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
- [X] 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
VERTEX ENERGY CASH BALANCE 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)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
VERTEX ENERGY, INC.

1331 GEMINI STREET, SUITE 250
HOUSTON, TX 77058

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 38-4179507

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 281-486-4182

2d Business code (see instructions) 999999

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

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

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	07/07/2026	SHELBY RICHARDSON
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor

3b Administrator's EIN

3c Administrator's telephone number

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

c Plan Name

4b EIN

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	224
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	221
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	204
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	12
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	216
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	216
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.	**6h**	
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

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

1C

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

- **(1)** [ ] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

- **(1)** [ ] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

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

a Pension Schedules

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

b General Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 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_____

SCHEDULE SB (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6059 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500 or 5500-SF.**

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

▶ **Round off amounts to nearest dollar.**

▶ **Caution:** A penalty of $1,000 will be assessed for late filing of this report unless reasonable cause is established.

A Name of plan
VERTEX ENERGY CASH BALANCE PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 or 5500-SF
VERTEX ENERGY, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
38-4179507

E Type of plan: [X] Single [ ] Multiple-A [ ] Multiple-B

F Prior year plan size: [ ] 100 or fewer [X] 101-500 [ ] More than 500

Part I Basic Information

1 Enter the valuation date: Month 01 Day 01 Year 2024

2 Assets:

a Market value	**2a**	3330347
b Actuarial value	**2b**	3330347

3 Funding target/participant count breakdown

	(1) Number of participants	(2) Vested Funding Target	(3) Total Funding Target
a For retired participants and beneficiaries receiving payment	0	0	0
b For terminated vested participants	12	138929	138929
c For active participants	210	2930923	3187529
d Total	222	3069852	3326458

4 If the plan is in at-risk status, check the box and complete lines (a) and (b) [ ]

a Funding target disregarding prescribed at-risk assumptions	**4a**	
b Funding target reflecting at-risk assumptions, but disregarding transition rule for plans that have been in at-risk status for fewer than five consecutive years and disregarding loading factor	**4b**	

5 Effective interest rate	**5**	5.29 %
6 Target normal cost		
a Present value of current plan year accruals	**6a**	1750233
b Expected plan-related expenses	**6b**	0
c Target normal cost	**6c**	1750233

Statement by Enrolled Actuary

To the best of my knowledge, the information supplied in this schedule and accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, if any, is complete and accurate. Each prescribed assumption was applied in accordance with applicable law and regulations. In my opinion, each other assumption is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations) and such other assumptions, in combination, offer my best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

SIGN HERE

Signature of actuary

10/15/2025
Date

THOMAS MIANO, FSA, EA
Type or print name of actuary

23-04601
Most recent enrollment number

OCTOBER THREE CONSULTING LLC
Firm name

312-878-2440
Telephone number (including area code)

6191 N. STATE HIGHWAY 161 SUITE 470
IRVING, TX 75038

Address of the firm

If the actuary has not fully reflected any regulation or ruling promulgated under the statute in completing this schedule, check the box and see instructions [ ]

Part II Beginning of Year Carryover and Prefunding Balances

		(a) Carryover balance	(b) Prefunding balance
7	Balance at beginning of prior year after applicable adjustments (line 13 from prior year)	0	0
8	Portion elected for use to offset prior year's funding requirement (line 35 from prior year)		
9	Amount remaining (line 7 minus line 8)	0	0
10	Interest on line 9 using prior year's actual return of 10.59 %	0	0
11	Prior year's excess contributions to be added to prefunding balance:		
a	Present value of excess contributions (line 38a from prior year)		1594
b(1)	Interest on the excess, if any, of line 38a over line 38b from prior year Schedule SB, using prior year's effective interest rate of 5.36 %		85
b(2)	Interest on line 38b from prior year Schedule SB, using prior year's actual return		0
c	Total available at beginning of current plan year to add to prefunding balance		1679
d	Portion of (c) to be added to prefunding balance		0
12	Other reductions in balances due to elections or deemed elections	0	0
13	Balance at beginning of current year (line 9 + line 10 + line 11d – line 12)	0	0

