

**PARAMOUNT RESOURCES LTD.  
AUDIT COMMITTEE  
CHARTER**

**(Adopted by the Board of Directors on May 19, 2005 with revisions to and including September 14, 2017)**

**A. PURPOSE**

The overall purpose of the Audit Committee (the "Committee") is to ensure that management of Paramount Resources Ltd. (the "Corporation") has designed and implemented an effective system of internal financial controls and disclosure controls and procedures, to review and report on the integrity of the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation and to review the Corporation's compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements as they relate to financial statements, taxation matters and disclosure of material facts.

**B. COMPOSITION, PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION**

1. The Committee shall consist of at least three members of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Corporation, all of whom shall be "independent", as that term is defined in Sections 1.4 and 1.5 of National Instrument 52-110, *Audit Committees*<sup>1</sup>.
2. All of the members of the Committee shall be "financially literate" (i.e. able to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of those of the Corporation and that can be reasonably expected to be raised by the Corporation's financial statements).
3. The Board shall appoint the members of the Committee. The Board may at any time remove or replace any member of the Committee and may fill any vacancy in the Committee.
4. Unless the Board shall have appointed a chair of the Committee, the members of the Committee shall elect a chair from among their members.
5. The Corporate Secretary of the Corporation shall be the secretary of the Committee, unless otherwise determined by the Committee.
6. The quorum for meetings shall be 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 and to hear each other.
7. The Committee shall have access to such officers and employees of the Corporation and to the Corporation's external auditors, and to such information respecting the Corporation, as it considers necessary or advisable in order to perform its duties and responsibilities.
8. Meetings of the Committee shall be conducted as follows:
  - (a) the Committee shall meet at least four times annually at such times and at such locations as may be requested by the chair of the Committee. The external auditors, the Chief Executive Officer or any member of the Committee may request a meeting of the Committee;
  - (b) the external auditors shall receive notice of and have the right to attend all meetings of the Committee;

- (c) the following management representatives shall be invited to attend all meetings, except executive sessions and private sessions with the external auditors:  
  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Chief Financial Officer  
Controller  
Corporate Secretary
  - (d) other management representatives shall be invited to attend as necessary or desirable
  - (e) as necessary or desirable, but in any case at least quarterly, the Committee will meet with members of management and representatives of the external auditors, in separate executive sessions to discuss any matters that the Committee or any of these groups believes should be discussed privately; and
  - (f) the Committee shall meet in camera, without management, during or after any Committee meeting.
9. The external auditors shall report directly to the Committee and the external auditors and internal auditors (if any) shall have a direct line of communication to the Committee through its chair and may bypass management if deemed necessary. The Committee, through its chair, may contact directly any employee of the Corporation as it deems necessary, and any employee may bring before the Committee any matter involving questionable, illegal or improper financial practices or transactions.
10. The Committee may retain, at the Corporation's expense, special legal, accounting or other consultants or experts it deems necessary in the performance of its duties and may set and pay the compensation for any advisor engaged. The Committee will notify the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee whenever independent consultants are engaged.

### **C. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The overall duties and responsibilities of the Committee shall be as follows:
- (a) to assist the Board in the discharge of its responsibilities relating to the Corporation's accounting principles, reporting practices and internal controls and its approval of the Corporation's annual and quarterly consolidated financial statements and management's discussion and analysis;
  - (b) to establish and maintain a direct line of communication with the Corporation's internal (if any) and external auditors and assess their performance;
  - (c) to ensure that the management of the Corporation has designed, implemented and is maintaining an effective system of internal financial controls and disclosure controls and procedures;
  - (d) to periodically review the audit and non-audit services pre-approval policy and recommend to the Board any changes which the Committee deems appropriate;
  - (e) to periodically consider whether there is a need to outsource internal audit functions or create an internal audit department;
  - (f) to receive and review complaints received pursuant to the Corporation's Whistleblower Policy and oversee and provide direction on the investigation and resolution of such

concerns and to periodically review the said policy and recommend to the Board changes which the Committee may deem appropriate;

- (g) to report regularly to the Board on the fulfillment of its duties and responsibilities;
- (h) to identify and monitor the management of the principal risks that could impact the financial reporting of the Corporation; and
- (i) review and approve the Corporation's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditors of the Corporation.

