

## **SCHEDULE “C”**

### **SPC NICKEL CORP. (the “Corporation”)**

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

##### **1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The Audit Committee (the “**Committee**”) will assist the board of directors of the Corporation (the “**Board**”) in fulfilling its responsibilities. The Committee will oversee the financial reporting process, the system of internal control and management of financial risks, the audit process, and the Corporation’s process for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and its own code of business conduct. In performing its duties, the Committee will maintain effective working relationships with the Board, management, and the external auditors and monitor the independence of those auditors. To perform his or her role effectively, each Committee member will obtain an understanding of the responsibilities of Committee membership as well as the Corporation’s business, operations and risks.

##### **2. AUTHORITY**

- 2.1. The Board authorizes the Committee, within the scope of its responsibilities, to seek any information it requires from any employee and from external parties, to obtain outside legal or professional advice and to ensure the attendance of Corporation officers at meetings, as the Committee deems appropriate.
- 2.2. The Committee shall receive appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of compensation to the external auditors and to any legal or other advisers employed by the Committee, and for payment of ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

##### **3. COMPOSITION, PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION**

- 3.1. The Committee will be comprised of at least three members of the Board.
- 3.2. Except as permitted by all applicable legal and regulatory requirements:
  - (a) each member of the Committee shall be “independent” as defined in accordance with Canadian Multilateral Instrument 52-110 – *Audit Committee*; and
  - (b) each member of the Committee will be “financially literate” with the ability 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 the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Corporation's financial statements.
- 3.3. The Board, at its organizational meeting held in conjunction with each annual general meeting of the shareholders, will appoint the members of the Committee for the ensuing year. The Board may at any time remove or replace any member of the Committee and may fill any vacancy in the Committee.

- 3.4. The Committee shall elect from its members a Chairman. The Secretary shall be elected from its members, or shall be the Secretary, or the Assistant or Associate Secretary, of the Corporation.
- 3.5. Any member of the Committee may be removed or replaced at any time by the Board. A member shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon ceasing to be a director of the Corporation.
- 3.6. Meetings shall be held not less than quarterly. Special meetings shall be convened as required. External auditors may convene a meeting if they consider that it is necessary.
- 3.7. The times and places where meetings of the Committee shall be held and the procedures at such meetings shall be as determined, from time to time, by the Committee.
- 3.8. Notice of each meeting of the Committee shall be given to each member of the Committee. Subject to the following, notice of a meeting shall be given orally or by letter, telex, telegram, electronic mail, telephone facsimile transmission or telephone not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting. Notice of regular meetings need state only the day of the week or month, the place and the hour at which such meetings will be held and need not be given for each meeting. Members may waive notice of any meeting.
- 3.9. The Committee will invite the external auditors, management and such other persons to its meetings as it deems appropriate. However, any such invited persons may not vote at any meetings of the Committee.
- 3.10. A meeting of the Committee may be held by means of such telephonic, electronic or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.
- 3.11. The majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting the business of the Committee. Notwithstanding any vacancy on the Committee, a quorum may exercise all of the powers of the Committee.
- 3.12. Any decision made by the Committee shall be determined by a majority vote of the members of the Committee present or by consent resolution in writing signed by each member of the Committee. A member will be deemed to have consented to any resolution passed or action taken at a meeting of the Committee unless the member dissents.
- 3.13. A record of the minutes of, and the attendance at, each meeting of the Committee shall be kept. The approved minutes of the Committee shall be circulated to the Board forthwith.
- 3.14. The Committee shall report to the Board on all proceedings and deliberations of the Committee at the first subsequent meeting of the Board, and at such other times and in such manner as the Board or the articles of the Corporation may require or as the Committee in its discretion may consider advisable.
- 3.15. The Committee will have access to such officers and employees of the Corporation and to such information respecting the Corporation, as it considers to be necessary or advisable in order to perform its duties and responsibilities.

#### **4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The roles and responsibilities of the Committee are as follows.

- 4.1. Oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Corporation and the audits of the financial statements of the Corporation.
- 4.2. Review with management its philosophy with respect to controlling corporate assets and Information systems, the staffing of key functions and its plans for enhancements.
- 4.3. Review the terms of reference and effectiveness of any internal audit process, and the working relationship between internal financial personnel and the external auditor.
- 4.4. Gain an understanding of the current areas of greatest financial risk and whether management is managing these effectively.
- 4.5. Review significant accounting and reporting issues, including recent professional and regulatory pronouncements, and understand their impact on the financial statements, reviewing with management and the external auditor where appropriate.
- 4.6. Review any legal matters which could significantly impact the financial statements as reported on by the General Counsel and meet with outside counsel whenever deemed appropriate.
- 4.7. Review the annual financial statements and the results of the audit with management and the external auditors prior to the release or distribution of such statements, and obtain an explanation from management of all significant variances between comparative reporting periods.
- 4.8. Review the interim financial statements with management prior to the release or distribution of such statements, and obtain an explanation from management of all significant variances between comparative reporting periods.
- 4.9. Review all public disclosure concerning audited or unaudited financial information before its public release and approval by the Board, including management's discussion and analysis, financial information contained in any prospectus, private placement offering document, annual report, annual information form, takeover bid circular, and any annual and interim earnings press releases, and determine whether they are complete and consistent with the information known to Committee members.
- 4.10. Assess the fairness of the financial statements and disclosures, and obtain explanations from management on whether:
  - (a) actual financial results for the financial period varied significantly from budgeted or projected results;
  - (b) generally accepted accounting principles have been consistently applied;
  - (c) there are any actual or proposed changes in accounting or financial reporting practices; and