Part III Funding Percentages

14	Funding target attainment percentage	14	100.11 %
15	Adjusted funding target attainment percentage	15	100.11 %
16	Prior year's funding percentage for purposes of determining whether carryover/prefunding balances may be used to reduce current year's funding requirement	16	118.02 %
17	If the current value of the assets of the plan is less than 70 percent of the funding target, enter such percentage	17	%

Part IV Contributions and Liquidity Shortfalls

18 Contributions made to the plan for the plan year by employer(s) and employees:

(a) Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	(b) Amount paid by employer(s)	(c) Amount paid by employees	(a) Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	(b) Amount paid by employer(s)	(c) Amount paid by employees
06/25/2025	2700000	0			
			Totals ► 18(b)	2700000	18(c) 0

19	Discounted employer contributions – see instructions for small plan with a valuation date after the beginning of the year:		
a	Contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years	19a	0
b	Contributions made to avoid restrictions adjusted to valuation date	19b	0
c	Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date	19c	2501745

20 Quarterly contributions and liquidity shortfalls:

a Did the plan have a "funding shortfall" for the prior year? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," were required quarterly installments for the current year made in a timely manner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

c If line 20a is "Yes," see instructions and complete the following table as applicable:

Liquidity shortfall as of end of quarter of this plan year

(1) 1st	(2) 2nd	(3) 3rd	(4) 4th

Part V Assumptions Used to Determine Funding Target and Target Normal Cost

21 Discount rate:

a Segment rates:

1st segment:	2nd segment:	3rd segment:	
4.75 %	4.96 %	5.59 %	☐ N/A, full yield curve used

b Applicable month (enter code) — **21b**: 0

22 Weighted average retirement age — **22**: 65

23 Mortality table(s) (see instructions) ☒ Prescribed - combined ☐ Prescribed - separate ☐ Substitute

Part VI Miscellaneous Items

24 Has a change been made in the non-prescribed actuarial assumptions for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. ☐ Yes ☒ No

25 Has a method change been made for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. ☒ Yes ☐ No

26 Demographic and benefit information

a Is the plan required to provide a Schedule of Active Participants? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. ☒ Yes ☐ No

b Is the plan required to provide a projection of expected benefit payments? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment ☐ Yes ☒ No

27 If the plan is subject to alternative funding rules, enter applicable code and see instructions regarding attachment — **27**:

Part VII Reconciliation of Unpaid Minimum Required Contributions For Prior Years

28 Unpaid minimum required contributions for all prior years	**28**	0
29 Discounted employer contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years (line 19a)	**29**	0
30 Remaining amount of unpaid minimum required contributions (line 28 minus line 29)	**30**	0

Part VIII Minimum Required Contribution For Current Year

31 Target normal cost and excess assets (see instructions):

a Target normal cost (line 6c)	**31a**	1750233
b Excess assets, if applicable, but not greater than line 31a	**31b**	3889

32 Amortization installments:

	Outstanding Balance	Installment
a Net shortfall amortization installment	0	0
b Waiver amortization installment		

33 If a waiver has been approved for this plan year, enter the date of the ruling letter granting the approval (Month _____ Day _____ Year _____) and the waived amount — **33**:

34 Total funding requirement before reflecting carryover/prefunding balances (lines 31a - 31b + 32a + 32b - 33) — **34**: 1746344

	Carryover balance	Prefunding balance	Total balance
35 Balances elected for use to offset funding requirement			0

36 Additional cash requirement (line 34 minus line 35)	**36**	1746344
37 Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date (line 19c)	**37**	2501745

38 Present value of excess contributions for current year (see instructions)

a Total (excess, if any, of line 37 over line 36)	**38a**	755401
b Portion included in line 38a attributable to use of prefunding and funding standard carryover balances	**38b**	0
39 Unpaid minimum required contribution for current year (excess, if any, of line 36 over line 37)	**39**	0
40 Unpaid minimum required contributions for all years	**40**	0

Part IX Pension Funding Relief Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (See Instructions)

41 If an election was made to use the extended amortization rule for a plan year beginning on or before December 31, 2021, check the box to indicate the first plan year for which the rule applies. ☐ 2019 ☐ 2020 ☐ 2021

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

A Name of plan	**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶
VERTEX ENERGY CASH BALANCE PLAN	002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)
VERTEX ENERGY, INC.	38-4179507