2. The duties and responsibilities of the Committee as they relate to the external auditors shall be as follows:

- (a) to be directly responsible for overseeing the work of the external auditors engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditors regarding financial reporting;
- (b) to recommend to the Board a firm of external auditors to be nominated for appointment by the shareholders of the Corporation, and to monitor and verify the independence of such external auditors;
- (c) to review and approve the fee, scope and timing of the audit and other related services rendered by the external auditors;
- (d) review the audit plan of the external auditors prior to the commencement of the audit;
- (e) to review with the external auditors, upon completion of their audit:
  - (I) contents of their report;
  - (II) scope and quality of the audit work performed;
  - (III) adequacy of the Corporation's financial and auditing personnel;
  - (IV) co-operation received from the Corporation's personnel during the audit;
  - (V) internal resources used;
  - (VI) significant transactions outside of the normal business of the Corporation;
  - (VII) significant proposed adjustments and recommendations for improving internal accounting controls, accounting principles or management systems; and
  - (VIII) the non-audit services provided by the external auditors, as pre-approved pursuant to the audit and non-audit services pre-approval policy;
- (f) to discuss with the external auditors the quality and not just the acceptability of the Corporation's accounting principles;
- (g) to review any unresolved issues between management and the external auditors that could affect the financial reporting or internal controls of the Corporation; and

- (h) to implement structures and procedures to ensure that the Committee meets the external auditors on a regular basis in the absence of management.
3. The duties and responsibilities of the Committee as they relate to the internal control procedures of the Corporation are to:
- (a) review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Corporation's policies and business practices which impact on the financial integrity of the Corporation, including those relating to insurance, accounting, information services and systems and financial controls, management reporting and risk management;
  - (b) review compliance under the Corporation's Code of Business Conduct Policy with those matters addressed in the policy which affect the financial integrity of the Corporation and to periodically review this policy and recommend to the Board changes which the Committee may deem appropriate; and
  - (c) periodically review the Corporation's financial and auditing procedures and the extent to which recommendations made by the internal accounting staff or by the external auditors have been implemented.
4. The Committee is also charged with the responsibility to:
- (a) review and recommend to the Board for its approval, the Corporation's and its subsidiaries, partnerships and joint venturers, as applicable, annual financial statements, management's discussion and analysis, annual information form and annual earnings press releases before the Corporation publicly discloses this information;
  - (b) review and approve the Corporation's and its subsidiaries, partnerships and joint venturers, as applicable, interim financial statements, interim management's discussion and analysis including the impact of unusual items and changes in accounting principles and estimates and report to the Board in due course with respect thereto and to review and approve the Corporation's interim earnings press releases before the Corporation publicly discloses this information;
  - (c) review and approve the financial sections of:
    - (I) the annual report to shareholders;
    - (II) the annual information form;
    - (III) prospectuses;
    - (IV) other public reports requiring approval by the Board; and
    - (V) press releases related thereto,and report to the Board with respect thereto;
  - (d) review regulatory filings and decisions as they relate to the Corporation's consolidated financial statements;
  - (e) review the appropriateness of the policies and procedures used in the preparation of the Corporation's consolidated financial statements and other required disclosure documents, and consider recommendations for any material change to such policies;

- (f) review and report on the integrity of the Corporation's consolidated financial statements;
- (g) review the minutes of any audit committee meeting of any subsidiary of the Corporation;
- (h) review with management, the external auditors and, if necessary, with legal counsel, any litigation, claim or other contingency, including tax assessments that could have a material effect upon the financial position or operating results of the Corporation and the manner in which such matters have been disclosed in the consolidated financial statements;
- (i) review the Corporation's compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements as they relate to financial statements, tax matters and disclosure of material facts; and
- (j) develop a calendar of activities to be undertaken by the Committee for each ensuing year related to the Committee's duties and responsibilities as set forth in this Charter and to submit the calendar in the appropriate format to the Board of Directors within a reasonable period of time following each annual general meeting of shareholders.

