

## AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

As of March 1, 2016

# PART I ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

## 1. Committee Purpose

The Audit Committee (the "Committee") is established by the board of directors (the "Board of Directors") of CES Energy Solutions Corp. (the "Corporation") for the purpose of overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Corporation, including the reviews and audits of the financial statements of the Corporation.

The Committee shall assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by monitoring, among other things:

- (a) the Corporation's financial accounting and reporting process;
- (b) the quality and integrity of the financial statements and related disclosure of the Corporation;
- (c) compliance by the Corporation with legal and regulatory requirements that could have a material effect upon the financial position of the Corporation which are not subject to the oversight of another committee of the Board of Directors or the Board of Directors as a whole:
- (d) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence; and
- (e) the performance of the Corporation's independent auditor.

## 2. Composition of Committee

The Committee shall consist of as many members as the Board of Directors shall determine, but in any event not fewer than three directors of the Corporation, provided that each member of the Committee shall be determined by the Board of Directors to be:

- (a) an "unrelated" and "independent" director as defined in, and for the purposes of, any applicable governance guidelines or listing standards of any stock or securities exchange upon which the securities of the Corporation are, from time to time, listed; and
- (b) an "independent" and "financially literate" director for the purposes of any applicable corporate, securities or other legislation or any rule, regulation, instrument, policy,

guideline or interpretation under such legislation, including, but not limited to, National Instrument 52-110 – *Audit Committees*, promulgated under the *Securities Act* (Alberta).

## 3. Appointment of Committee Members

The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The members of the Committee shall be appointed at the time of each annual meeting of shareholders and shall hold office until the next annual meeting, until they are removed by the Board of Directors or until their successors are earlier appointed, or until they cease to be directors of the Corporation.

## PART II COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

#### 4. Vacancies

Where a vacancy occurs at any time in the membership of the Committee, it may be filled by the Board of Directors and shall be filled by the Board of Directors, by resolution, if the membership of the Committee is fewer than three directors. The Board of Directors may remove and replace any member of the Committee.

#### 5. Committee Chair

The Board of Directors shall appoint a chair (the "**Chair**") for the Committee. The Chair may be removed and replaced by the Board of Directors.

#### 6. Absence of Chair

If the Chair is not present at any meeting of the Committee, one of the other members of the Committee present at the meeting shall be chosen by the Committee to preside at the meeting.

## 7. Secretary of Committee

The Committee shall appoint a Secretary who need not be a director of the Corporation.

# 8. Regular Meetings

The Chair, in consultation with the Committee members, shall determine the schedule and frequency of the Committee meetings, provided that the Committee shall meet at least quarterly to review and recommend for approval to the Board of Directors the interim or annual financial statements of the Corporation, as applicable. The Committee at any time may, and at each regularly scheduled Committee meeting shall, meet without management present and shall meet periodically with management and the independent auditor of the Corporation. The Committee shall also meet separately with the independent auditor at every regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee at which the independent auditor is present and shall also meet separately with the Chief Financial Officer at every regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.

## 9. Special Meetings

The Chair, any two members of the Committee, the independent auditor or the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation may call a special meeting of the Committee.

#### 10. Quorum

A majority of the members of the Committee, present in person or by telephone or other telecommunication device that permits all persons participating in the meeting to speak to each other, shall constitute a quorum.

## 11. Notice of Meetings

Notice of the time and place of every meeting shall be given in writing or by e-mail or facsimile communication to each member of the Committee at least 48 hours prior to the time fixed for such meeting; provided, however, that a member may, in any manner, waive notice of a meeting and attendance of a member at a meeting is a waiver of notice of the meeting, except where a member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting is not lawfully called.

## 12. Agenda

The Chair shall develop and set the Committee's agenda, in consultation with other members of the Committee and management of the Corporation. The agenda and information concerning the business to be conducted at each Committee meeting shall, to the extent practicable, be communicated to the members of the Committee sufficiently in advance of each meeting to permit meaningful review.

## 13. Delegation

The Committee shall have the power to delegate its authority and duties to subcommittees or individual members of the Committee as it deems appropriate.

#### 14. Access

In discharging its oversight role, the Committee shall have full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Corporation.

## 15. Attendance of Others at a Meeting

At the invitation of the Chair, one or more officers, directors or employees of the Corporation may, and if required by the Committee shall, attend a meeting of the Committee.

#### 16. Procedure, Records and Reporting

The Committee shall fix its own procedure at meetings, keep records of its proceedings and report to the Board of Directors when the Committee may deem appropriate (but not later than the next meeting of the Board of Directors).