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

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

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

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name: ARTHUR E. TELLER
b EIN: 37-1446858
c Position: ENROLLED ACTUARY
d Address: 13231 CHAMPION FOREST DR
SUITE 300
HOUSTON, TX 77069
e Telephone: 281-537-7177

Explanation: PLAN SPONSOR CHANGED ACTUARIAL FIRMS

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

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

OMB No. 1210-0110

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

A Name of plan
VERTEX ENERGY CASH BALANCE PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
VERTEX ENERGY, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
38-4179507

Part I Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SAGE KIS MODERATE CASH BALANCE I

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): RELIANCE TRUST INSTITUTIONAL RETIREMENT TRUST, SERIES FOUR

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
46-7425989-004	C	3485546

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

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

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

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

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

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

A Name of plan
VERTEX ENERGY CASH BALANCE PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
VERTEX ENERGY, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
38-4179507

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

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

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	1566000	2700000
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	1818998	3485546
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(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	3384998	6185546
Liabilities			
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 through1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	3384998	6185546

Part II Income and Expense Statement

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

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	2700000	
(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)		2700000
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	103790	
(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)		103790
(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)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		2803790
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)		
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		0
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)	3242	
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)**	2i(12)		3242
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		3242
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		2800548
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

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

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

(1) [X] 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) [X] 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: WEAVER & TIDWELL **(2)** EIN: 75-0786316

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)** [X] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

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

During the plan year:

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

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] No

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

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

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

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

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year 564332.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

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

OMB No. 1210-0110

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

A Name of plan
VERTEX ENERGY CASH BALANCE PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
VERTEX ENERGY, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
38-4179507

Part I Distributions

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

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): _____ _____

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** 0

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

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒ **N/A**

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) **6a**

b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year **6b**

c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) **6c**

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Part III Amendments

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

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

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%

High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

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

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

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation._____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

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 03 / 30 / 2018 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number J501819A .

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan

Financial Report
December 31, 2024

weaver
Assurance • Tax • Advisory

C O N T E N T S

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Supplementary Information

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Schedule H, Line 4j – Schedule of Reportable Transactions 13

All other schedules required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 are omitted because of the absence of the conditions under which they would apply.

4400 Post Oak Parkway, Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77027
713-850-8787

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator and Participants of the
Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan
Houston, Texas

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Vertex Energy Inc. Cash Balance Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and 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.

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

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the years ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

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

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

Basis for Opinion

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the *Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit* section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with US 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 US GAAS, we:

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

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

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

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.

Other Matter — Supplementary Information Required by ERISA

The supplementary information listed in the table of contents as of *and for the year ended* December 31, 2024 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplementary information, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with US GAAS. For information included in the supplementary information that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

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

In our opinion:

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

Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.

WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.

Houston, Texas
October 31, 2025

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	$ 3,485,546	$ 1,818,998
Total investments	3,485,546	1,818,998
Receivables		
Employer's contributions	2,700,000	1,566,000
Total receivables	2,700,000	1,566,000
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	$ 6,185,546	$ 3,384,998

The Notes to Financial Statements are
an integral part of these statements.

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
ADDITIONS		
Investment income		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	$ 103,791	$ 117,610
Net investment income	103,791	117,610
Contributions		
Employer	2,700,000	1,566,000
Total additions	2,803,791	1,683,610
DEDUCTIONS		
Administrative expenses	3,243	208
Total deductions	3,243	208
Net increase	2,800,548	1,683,402
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, beginning of year	3,384,998	1,701,596
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, end of year	$ 6,185,546	$ 3,384,998

The Notes to Financial Statements are
an integral part of this statement.

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the *Plan document* for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions, which is available from Plan management.

General

The Plan is a cash balance defined benefit pension plan providing retirement, disability, and death benefits to all eligible employees. The plan sponsor is the Vertex Energy, Inc. (the Company) and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Plan includes all full-time employees of the Company. Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan the first day of the quarter after completing one year of services with the Company.

The Plan is administered by the Company and has overall responsibility for the operations and administration of the Plan and determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings and monitors investment performance.

Participant Accounts

The Plan establishes a recordkeeping account for each participant in the Plan to track their Plan benefits. Each participant's account receives a Principal Credit based on a formula, age plus service. The first Principal Credit Period will commence on the first day of the Plan Year in which the Participant becomes eligible for participation. A participant's account shall also receive an interest credit based on the annual fixed rate of 4%.

