

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: BERPL, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 002
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/2022
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): BERPL, INC.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 88-3792524
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 513-619-5331
2d Business code (see instructions): 423990

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>	141
<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>	126
	<b>6a(2)</b>	113
	<b>6b</b>	1
	<b>6c</b>	24
	<b>6d</b>	138
	<b>6e</b>	1
	<b>6f</b>	139
	<b>6g(1)</b>	136
	<b>6g(2)</b>	139
<b>h</b>	<b>6h</b>	7
<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:  
2I 3I 2P 2Q

**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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<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>BERPL, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) <b>▶</b> <b>002</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>BERPL, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>88-3792524</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>		
<b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
<b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....	<b>1b(1)</b>		
<b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....	<b>1b(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Other .....	<b>1b(3)</b>		
<b>c</b> General investments:			
<b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....	<b>1c(1)</b>		
<b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....	<b>1c(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(3)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> All other .....	<b>1c(3)(B)</b>		
<b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(4)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Common .....	<b>1c(4)(B)</b>		
<b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....	<b>1c(5)</b>		
<b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....	<b>1c(6)</b>		
<b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....	<b>1c(7)</b>		
<b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....	<b>1c(8)</b>		
<b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....	<b>1c(9)</b>		
<b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....	<b>1c(10)</b>		
<b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....	<b>1c(11)</b>		
<b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>1c(12)</b>		
<b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>1c(13)</b>		
<b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) .....	<b>1c(14)</b>		
<b>(15)</b> Other .....	<b>1c(15)</b>		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	12260000	29600000
(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	12260000	29600000
<b>Liabilities</b>			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i	11925353	11766295
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	11925353	11766295
<b>Net Assets</b>			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	334647	17833705

**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: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	568345	
(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)		568345
<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)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C).....	2b(2)(D)		0
(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)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)	17340000	
(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>		
<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>		17908345

**Expenses**

<b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	<b>2e(1)</b>	8693	
(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>		8693
<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>		400594
<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>		409287

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

<b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line <b>2j</b> from line <b>2d</b> .....	<b>2k</b>		17499058
<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: **CLARK, SCHAEFER, HACKETT & CO**

(2) EIN: **31-0800053**

**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>BERPL, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>BERPL, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>88-3792524</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): 58-1428634

**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 \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number \_\_\_\_\_.



CLARK SCHAEFER HACKETT  
BUSINESS ADVISORS

## **BERPL, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan**

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

December 31, 2024 and 2023

with Independent Auditors' Report

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Participants and Plan Trustee  
BERPL, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the BERPL, 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, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the 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 years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for Opinion

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

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

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

### **Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

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

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

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

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

### **Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of 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 has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information

directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

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

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

*Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.*

Cincinnati, Ohio  
October 10, 2025

BERPL, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
 Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits  
 December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024			2023		
	<i><u>Allocated</u></i>	<i><u>Unallocated</u></i>	<i><u>Total</u></i>	<i><u>Allocated</u></i>	<i><u>Unallocated</u></i>	<i><u>Total</u></i>
Assets:						
Investment in BERPL, Inc. common stock, at fair value	\$ <u>2,220,000</u>	<u>27,380,000</u>	<u>29,600,000</u>	<u>613,000</u>	<u>11,647,000</u>	<u>12,260,000</u>
Liabilities:						
Note payable	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,766,295)</u>	<u>(11,766,295)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,925,353)</u>	<u>(11,925,353)</u>
Net assets (deficit) available for benefits	\$ <u>2,220,000</u>	<u>15,613,705</u>	<u>17,833,705</u>	<u>613,000</u>	<u>(278,353)</u>	<u>334,647</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

BERPL, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits  
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024			2023		
	<i>Allocated</i>	<i>Unallocated</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Allocated</i>	<i>Unallocated</i>	<i>Total</i>
Additions:						
Net appreciation in fair value of common stock	\$ 867,000	16,473,000	17,340,000	-	-	-
Employer contributions	8,693	559,652	568,345	16,840	559,652	576,492
Allocation of shares, at fair value						
25,000 shares of common stock released for loan payment at December 31, 2024 and 2023	<u>740,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>740,000</u>	<u>306,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>306,500</u>
	<u>1,615,693</u>	<u>17,032,652</u>	<u>18,648,345</u>	<u>323,340</u>	<u>559,652</u>	<u>882,992</u>
Deductions:						
Net depreciation in fair value of common stock	-	-	-	(409,500)	(15,970,500)	(16,380,000)
Allocation of shares, at fair value						
25,000 shares of common stock released for loan payment at December 31, 2024 and 2023	-	(740,000)	(740,000)	-	(306,500)	(306,500)
Benefit payments to participants	(8,693)	-	(8,693)	(16,840)	-	(16,840)
Interest expense	<u>-</u>	<u>(400,594)</u>	<u>(400,594)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(404,691)</u>	<u>(404,691)</u>
	<u>(8,693)</u>	<u>(1,140,594)</u>	<u>(1,149,287)</u>	<u>(426,340)</u>	<u>(16,681,691)</u>	<u>(17,108,031)</u>
Net change	1,607,000	15,892,058	17,499,058	(103,000)	(16,122,039)	(16,225,039)
Net assets (deficit) available for benefits:						
Beginning of year	<u>613,000</u>	<u>(278,353)</u>	<u>334,647</u>	<u>716,000</u>	<u>15,843,686</u>	<u>16,559,686</u>
End of year	\$ <u>2,220,000</u>	<u>15,613,705</u>	<u>17,833,705</u>	<u>613,000</u>	<u>(278,353)</u>	<u>334,647</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

