

# **CVW CLEANTECH INC.**

# **CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The audit committee (the "Audit Committee") assists the Board of Directors (the "Board") in overseeing thea financial controls and reporting of CVW CleanTech Inc. and any and all subsidiary corporations (collectively, the "Company"). The Audit Committee also monitors whether the Company complies with financial covenants and legal and regulatory requirements governing financial disclosure matters and financial risk management.

### 1. COMPOSITION AND QUORUM

The Audit Committee is composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members. A majority of the members of the Audit Committee must qualify as independent directors in accordance with National Instrument 52-110 of the Canadian Securities Administrators ("NI 52-110") as determined by the Board. Each member of the Audit Committee must be financially literate, capable of reading and understanding 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 Company's financial statements. At least one member of the Audit Committee must have accounting or related financial experience, being the ability to analyze and interpret a full set of financial statements, including notes thereto, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Independent members of the Audit Committee may not receive, directly or indirectly, any compensation from the Company other than compensation received in their roles as directors and committee members and must be free of any material relationship with the Company which could, in the view of the Board, be reasonably expected to interfere with the exercise of a member's independent judgment. The Board shall, in making any such determination, exercise its discretion in accordance with the guidance contained in NI 52-110.

The quorum at any meeting of the Audit Committee is a majority of its members.

The Corporate Governance Committee shall review the candidacy of any director being considered for the Audit Committee prior to the invitation being extended to such director to join the Audit Committee and shall periodically review the composition of the Audit Committee. In addition, the Audit Committee will undertake annually a review of this mandate and make recommendations to the Corporate Governance Committee as to proposed changes, if any.

#### 1. AUTHORITY

The Audit Committee has the authority to:

- 1. engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties;
- 2. set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the Audit Committee; and
- 3. communicate directly with any auditors performing audit, review of attest services for or on behalf of the Company.

### 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Audit Committee has the following responsibilities:

## With respect to financial reporting

- 1. Assuming overall responsibility for the disclosure of all financial and related information by the Company in accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements, both with respect to content and timing governing the dissemination of such information.
- Reviewing the annual financial statements and accompanying notes, the external auditors' report thereon, the annual management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") and the related press release announcing the Company's earnings, and obtaining explanations from management on all significant variances with comparative periods, before recommending their approval by the Board and their release.
- 3. Reviewing the quarterly financial statements, the interim MD&A and the related press release announcing the Company's earnings before recommending their approval by the Board and their release.
- 4. Reviewing the financial information contained in the annual information form, annual report, prospectuses and other documents, as applicable, containing similar financial information extracted or derived from the Company's financial statements before their public disclosure or filing with regulatory authorities in Canada and periodically assessing the adequacy of the procedures established to review the Company's public disclosure of such financial information.
- 5. Reviewing with management and the external auditors the quality and not just the acceptability of the Company's accounting policies and any changes that are proposed to be made thereto, including (i) all critical accounting policies and practices used, (ii) any alternative treatments of financial information that have been discussed with management, the ramification of their use and the external auditors'



- preferred treatment, and (iii) any other material communications with management with respect thereto, and reviewing the disclosure and impact of contingencies and the reasonableness of the provisions, reserves and estimates that may have a material impact on financial reporting.
- 6. Reviewing with the external auditors any audit problems or difficulties and management's response thereto and resolving any disagreement between management and the external auditors regarding financial reporting.
- 7. Reviewing periodically any policies of the Company with respect to the communication of financial and related information to ensure that they conform with applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

# With respect to risk management and internal controls

- 1. Reviewing current and expected future compliance with covenants under the financing agreements.
- 2. Reviewing the proposed issuance of debt and equity instruments including public and private debt, equity and hybrid securities, credit facilities with banks and others, and other credit arrangements such as material capital and operating leases. When applicable, the Committee shall review the related securities filings.
- 3. Reviewing the proposed repurchase of public and private debt, equity and hybrid securities.
- 4. Understand the Company's capital structure and financial risks arising from exposure to such things as commodity prices, interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates and credit. Review the management of these risks including any proposed hedging exposures. The Committee shall receive a summary report of the hedging activities including a summary of the hedge-related instruments.
- 5. Monitoring the quality and integrity of the Company's system of internal controls and management information systems, through discussions with management and the external auditors.
- 6. Reviewing all audit plans of external auditors and arranging for any additional independent audit procedures deemed necessary by the Audit Committee to gain reasonable assurance that the combined evaluation and testing of internal financial controls is comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective.
- 7. Overseeing management's reporting on internal controls.
- 8. At least annually, reviewing a report of the external auditors describing the Company's internal quality-control procedures, any material issues raised by the most recent reviews of internal controls and management information systems or by

- any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities and any recommendations made and steps taken to deal with any such issues.
- 9. Monitoring the execution of all audit plans.
- 10. Ensuring that persons auditing internal controls are always ultimately accountable to the Audit Committee and the Board.
- 11. Establishing procedures for:
  - (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and
  - (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
- 12. The Audit Committee shall enquire into and determine the appropriate resolution of any conflict of interest in respect of audit or financial matters, which are directed to the Audit Committee by any member of the Board, a shareholder of the Company, the external auditors, or senior management.