Effective December 31, 2023, the Plan was amended to no longer allow any new participants into the Plan.

Effective December 31, 2024, the Plan was fully frozen. Participants will not accrue benefits under the Plan and no contribution credits will be provided.

Funding Policy

The Plan's funding policy is for the Company to contribute an amount which will meet or exceed the annual ERISA minimum funding requirement. During 2024 and 2023, the Company made contributions of $2,700,000 and $1,566,000, respectively. The Company's contributions for 2024 and 2023 exceeded the minimum funding requirements of ERISA.

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA.

Pension Benefits

Benefits are determined based on Principal Credits at the end of each Principal Credit Period during which 1,000 hours of service is completed. Principal Credits are determined by different tiers based on the participant's age plus service.

Death and Disability Benefits

If an active employee dies at age 55 or older, a death benefit equal to the lump sum distribution of the employee's vested cash balance account.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared using 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 (US GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities; and the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits at the date of the financial statements, and changes therein. 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 Plan's Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisers, custodians, and insurance company. See Note 4 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 at 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.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

All administrative fees are paid by the Plan.

Plan Management's Review of Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 31, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 3. Certified Investments

Certain information related to investments and disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and ERISA-required supplementary information, including investments held at December 31, 2024 and 2023, and net appreciation in fair value of investments and interest and dividends for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate by Empower Trust Company, LLC (Empower), the trustee of the Plan.

Note 4. Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan Benefits

Accumulated plan benefits are those future periodic payments, including lump-sum distributions that are attributable under the Plan's provisions to the services employees have rendered. Accumulated plan benefits include benefits expected to be paid to (a) retired or terminated employees or their beneficiaries, (b) beneficiaries of employees who have died, and (c) present employees or their beneficiaries. Benefits under the Plan are accumulated based on employees' compensation during each year of credited service. The accumulated plan benefits for active employees will equal the accumulation, with interest, of the annual benefit accruals as of the benefit information date. Benefits payable under all circumstances (retirement, death, disability, and termination of employment) are included, to the extent they are deemed attributable to employee service rendered prior to the valuation date. Benefits to be provided via annuity contracts excluded from plan assets are excluded from accumulated plan benefits.

The actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits is determined by the Plan's independent actuary, and is that amount that results from applying actuarial assumptions to adjust the accumulated plan benefits to reflect the time value of money (through discounts for interest) and the probability of payment (by means of decrements, such as for death, disability, withdrawal, or retirement) between the valuation date and the expected date of payment.

The accumulated plan benefits information at January 1, 2024 was as follows:

	2024
Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits:	
Vested benefits:	
Participants currently receiving payments	$ 3,429,975
Other participants	159,019
Non-vested benefits	347,118
Total actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits	$ 3,936,112
Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits at January 1, 2023	$ 1,715,134
Increase (decrease) during the year attributable to:	
Benefits accumulated	2,140,971
Interest	68,605
Demographic experience	11,401
Net increase (decrease)	2,220,977
Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits at January 1, 2024	$ 3,936,111

The significant actuarial assumptions used in the Plan valuations as of January 1, 2024 were as follows:

Assumed rate of return on investments:	7.5%
Retirement age rate:	Various rates ranging from 5% at age 55 to 100% at age 70
Mortality:	RP2000 Combined Mortality Tables for males and females

These actuarial assumptions are based on the presumption that the Plan will continue. If the Plan were to terminate, different actuarial assumptions and other factors might be applicable in determining the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits. The computations of the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits were made as of January 1, 2024. Had the valuations been performed as of December 31, there would be no material differences.

Note 5. Plan Termination

Effective June 30, 2025, the board of directors of Vertex Energy, Inc. decided to terminate the Plan. All participants in the Plan became fully vested in their respective Company contribution account balances and sources. The Plan assets are being distributed to participants and is expected to be fully liquidated in 2025.

Note 6. Fair Value Measurements

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820, *Fair Value Measurement,* provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework 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 under FASB ASC 820 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; and
- 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.