#### 17. Outside Consultants or Advisors

The Committee, when it considers it necessary or advisable, may retain, at the Corporation's expense, outside consultants or advisors (including independent counsel) to assist or advise the Committee independently on any matter within its mandate. The Committee shall have the sole authority to retain or terminate such consultants or advisors, including the sole authority to approve the fees and other retention terms for such persons.

# PART III COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE - AUDIT

## 18. Appointment of the Corporation's Independent Auditor

Subject to confirmation by the independent auditor of its compliance with regulatory registration requirements, the Committee shall recommend to the Board of Directors the appointment of the independent auditor for the purpose of preparing or issuing any audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation, such appointment to be confirmed by the Corporation's shareholders at each annual meeting. The Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the engagement letter with the independent auditor, the approval of fees to be paid to the independent auditor for audit services and shall pre-approve the retention of the independent auditor for any permitted non-audit service. The Committee shall also be directly responsible for the oversight of the work of the independent auditor (including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation. The Committee shall communicate directly with the independent auditor. The independent auditor shall report directly to the Committee.

The Committee shall review the independence of the independent auditor including a written report from the independent auditor delineating all relationships between the independent auditor and the Corporation, considering whether the advisory services performed by the independent auditor during the course of the year have affected its independence, and ensuring that no relationship or service between the independent auditor and the Corporation is in existence that may affect the objectivity and independence of the auditor, or recommending appropriate action to ensure the independence of the independent auditor.

#### 19. Specific Mandates

The Committee, to the extent required by applicable laws or rules, or otherwise considered by the Committee to be necessary or appropriate, shall:

- (a) Oversight in Respect of Financial Disclosure
  - (i) review, discuss with management and the independent auditor, and recommend to the Board of Directors for approval:
    - A. the audited annual financial statements;
    - B. the annual information form;
    - C. the annual management's discussion and analysis;

- D. the portions of the management proxy circular, for any annual or special meeting of shareholders, containing significant financial information respecting the Corporation;
- E. all financial statements included in prospectuses or other offering documents;
- F. any significant financial information contained in all prospectuses and all documents which may be incorporated by reference in a prospectus;
- G. any significant financial information respecting the Corporation contained in a material change report, business acquisition report or press release;
- (ii) review, discuss with management and the independent auditor, and recommend to the Board of Directors for approval:
  - A. the unaudited interim financial statements of the Corporation;
  - B. the quarterly management's discussion and analysis of the Corporation;
  - C. the interim reports of the Corporation;
- (iii) review and discuss with management:
  - A. each press release which contains significant financial information respecting the Corporation (including, without limitation, annual and interim earnings press releases) or contains earnings guidance, prior to public dissemination thereof;
  - B. the use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-GAAP information;
  - C. financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies; provided, however, that such discussion may be done generally (consisting of discussing the types of information to be disclosed and the types of presentations to be made) and in accordance with the Disclosure and Media Policy of the Corporation, and the Committee need not discuss in advance each instance in which the Corporation may provide earnings guidance or presentations to rating agencies;
- (iv) review with management and the independent auditor the scope of the audit, in particular the independent auditor's view of the Corporation's accounting principles as applied in the financial statements in terms of disclosure quality and evaluation methods, inclusive of the clarity of the Corporation's financial disclosure and reporting, degree of conservatism or aggressiveness of the Corporation's accounting principles and underlying estimates, and other significant decisions made by

- management in preparing the financial disclosure and reviewed by the independent auditor;
- (v) review with management and the independent auditor major issues regarding accounting and auditing principles and practices as well as the adequacy of internal controls and procedures for financial reporting and management information systems and inquire of management and the independent auditor about significant risks and exposures to the Corporation that could significantly affect the Corporation's financial statements;
- (vi) review with management and the independent auditor, and satisfy itself as to the adequacy of the procedures that are in place for the review of the Corporation's disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Corporation's financial statements, and periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures;
- (vii) review with management and the independent auditor (including those of the following that are contained in any report of the independent auditor):

   (a) all critical accounting policies and practices to be used by the Corporation in preparing its financial statements;
   (b) all alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of these alternative treatments, and the independent auditor's assessment of the alternatives; and (c) other material communications between the independent auditor and management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences;
- (viii) review with management and the independent auditor the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives as well as off-balance sheet transactions on the Corporation's financial statements;
- (ix) review the plans of management and the independent auditor regarding any significant changes in accounting practices or policies and the financial and accounting impact thereof;
- (x) review with management, the independent auditor and, if necessary, legal counsel, any litigation, claim or contingency, including tax assessments, that could have a material effect upon the financial position of the Corporation, and the manner in which these matters have been disclosed in the financial statements;
- (xi) review disclosures by the Corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer with respect to any required certification for the Corporation's financial statements by such individuals; and
- (xii) discuss with management the Corporation's material financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control

such exposures, including the Corporation's financial risk assessment and financial risk management policies and insurance policies.