## With respect to the external auditors

- Overseeing the work of the external auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditor regarding financial reporting.
- 2. Reviewing the annual written statement of the external auditors regarding all their relationships with the Company and discussing any relationships or services that may impact on their objectivity or independence.
- 3. Making recommendations to the Board concerning the appointment and, if appropriate, the termination (both subject to shareholder approval) of the external auditor to be nominated for the purpose of preparing or issuing an auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company and monitoring their qualifications, performance and independence. When there is to be a change of external auditors, review all issues and provide documentation related to the change, including the information to be included in the Notice of Change of Auditors and documentation required pursuant to National Instrument 51-102 (or any successor legislation) of the Canadian Securities Administrators and the planned steps for an orderly transition period.
- 4. Approving the performance of all non-audit services to be provided to the Company by the Company's external auditors.

- 5. Approving and overseeing the disclosure of all audit services provided by the external auditors to the Company or any of its subsidiaries, determining which non-audit services the external auditors are prohibited from providing and, exceptionally, approving and overseeing the disclosure of permitted non-audit services to be performed by the external auditors.
- 6. Making recommendations to the Board concerning the basis and amount of the external auditors' fees for both audit and authorized non-audit services.
- 7. Reviewing the audit plan with the external auditors and management and approving the scope, extent and schedule of such audit plan.
- 8. Reviewing and approving the Company's hiring policies for partners, employees or former partners or employees of the present and former external auditors.
- 9. Ensuring the respect of legal requirements regarding the rotation of applicable partners of the external auditors, on a regular basis, as required.
- 10. Ensuring that the external auditors are always accountable to the Audit Committee and the Board.
- 11. Making arrangements for sufficient funds to be available to effect payment of the fees of the external auditors and of any advisors or experts retained by the Audit Committee.

## With respect to the Chief Financial Officer

- 1. The Audit Committee shall review the appointments of the Chief Financial Officer and any key financial managers who are involved in the financial reporting process.
- 2. Annually reviewing the performance of the Chief Financial Officer.

# With respect to directors' and officers' insurance

1. The Audit Committee shall review the amount and terms of any insurance to be obtained or maintained by the Company with respect to risks inherent in its operations and potential liabilities incurred by the directors or officers in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities.

## 3. METHOD OF OPERATION

1. Meetings of the Audit Committee are held at least quarterly, and as required.

- A member or members of the Audit Committee may participate in a meeting of the Audit Committee by means of such telephonic, electronic or other communication facilities, as permits all persons participating in the meeting to communicate adequately with each other. A member participating in such a meeting by any such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.
- 3. In the absence of the Chair of the Audit Committee, the members of the Audit Committee shall choose one of the members present to be Chair of the meeting. In addition, the members of the Audit Committee shall choose one of the persons present to be the Secretary of the meeting.
- 4. The following Management representatives shall be invited to attend all meetings, except private committee sessions and private sessions with the independent auditors:
  - (a) President and Chief Executive Officer
  - (b) Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer
- 5. The Chairman of the Board, senior management of the Company and other parties may attend meetings of the Audit Committee; however the Audit Committee (i) shall meet with the external auditors independent of management; and (ii) may meet separately with management.
- 6. The Chair of the Audit Committee develops the agenda for each meeting of the committee in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer. The agenda and the appropriate material are provided to members of the Audit Committee on a timely basis prior to any meeting of the Audit Committee.
- 7. The Chair of the Audit Committee reports regularly to the Board on the business of the Audit Committee.
- 8. The Audit Committee has at all times a direct line of communication with the Company's auditors.
- 9. The Audit Committee meets on a regular basis without management or the external auditors.
- 10. The Audit Committee meets separately with management and the auditors at least annually, and more frequently as required.
- 11. The Audit Committee may, in appropriate circumstances, engage external advisors, subject to advising the Chair of the Board thereof.

- 12. Review that an effective "whistleblowing" procedure exists to permit stakeholders to express any concerns regarding accounting or financial matters to an appropriately independent individual.
- 13. The Audit Committee annually reviews its mandate and reports to the Board on its adequacy and publication requirements.
- 14. The Corporate Governance Committee annually supervises the performance assessment of the Audit Committee and its members.

Nothing contained in this mandate is intended to expand applicable standards of conduct under statutory or regulatory requirements for the directors of the Company or the members of the Audit Committee. Even though the Audit Committee has a specific Charter and its members may have financial experience, they do not have the obligation to act as auditors or to perform auditing, or to determine that the Company's financial statements are complete and accurate. Members of the Audit Committee are entitled to rely, absent knowledge to the contrary, on (i) the integrity of the persons and organizations from whom they receive information, (ii) the accuracy and completeness of the information provided, and (iii) representations made by management as to the non-audit services provided to the Company by the external auditor. The Audit Committee's oversight responsibilities are not established to provide an independent basis to determine that (i) management has maintained appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles or appropriate internal controls and procedures, or (ii) the Company's financial statements have been prepared and, if applicable, audited in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The purposes and responsibilities outlined in this Charter are meant to serve as guidelines rather than inflexible rules and the Audit Committee may adopt such additional procedures and standards as it deems necessary from time to time to fulfill its responsibilities.

Dated: April 21, 2022