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

Collective trust fund: Valued at the NAV of units of a bank collective trust. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the collective trust, the investment adviser reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

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

	2024	2023
Investments measured at net asset value:		
Collective trust fund	$ 3,485,546	$ 1,818,998
Investments at fair value	$ 3,485,546	$ 1,818,998

Fair Value of Investments that Calculate NAV

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively:

	2024	2023
Collective trust fund		
Fair value	$ 3,485,546	$ 1,818,998
Unfunded commitment	None	None
Redemption frequency	Immediate	Immediate
Other redemption restrictions	None	None
Redemption notice period	None	None

Note 7. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities that are exposed to various risks such as interest rates, market and credit risks. Market values of investments may decline for a number of reasons, including changes in prevailing market and interest rates, increases in defaults and credit rating downgrades. Market risks include global events, which could impact the value of investment securities, such as a pandemic or international conflict. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that some changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

Plan contributions are determined and the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits are reported based on certain assumptions pertaining to interest rates, inflation rates, and employee demographics, all of which are subject to change. Due to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in these estimates and assumptions in the near term would be material to the financial statements.

Note 8. Tax Status

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on March 30, 2018, in which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) stated that the Plan and related trust, as then designed, were in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, Plan management believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC.

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

Note 9. Related-Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are managed by Empower, the trustee for the Plan. October Three TPA provides actuarial and related services for the Plan. As described in Note 2, the Plan paid certain expenses related to plan operations and investment activity to various services providers. These transactions are party-in-interest transactions under ERISA.

Note 10. Subsequent Events

As noted in Note 5, the Plan has terminated, effective June 30, 2025.

Supplementary Information

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan

EIN / PN 38-4178507 / 002

Schedule SB, Line 26a – Schedule of Active Participant Data

	Completed years of credited service as of January 1, 2024										
Attained age	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 & over	Total
Under 25	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
25 to 29	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
30 to 34	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
35 to 39	1	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
40 to 44	1	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
45 to 49	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
50 to 54	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
55 to 59	1	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
60 to 64	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
65 to 69	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
70 & over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	9	201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	210

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan

EIN / PN 38-4178507 / 002

Schedule SB, Part V - Statement of Actuarial Assumptions/Methods

Actuarial Assumptions and Methods

Plan Sponsor Elections

Yield curve election: The plan sponsor did not elect to use the full yield curve under IRC section 430(h)(2)(D)(ii).

Applicable month: The plan sponsor elected to base the segment rates on the rates published in the month containing the valuation date.

Economic Assumptions

	Funding Target		PBGC
	with stabilization	without stabilization	Funding Target
First segment rate (years 0 to 4):	4.75%	4.37%	5.01%
Second segment rate (years 5 to 19):	4.96%	4.96%	5.13%
Third segment rate (years 20 and after):	5.59%	4.95%	5.15%
Effective interest rate (current year):	5.29%	4.93%	N/A

Interest crediting rate: 4.00%

The interest rates listed above are compounded annually.

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan
EIN / PN 38-4178507 / 002
Schedule SB, Part V - Statement of Actuarial Assumptions/Methods
Actuarial Assumptions and Methods

Demographic Assumptions

RETIREMENT

All participants are assumed to retire according to the following schedule, but no earlier than one year from the valuation date of January 1, 2024:

Assumed retirement age	Percent assumed to retire
65	100.00%

WEIGHTED AVERAGE RETIREMENT AGE

The weighted average retirement age for the population during the current year, rounded to the nearest whole number, is 65.

WITHDRAWAL AND DISABILITY

None.

RATIONALE FOR RETIREMENT AGE, WITHDRAWAL AND DISABILITY ASSUMPTIONS

The economic value of the cash balance benefits is not materially affected by the timing of benefit commencement. Therefore, no preretirement withdrawal or disability is assumed, and all participants are assumed to retire according to the schedule above.

MORTALITY AND MORTALITY IMPROVEMENT

For funding, no preretirement mortality is assumed. The postretirement funding mortality follows the IRS 2024 Generational Mortality Table, as prescribed by Treasury regulation section 1.430(h)(3)-1.

Other Assumptions

FORM OF PAYMENT

Based on the experience of the plan and future expectations, all participants are assumed to elect a lump sum form of payment.

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan
EIN / PN 38-4178507 / 002
Schedule SB, Part V - Statement of Actuarial Assumptions/Methods
Actuarial Assumptions and Methods

EXPENSES

Assumed expenses are $0 for 2024, based on the experience of the plan and future expectations. In accordance with our understanding of the available guidance, the expense assumption reflects administrative expenses and does not include investment-related expenses or any other non-administrative expense.