## 1. PLAN DESCRIPTION:

The following description of the BERPL, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan documents for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

### General

The BERPL, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan is a defined contribution plan covering United States based employees of BERPL, Inc. (Employees) and its adopting affiliates (the Sponsor, Company or Employer), established effective January 1, 2022. On August 31, 2022, the Plan purchased 1,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock at \$12.50 per share for an aggregate purchase price of \$12,500,000. In exchange, the Plan entered into a term note payable with the Company as described in Note 5. The Plan holds 100% of the outstanding common stock of the Company (an S Corporation). The Plan is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986, as amended, and is subject to the applicable provisions of ERISA, as amended.

The Plan was amended to add two additional participating employers to the Plan effective January 1, 2024 and one additional participating employer effective May 19, 2023.

### Administration

The governing body for administration of the Plan is the BERPL, Inc. ESOP Committee which consists of the Board of Directors of the Company and the Trustee of the Plan.

### Eligibility

Non-excluded employees are eligible to participate in the Plan on the earlier of January 1 or July 1 after which the employee has reached 21 years of age and completed one year of service.

Employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement, non-resident aliens, leased employees, and employees classified as interns or co-op students are not eligible to participate in the Plan.

### Contributions

The Company is obliged to make contributions to the Plan which equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest due on the term loan. The Company, at the approval of the Company's Board of Directors, may make additional contributions to the Plan. The Plan does not permit employee contributions.

### Payment of benefits

Distributions from the Plan will be made in the plan year following when a participant retires at the normal retirement age of 65, or dies (in which case, payment shall be made to his or her beneficiary or, if none, his or her legal representatives), or becomes permanently disabled. Participants who otherwise terminate employment with the Company are eligible for distribution of their ESOP account no later than the 6th plan year following their termination if their vested account balance is greater than \$5,000. If a terminated participant's vested account balance is less than or equal to \$5,000, the account balance may be distributed as soon as administratively practicable during the year following termination. The amount to be distributed is based on the account valuation date immediately preceding the distribution. Distributions may be paid in a single lump sum or substantially equal installments over a period not exceeding five years.

### **Voting rights**

The Plan's Trustee is responsible for voting all employer stock held as part of the Plan assets. In certain situations, each participant or beneficiary shall be entitled to direct the Trustee as to the manner in which voting rights on shares of allocated employer stock are to be exercised.

### **Participant accounts**

Each participant's account is credited annually with the participant's share of the Company's contributions and forfeitures available as determined by the recordkeeper. The participant's account is allocated the Company contributions and forfeitures based on the proportion of the participant's compensation to the total of all participants' compensation for the Plan year. Only those participants who are eligible employees of the Company as of the last day of the Plan year will receive an allocation of Company contributions and forfeitures. Both of these requirements are waived if the employee dies, retires, or becomes permanently disabled during the plan year. Investment earnings and expenses were totaled and allocated to all participants based upon the beginning total balance of their account less any distribution from such account since the preceding allocation date.

### **Vesting**

If a participant's employment with the Company ends for any reason other than reaching normal retirement age, death or total disability, they will vest in the balances in their account based on total years of service with the Company. The participant's plan benefit will be vested based on the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vesting Percentage</u>
Less than 2 years	0%
2 years but less than 3 years	25%
3 years but less than 4 years	50%
4 years but less than 5 years	75%
5 or more years	100%

### **Diversification**

Diversification is offered to participants over a six-year period to those who have attained the age of 55 and have completed at least 10 years of participation in the Plan. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25% of their account balance. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50%.

### **Forfeitures**

Any portion of the final balances in a participant's accounts which is not vested will become a forfeiture as of the earlier of the allocation date of the plan year in which the participant incurs five consecutive one-year breaks in service, or the plan year in which the participant receives a distribution of his or her entire vested balance. A zero percent vested terminated participant shall be deemed to have received a distribution of his or her vested balance on the date he or she separates from service. Forfeited amounts are first used to restore any participant's account that is reemployed. After that, forfeitures are used to pay a contribution required to be restored to a lost participant or to pay the reasonable expenses of administering the Plan. Any remaining forfeitures will be allocated to remaining participants in accordance with Plan provisions.