- (b) Oversight in Respect of Legal and Regulatory Matters
  - (i) review, if necessary, with legal counsel, the Corporation's compliance policies, legal matters and any material reports or inquiries received from regulators or governmental agencies that could have a material effect upon the financial position of the Corporation and which are not subject to the oversight of another committee of the Board of Directors or the Board of Directors as a whole.
- (c) Oversight in Respect of the Chief Financial Officer and Finance Director
  - (i) consult with management on management's appointment, replacement, reassignment or dismissal of the Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation; and
  - (ii) ensure the Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation and the Finance Director of the Corporation have access to the Chair, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, and shall meet separately with the Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation and the Finance Director of the Corporation to review any problems or difficulties he or she may have encountered in the performance of his or her responsibilities and report to the Board of Directors on such meetings.
- (d) Oversight in Respect of the Independent Auditor
  - (i) meet with the independent auditor prior to the annual audit to review the planning and staffing of the audit;
  - (ii) review annually the independent auditor's formal written statement of independence delineating all relationships between itself and the Corporation and review all such relationships;
  - (iii) receive confirmation from the independent auditor as to its standing as a "participating audit firm" and its compliance with any restrictions or sanctions imposed by the Canadian Public Accountability Board as those concepts are set forth in National Instrument 52-108 of the Canadian Securities Administrators:
  - (iv) review and evaluate the independent auditor, including the lead partner of the independent auditor team;
  - (v) meet separately with the independent auditor to review with them any problems or difficulties they may have encountered and specifically:
    - A. any difficulties which were encountered in the course of the audit work, including any restrictions on the scope of activities or access

to required information, and any disagreements with management; and

B. any changes required in the planned scope of the audit;

and report to the Board of Directors on such meetings;

- review and approve the engagement letters of the independent auditor for the interim quarterly reviews and annual audit of the financial statements of the Corporation; and
- (vii) review and approve the Corporation's hiring policies regarding partners, employees, former partners and former employees of the Corporation's present and former independent auditor.
- (e) Oversight in Respect of Audit and Non-Audit Services
  - (i) have the sole authority to pre-approve all audit services (which may entail providing comfort letters in connection with securities underwritings) and all permitted non-audit services, other than non-audit services where:
    - A. the aggregate amount of all such non-audit services provided to the Corporation or its subsidiaries constitutes not more than 5% of the total amount of fees paid by the Corporation (and its subsidiaries) to the independent auditor during the fiscal year in which the non-audit services are provided;
    - B. such services were not recognized by the Corporation (or any subsidiary) at the time of the engagement to be non-audit services; and
    - C. such services are promptly brought to the attention of the Committee and approved, prior to the completion of the audit, by the Committee or by one or more members of the Committee to whom authority to grant such approvals has been delegated by the Committee; and
  - (ii) delegate to one or more designated members of the Committee the authority to grant pre-approvals required by this section; provided that the decision of any member to whom authority is delegated to pre-approve an activity shall be presented to the Committee at the first scheduled meeting following such decision, and provided further that, if the Committee approves an audit service within the scope of the engagement of the independent auditor, such audit service shall be deemed to have been pre-approved for purposes of this section.
- (f) Oversight in Respect of Certain Policies
  - (i) establish procedures for: (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal

- accounting controls or auditing matters; and (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters; and
- (ii) periodically review the Corporation's Disclosure and Media Policy, Insider Trading Policy and any other policies the Committee deems appropriate for the performance of its oversight responsibilities.

## 20. Oversight Function

While the Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Corporation's financial statements are complete and accurate or are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These are the responsibilities of management and the independent auditor. The Committee and its Chair are members of the Board of Directors, appointed to the Committee to provide broad oversight of the financial risk and control related activities of the Corporation, and are specifically not accountable nor responsible for the day to day operation or performance of such activities. The role of all Committee members is to oversee the process, not to certify or guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the external audit of the Corporation's financial information or public disclosure.

# PART IV GENERAL

#### 21. Self-Evaluation

The Committee shall conduct an annual performance self-evaluation and shall report to the Board of Directors the results of the self-evaluation.

#### 22. Review of Committee's Charter

The Committee shall assess the adequacy of this Charter on an annual basis and recommend any changes to the Board of Directors.

#### 23. Non-Exhaustive List

The foregoing list of duties is not exhaustive, and the Committee may, in addition, perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate for the performance of its oversight responsibilities.