Changes from Prior Year and Rationale for Changes

None.

Actuarial Methods

VALUATION DATE

The valuation date is January 1, 2024.

ACTUARIAL VALUE OF ASSETS

The actuarial value of assets is equal to the market value of assets.

MINIMUM FUNDING METHOD

The funding target and target normal cost for minimum funding calculations are determined using the traditional unit credit cost method as prescribed by Treasury regulation section 1.430(d)-1. The liability under the unit credit cost method is the value of the accrued pension benefit using service and pay as of the valuation date. The sum of the present value of the accrued benefits for all participants is the ERISA funding target. The normal cost is the present value of the benefits earned during the year. The target normal cost is the sum of the normal costs for all participants and the assumed administrative expenses.

Changes in Method from Prior Year and Rationale for Changes

There was a change both in the enrolled actuary for the plan and in the business organization providing actuarial services to the plan between 2023 and 2024. The conditions for automatic approval, as outlined in Announcement 2010-3, were satisfied.

TRANSACTIONS FOR REVIEW (5% REPORTABLE)

Vertex Energy, Inc. Cash Balance Plan

01-JAN-24 to 31-DEC-24

15-JAN-25 02:05:44

INVESTMENT OPTION	PURCHASE AMOUNT	PURCHASE UNITS/SHARES	PURCHASE COUNT	SALES AMOUNT	SALES UNITS/SHARES	SALES COUNT	COST OF SALES	TRANSACTION DATE
1RTMCB1	1,566,000.00	126,596.604689	1	(3,242.77)	(259.307227)	2	(2,989.54)	SERIES
5% TRANSACTIONS								
1RTMCB1	1,566,000.00	126,596.604689	1	0.00	0.000000	0	0.00	06-SEP-24

LEGEND

INVESTMENT OPTION:
1RTMCB1 Sage KIS Moderate Cash Balance 1

SCHEDULE SB (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6059 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500 or 5500-SF.**

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

▶ **Round off amounts to nearest dollar.**

▶ **Caution:** A penalty of $1,000 will be assessed for late filing of this report unless reasonable cause is established.

A Name of plan
VERTEX ENERGY CASH BALANCE PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 or 5500-SF
VERTEX ENERGY, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
38-4179507

E Type of plan: [X] Single [ ] Multiple-A [ ] Multiple-B

F Prior year plan size: [ ] 100 or fewer [X] 101-500 [ ] More than 500

Part I Basic Information

1 Enter the valuation date: Month 01 Day 01 Year 2024

2 Assets:

a Market value	**2a**	3,330,347
b Actuarial value	**2b**	3,330,347

3 Funding target/participant count breakdown

	(1) Number of participants	(2) Vested Funding Target	(3) Total Funding Target
a For retired participants and beneficiaries receiving payment	0	0	0
b For terminated vested participants	12	138,929	138,929
c For active participants	210	2,930,923	3,187,529
d Total	222	3,069,852	3,326,458

4 If the plan is in at-risk status, check the box and complete lines (a) and (b) [ ]

a Funding target disregarding prescribed at-risk assumptions	**4a**	
b Funding target reflecting at-risk assumptions, but disregarding transition rule for plans that have been in at-risk status for fewer than five consecutive years and disregarding loading factor	**4b**	

5 Effective interest rate	**5**	5.29%
6 Target normal cost		
a Present value of current plan year accruals	**6a**	1,750,233
b Expected plan-related expenses	**6b**	0
c Target normal cost	**6c**	1,750,233

Statement by Enrolled Actuary

To the best of my knowledge, the information supplied in this schedule and accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, if any, is complete and accurate. Each prescribed assumption was applied in accordance with applicable law and regulations. In my opinion, each other assumption is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations) and such other assumptions, in combination, offer my best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

SIGN HERE

Thomas Miano TMM
Signature of actuary

10/15/2025
Date

Thomas Miano, FSA, EA
Type or print name of actuary

2304601
Most recent enrollment number

October Three Consulting LLC
Firm name

312-878-2440
Telephone number (including area code)

