the applicable sections of the Code. The Preapproved Plan's opinion letter is being relied on by the Plan. Plan management believes the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt. The Plan administrator has indicated that it will take the necessary steps, if any, to maintain the Plan's tax-exempt status.

#### **Note 7 – Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan invests primarily in Company common stock, which represents 85% and 88% of the Plan's net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The primary liquidity of the Plan comes from Employer cash contributions to the Plan. The fair value of the Company common stock has been estimated by an independent appraiser, in the absence of readily ascertainable market values. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in Company common stock and the uncertainties inherent in estimates and assumptions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of Company common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participant account balances and the amounts reported on the statements of net assets available for benefits.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

**CEI ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

**SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i**

**SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (Held at End of Year)**

**Plan #003  
EIN 71-0657673**

**December 31, 2024**

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	CEI Engineering Associates, Inc. Franklin Templeton	17,854 shares of common stock Low Duration Total Return Fund	\$ 1,515,811 138,415	\$ 2,973,227 <u>128,600</u>
				<u>\$ 3,101,827</u>

\* Represents a party-in-interest.