As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, there were no unallocated forfeitures. There were no forfeitures reallocated to eligible participants for the year ended December 31, 2024. Forfeitures of 151.0884 shares, valued at \$4,327, were reallocated to eligible participants for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**Put option**

Under Federal income tax regulations, the employer 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 or the Plan buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the fair market value of the stock. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:**

**Basis of accounting**

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

**Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires 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.

**Allocations**

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

**Investment valuation and income recognition**

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

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Realized gains and losses are reported on the average cost method. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

**Payment of benefits**

Benefits are recorded when paid.

**Administrative fees**

The Company pays all Plan administrative expenses and such expenses are excluded from these financial statements. If the Company does not pay such expenses, the trustee shall pay them from the Plan assets.

**Subsequent events**

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 10, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

### 3. INVESTMENTS:

The Plan's investment in the Company's common stock shares is as follows at December 31:

	2024		
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of shares	75,000	925,000	1,000,000
Fair value	\$ 2,220,000	27,380,000	29,600,000
	2023		
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of shares	50,000	950,000	1,000,000
Fair value	\$ 613,000	11,647,000	12,260,000

### 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS:

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

- Level 1      Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.
- Level 2      Inputs to the valuation methodology include:
- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
  - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
  - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
  - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

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

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

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.

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

	<u>Investments at fair value as of:</u>			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	
December 31, 2024:				
BERPL, Inc. common stock	\$ <u>          -</u>	<u>          -</u>	<u>29,600,000</u>	<u>29,600,000</u>
December 31, 2023:				
BERPL, Inc. common stock	\$ <u>          -</u>	<u>          -</u>	<u>12,260,000</u>	<u>12,260,000</u>

**Changes in Fair Value of Level 3 Assets**

The Plan distributed no shares of the Plan's Level 3 assets during 2024 or 2023. The Plan did not purchase any shares during 2024 or 2023.

**Quantitative Information about Significant Unobservable Inputs Used in Level 3 Fair Value Measurements**

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There has been no change in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

The BERPL, Inc. common stock held by the Plan is reported at fair value based upon an independent appraisal. The appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and discounted cash flow valuation techniques, consistent with prior year, as illustrated in the following tables:

December 31, 2024

<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Valuation Techniques</u>	<u>Unobservable Inputs</u>
BERPL, Inc. common stock	\$29,600,000	Weighted average using the discounted cash flow and guideline company methods	* Discount for lack of marketability * Forecasted free cash flow * Discounted annual free cash flow * Various pricing multiples

December 31, 2023

<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Valuation Techniques</u>	<u>Unobservable Inputs</u>
BERPL, Inc. common stock	\$12,260,000	Weighted average using the discounted cash flow and guideline company methods	* Discount for lack of marketability * Forecasted free cash flow * Discounted annual free cash flow * Various pricing multiples

The valuation process involves Plan management's selection of an independent appraiser. Plan management accumulates the data for the appraiser from the audited financial statements of the Company. The appraiser prepares a preliminary report which Plan management, along with the Plan trustee, reviews in detail, discusses, and approves the final report.

The preceding method 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 method is 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.

**5. NOTE PAYABLE:**

On August 31, 2022, the Plan entered into a \$12,500,000 term loan agreement with the Company which matures on December 31, 2061. The proceeds were used to purchase 1,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock. The loan bears interest at 3.35%. The unallocated shares serve as collateral for the note. The note may be prepaid at any point in time without penalty.

Total future minimum principal payments are as follows as of December 31, 2024:

2025	\$	165,481
2026		171,025
2027		176,754
2028		181,642
2029		188,760
Thereafter		<u>10,882,633</u>
		<u>\$ 11,766,295</u>

**6. RELATED PARTY AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS:**

The Plan invests in Company common stock and has indebtedness with the Company. These transactions qualify as related party and party-in-interest transactions.

**7. PLAN TERMINATION:**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their accrued benefits. Upon termination of the Plan, the BERPL, Inc. ESOP Committee should direct the Trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the trust fund and to sell shares of financed common stock held in the loan suspense account to the extent it determines such sale to be necessary in order to repay the loans, if any.

**8. TAX STATUS:**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated June 3, 2024, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed, and is currently being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt.

**9. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES:**

The Plan invests in common stock of the Company. This common stock is exposed to various risks, including a variety of risks associated with investing in an operating entity and the liquidity risk associated with investments in a private company. Due to the level of risk associated with the common stock, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of the common stock will occur in the near term and that such change could materially affect participants' account balances, and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

BERPL, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
 EIN: 88-3792524 Plan Number: 002  
 Schedule H, Line 4i, Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)  
 December 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	Cost	Current Value
*	BERPL, Inc. common stock	1,000,000 shares	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 29,600,000

\* Investment with party-in-interest to the Plan



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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
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