6191 N. State Highway 161 Suite 470
Irving TX 75038
Address of the firm

If the actuary has not fully reflected any regulation or ruling promulgated under the statute in completing this schedule, check the box and see instructions [ ]

Part II Beginning of Year Carryover and Prefunding Balances

		(a) Carryover balance	(b) Prefunding balance
7	Balance at beginning of prior year after applicable adjustments (line 13 from prior year)	0	0
8	Portion elected for use to offset prior year's funding requirement (line 35 from prior year)		
9	Amount remaining (line 7 minus line 8)	0	0
10	Interest on line 9 using prior year's actual return of 10.59 %	0	0
11	Prior year's excess contributions to be added to prefunding balance:		
	a Present value of excess contributions (line 38a from prior year)		1,594
	b(1) Interest on the excess, if any, of line 38a over line 38b from prior year Schedule SB, using prior year's effective interest rate of 5.36 %		85
	b(2) Interest on line 38b from prior year Schedule SB, using prior year's actual return		0
	c Total available at beginning of current plan year to add to prefunding balance		1,679
	d Portion of (c) to be added to prefunding balance		0
12	Other reductions in balances due to elections or deemed elections	0	0
13	Balance at beginning of current year (line 9 + line 10 + line 11d – line 12)	0	0

Part III Funding Percentages

14	Funding target attainment percentage	**14**	100.11 %
15	Adjusted funding target attainment percentage	**15**	100.11 %
16	Prior year's funding percentage for purposes of determining whether carryover/prefunding balances may be used to reduce current year's funding requirement	**16**	118.02 %
17	If the current value of the assets of the plan is less than 70 percent of the funding target, enter such percentage	**17**	%

Part IV Contributions and Liquidity Shortfalls

18 Contributions made to the plan for the plan year by employer(s) and employees:

(a) Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	(b) Amount paid by employer(s)	(c) Amount paid by employees	(a) Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	(b) Amount paid by employer(s)	(c) Amount paid by employees
06/25/2025	2,700,000	0			
			Totals ► 18(b)	2,700,000	18(c) 0

19	Discounted employer contributions – see instructions for small plan with a valuation date after the beginning of the year:		
	a Contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years.	**19a**	0
	b Contributions made to avoid restrictions adjusted to valuation date	**19b**	0
	c Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date.	**19c**	2,501,745

20 Quarterly contributions and liquidity shortfalls:

a Did the plan have a "funding shortfall" for the prior year? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," were required quarterly installments for the current year made in a timely manner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

c If line 20a is "Yes," see instructions and complete the following table as applicable:

Liquidity shortfall as of end of quarter of this plan year

(1) 1st	(2) 2nd	(3) 3rd	(4) 4th

Part V Assumptions Used to Determine Funding Target and Target Normal Cost

21 Discount rate:

a Segment rates:

1st segment:	2nd segment:	3rd segment:	
4.75 %	4.96 %	5.59%	☐ N/A, full yield curve used

b Applicable month (enter code)	**21b**	0
22 Weighted average retirement age	**22**	65

23 Mortality table(s) (see instructions) ☒ Prescribed - combined ☐ Prescribed - separate ☐ Substitute

Part VI Miscellaneous Items

24 Has a change been made in the non-prescribed actuarial assumptions for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. ☐ Yes ☒ No

25 Has a method change been made for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. ☒ Yes ☐ No

26 Demographic and benefit information

a Is the plan required to provide a Schedule of Active Participants? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. ☒ Yes ☐ No

b Is the plan required to provide a projection of expected benefit payments? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment ☐ Yes ☒ No

27 If the plan is subject to alternative funding rules, enter applicable code and see instructions regarding attachment	**27**	

Part VII Reconciliation of Unpaid Minimum Required Contributions For Prior Years

28 Unpaid minimum required contributions for all prior years	**28**	0
29 Discounted employer contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years (line 19a)	**29**	0
30 Remaining amount of unpaid minimum required contributions (line 28 minus line 29)	**30**	0

Part VIII Minimum Required Contribution For Current Year

31 Target normal cost and excess assets (see instructions):

a Target normal cost (line 6c)	**31a**	1,750,233
b Excess assets, if applicable, but not greater than line 31a	**31b**	3,889

32 Amortization installments:

	Outstanding Balance	Installment
a Net shortfall amortization installment	0	0
b Waiver amortization installment		