#### **D. ANNUAL REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT**

The Committee shall conduct an annual review and assessment of its performance, including compliance with this Charter and its role, duties and responsibilities, and submit such report to the Board of Directors.

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##### <sup>1</sup> 1.4 **Meaning of Independence --**

- (1) An audit committee member is independent if he or she has no direct or indirect material relationship with the issuer.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a "material relationship" means a relationship which could, in the view of the issuer's board of directors, be reasonably expected to interfere with the exercise of a member's independent judgement.
- (3) Despite subsection (2), the following individuals are considered to have a material relationship with an issuer:
  - (a) an individual who is, or has been within the last three years, an employee or executive officer of the issuer;
  - (b) an individual whose immediate family member is, or has been within the last three years, an executive officer of the issuer;
  - (c) an individual who:
    - (i) is, a partner of a firm that is the issuer's internal or external auditor;
    - (ii) is an employee of that firm; or
    - (iii) was within the last three years a partner or employee of that firm and personally worked on the issuer's audit within that time.
  - (d) an individual whose spouse, minor child or stepchild, or child or stepchild who shares a home with the individual:
    - (i) is a partner of the firm that is the issuer's internal or external auditor;
    - (ii) is an employee of that firm and participates in its audit, assurance or tax compliance (but not tax planning) practice; or
    - (iii) was within the last three years a partner or employee of that firm and personally worked on the issuer's audit within that time;
  - (e) an individual who, or whose immediate family member, is or has been within the last three years, an executive officer of an entity if any of the issuer's current executive officers serves or served at the same time on the entity's compensation committee; and
  - (f) an individual who received, or whose immediate family member who is employed as an executive officer of the issuer received, more than \$75,000 in direct compensation from the issuer during any 12 month period within the last three years.
- (4) Despite subsection (3), an individual will not be considered to have a material relationship with the issuer solely because:
  - (a) he or she had a relationship identified in subsection (3) if that relationship ended before March 30, 2004; or
  - (b) he or she had a relationship identified in subsection (3) by virtue of subsection (8) if that relationship ended before June 30, 2005.
- (5) For the purposes of clauses (3)(c) and (3)(d), a partner does not include a fixed income partner whose interest in the firm that is the internal or external auditor is limited to the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation (including deferred compensation) for prior service with that firm if the compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service.
- (6) For the purposes of clause (3)(f), direct compensation does not include:
  - (a) remuneration for acting as a member of the board of directors or of any board committee of the issuer; and
  - (b) the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with the issuer if the compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service.
- (7) Despite subsection (3) an individual will not be considered to have a material relationship with the issuer solely because the individual or his or her immediate family member: (a) has previously acted as an interim chief executive officer of the

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- issuer; or (b) acts, or has previously acted, as a chair or vice-chair of the board of directors or of any board committee of the issuer on a part-time basis.
- (8) For the purpose of section 1.4, an issuer includes a subsidiary entity of the issuer and a parent of the issuer.
- 1.5 **Additional Independence Requirements --**
- (1) Despite any determination made under section 1.4, an individual who
- (a) accepts, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the issuer or any subsidiary entity of the issuer, other than as remuneration for acting in his or her capacity as a member of the board of directors or any board committee, or as a part-time chair or vice-chair of the board or any board committee; or
  - (b) is an affiliated entity of the issuer or any of its subsidiary entities, is considered to have a material relationship with the issuer.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the indirect acceptance by an individual of any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee includes acceptance of a fee by
- (a) an individual's spouse, minor child or stepchild, or a child or stepchild who shares the individual's home; or
  - (b) an entity in which such individual is a partner, member, an officer such as a managing director occupying a comparable position or executive officer, or occupies a similar position (except limited partners, non-managing members and those occupying similar positions who, in each case, have no active role in providing services to the entity) and which provides accounting, consulting, legal, investment banking or financial advisory services to the issuer or any subsidiary entity of the issuer.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), compensatory fees do not include the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with the issuer if the compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service.