- (d) there are any significant, complex and/or unusual events or transactions such as related party transactions or those involving derivative instruments and consider the adequacy of disclosure thereof.
- 4.11. Determine whether the auditors are satisfied that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
  - 4.12. Focus on judgmental areas, for example those involving valuation of assets and liabilities and other commitments and contingencies.
  - 4.13. Review audit issues related to the Corporation's material associated and affiliated companies that may have a significant impact on the Corporation's equity investment.
  - 4.14. Ascertain whether any significant financial reporting issues were discussed by management and the external auditor during the fiscal period and the method of resolution.
  - 4.15. Review and resolve any significant disagreement among management and the external auditors in connection with the preparation of the financial statements.
  - 4.16. Recommend to the Board the selection of the firm of external auditors to be proposed for election as the external auditors of the Corporation.
  - 4.17. Review and approve the proposed audit plan and the external auditors' proposed audit scope and approach with the external auditor and management and ensure no unjustifiable restriction or limitations have been placed on the scope.
  - 4.18. Explicitly approve, in advance, all audit and non-audit engagements of the external auditors; provided, however, that non-audit engagements may be approved pursuant to a pre-approval policy established by the Committee that (i) is detailed as to the services that may be pre-approved, (ii) does not permit delegation of approval authority to the Corporation's management, and (iii) requires that the delegatee or management inform the Committee of each service approved and performed under the policy. Approval for minor non-audit services is subject to applicable securities laws.
  - 4.19. If it so elects, delegate to one or more members of the Committee the authority to grant such pre-approvals. The delegatee's decisions regarding approval of services shall be reported by such delegatee to the full Committee at each regular Committee meeting.
  - 4.20. Subject to the grant by the shareholders of the authority to do so, if required, review the appropriateness and reasonableness of the compensation to be paid to the external auditors and make a recommendation to the Board regarding such compensation.
  - 4.21. Oversee the independence of the external auditors. Obtain from the external auditors a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the external auditors and the Corporation. Actively engage in a dialogue with the external auditors with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that impact the objectivity and independence of the external auditor.
  - 4.22. 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.

- 4.23. Review the performance of the external auditors, and in the event of a proposed change of auditor, review all issues relating to the change, including the information to be included in any notice of change of auditor as required under applicable securities laws, and the planned steps for an orderly transition.
- 4.24. Review the post-audit or management letter, containing the recommendations of the external auditor, and management's response and subsequent follow-up to any identified weakness.
- 4.25. Review the evaluation of internal controls and management information systems by the external auditor, and, if applicable, the internal audit process, together with management's response to any identified weaknesses and obtain reasonable assurance that the accounting systems are reliable and that the system of internal controls is effectively designed and implemented.
- 4.26. Gain an understanding of whether internal control recommendations made by external auditors have been implemented by management.
- 4.27. Review the process under which the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the Corporation's design of internal control over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures.
- 4.28. Obtain regular updates from management and the Corporation's legal counsel regarding compliance matters, as well as certificates from the Chief Financial Officer as to required statutory payments and bank covenant compliance and from senior operating personnel as to permit compliance.
- 4.29. Establish a procedure for the:
  - (a) confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;
  - (b) receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters.
- 4.30. Meet separately with the external auditors to discuss any matters that the Committee or auditors believe should be discussed privately.
- 4.31. Endeavour to cause the receipt and discussion on a timely basis of any significant findings and recommendations made by the external auditors.
- 4.32. Ensure that the Board is aware of matters which may significantly impact the financial condition or affairs of the business.
- 4.33. Review and assess the adequacy of insurance coverage, including directors' and officers' liability coverage.
- 4.34. Perform other functions as requested by the full Board.
- 4.35. If it deems necessary, institute special investigations and, if it deems appropriate, hire special counsel or experts to assist, and set the compensation to be paid to such special counsel or other experts.

## **5. GENERAL**

In addition to the foregoing, the Committee will:

- (a) assess the Committee's performance of the duties specified in this charter and report its finding(s) to the Board;
- (b) review and assess the adequacy of this charter at least annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval; and
- (c) perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Board from time to time or as may be required by any applicable stock exchanges, regulatory authorities or legislation.