33 If a waiver has been approved for this plan year, enter the date of the ruling letter granting the approval (Month _____ Day _____ Year _____) and the waived amount	**33**	
34 Total funding requirement before reflecting carryover/prefunding balances (lines 31a - 31b + 32a + 32b - 33)	**34**	1,746,344

	Carryover balance	Prefunding balance	Total balance
35 Balances elected for use to offset funding requirement			0

36 Additional cash requirement (line 34 minus line 35)	**36**	1,746,344
37 Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date (line 19c)	**37**	2,501,745
38 Present value of excess contributions for current year (see instructions)		
a Total (excess, if any, of line 37 over line 36)	**38a**	755,401
b Portion included in line 38a attributable to use of prefunding and funding standard carryover balances	**38b**	0
39 Unpaid minimum required contribution for current year (excess, if any, of line 36 over line 37)	**39**	0
40 Unpaid minimum required contributions for all years	**40**	0

Part IX Pension Funding Relief Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (See Instructions)

41 If an election was made to use the extended amortization rule for a plan year beginning on or before December 31, 2021, check the box to indicate the first plan year for which the rule applies. ☐ 2019 ☐ 2020 ☐ 2021

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan

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Schedule SB, Line 22 - Description of Weighted Average Retirement Age

DESCRIPTION OF WEIGHTED AVERAGE RETIREMENT AGE

The weighted average retirement age for the population during the current year, rounded to the nearest whole number, is 65. All participants are assumed to retire according to the following schedule, but no earlier than one year from the valuation date of January 1, 2024:

Assumed retirement age	Percent assumed to retire
65	100.00%

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards also require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. There were no such misstatements identified during the course of the audit.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. There were no such misstatements identified during the course of the audit.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the Plan's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditor's Report

For purposes of this letter, professional standards require that we communicate any circumstances that affect the form and content of our auditor's report. No circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditor's report were noted during the course of the audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the management representation letter dated October 31, 2025.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the Plan, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, business conditions affecting the Plan, and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the Plan's auditors.

Internal Controls Matters
As discussed in the *Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit* paragraph, in planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Plan, we considered the Plan's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control.

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Schedule SB, Part V - Summary of Plan Provisions

Plan Provisions and Statutory Limits

EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of the plan was January 1, 2022.

PLAN YEAR

January 1 to December 31.

CASH BALANCE ACCOUNT

The sum of Cash Balance Credits and Earnings Credits. As of January 1, 2024, Cash Balance Accounts, excluding Cash Balance Credits for the year, totaled $3,936,111.

CASH BALANCE CREDITS

Cash Balance Credits shall be credited to eligible participants' Cash Balance Accounts for the year, based on the plan document's provisions. For the 2024 plan year, Cash Balance Credits are estimated to total $2,190,243.

EARNINGS CREDITS

Earnings Credits shall be credited to participants' Cash Balance Accounts based on a 4% return.

NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE

The attainment of age 65.

BENEFIT AMOUNT

The Cash Balance Account, or its actuarial equivalent payable as an annuity, subject to IRS maximums. Benefits are payable immediately following termination of employment or while in service for participants who have reached age 59.5.

VESTING

Each participant is 100% vested in his or her Cash Balance Account upon completion of three years of service, attainment of Normal Retirement Age, disability, or death.

STATUTORY LIMITS

For 2024, the maximum compensation limit under IRC section 401(a)(17) is $345,000, and the maximum benefit payable under IRC section 415(b) is $275,000.

Vertex Energy Inc. Cash Balance Plan

Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

Plan #002 / EIN: 38-4179507

December 31, 2024

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost**	(e) Current Value
	Investments:			
	Sage KIS Moderate Cash Balance 1	Collective Trust Fund	$ 3,264,401	$ 3,485,546
			$ 3,264,401	$ 3,485,546

* Party-in-interest, as defined by ERISA

** Cost information is not applicable for participant directed investments.

Vertex Energy Cash Balance Plan

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Schedule SB, Line 25 - Change in Method

CHANGE IN FUNDING METHOD

There was a change both in the enrolled actuary for the plan and in the business organization providing actuarial services to the plan between 2023 and 2024. The conditions for automatic approval, as outlined in Announcement 2010-3, were satisfied.