

Western Resources Corp. (the "Company")
CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (UPDATE)
JULY 2020

Audit Committee Mandate

The Audit Committee (the “**Committee**”) will assist the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of Western Resources Corp. (the “**Company**”) in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Committee will review the financial reporting process, the system of internal control and management of financial risks, the audit process, and the Company’s process for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and its own code of business conduct as more fully described below. In performing its duties, the Committee will maintain effective working relationships with the Board of directors, 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 Company’s business, operations and risks.

Committee Organization

The Committee will be comprised of three (3) or more directors as determined by the Board, all of whom shall satisfy the “independence” requirement of the applicable securities regulatory requirements, as may be required from time to time. Each member will be “financially literate” as defined in the applicable securities regulatory requirements or shall become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Committee. The designation or identification of a member as Committee financial expert shall not impose on such member any duties, obligations or liabilities that are greater than the duties, obligations and liabilities imposed on any other member of the Committee or Board. The Board will appoint annually, at the organizational meeting of the full board on the recommendation of the Board members, the members of the Committee. The Board will appoint one member of the Committee as the chair of the Committee. A Committee member shall be automatically removed without further action of the Board if the member ceases to be a director of the Company or is found by the Board to no longer be an independent director as required by this Charter. Committee members may be otherwise removed or replaced by a vote of the Board. No member serving on the Committee shall receive directly or indirectly, any compensation, advisory or other compensation fee from the Company or an affiliate of the Company other than director fees for service as a director. The Committee is to meet at least four (4) times annually and as many additional times as the Committee deems necessary. Committee members will endeavor to be present at all meetings either in person or by telephone. As necessary or desirable, but in any case at least quarterly, the Committee shall meet with members of management and, if required external auditors, to discuss the financial reporting and any matter that the Committee or management deems necessary. The Chairman in consultation with other members of the Committee, the Company’s independent auditors and the appropriate officers of the Company, will be responsible for calling meetings of the Committee, establishing the agenda and supervising the conduct of the meeting. The Committee may also take any action permitted hereunder by unanimous written consent. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company’s outside legal counsel or independent auditors to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consult to, the Committee. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter or applicable laws or regulations, as amended from time to time:

- a. A majority of the members of the Committee meeting, either present in person or by means of remote communication, or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the Committee, and

- b. All actions of the Committee shall be by affirmative vote of a majority of those members so determined to be present or represented by proxy.

Authority

Subject to the prior approval of the Board, the Committee is granted the authority to investigate and require such information and explanation from management, as it considers reasonably necessary, or any matter or activity involving financial accounting, financial reporting, financial risk, and the internal controls of the Company. In addition, the Committee will require management to promptly inform the Committee and the external auditor of any material misstatement or error in the financial statements following the discovery of such instance. The Committee has the authority to engage independent counsel and other advisors as it deems necessary to carry out its duties and to set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the Committee.

In recognition of the fact that the independent auditors are ultimately accountable to the Committee, the Committee shall have the authority and responsibility to nominate for shareholder approval, evaluate, and where appropriate, replace the independent auditors and shall approve all audit engagement fees and terms and all non-audit engagements with the independent auditors. The Committee shall consult with management but shall not delegate these responsibilities.

Responsibilities

In carrying out its oversight responsibilities, the Committee will:

1. Review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval.
2. Review with the Company's management and external auditors and recommend to the Board the Company's quarterly and annual financial statements and management discussion and analysis that is to be provided to shareholders, stakeholders and the appropriate regulatory authorities, including any financial statement contained in a prospectus, information circular, registration statement or other similar document.
3. Review with the Company's management and approve on behalf of the Board the Company's quarterly financial statements and management discussion and analysis that is to be provided to shareholders, stakeholders and the appropriate regulatory authorities.
4. Review the Company's management annual and interim earnings press release before any public disclosure.
5. Recommend to the Board the external auditors to be nominated for the purposes of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit's review or attest services and the compensation to be paid to the external auditors. The external auditors shall report directly to the Committee.
6. The Committee will annually review the qualifications, expertise and resources and the overall performance of external auditor and, if necessary, recommend to the Board the termination of the external auditor (and its affiliates), in accordance with the applicable securities laws.
7. Review with management the scope and general extent of the external auditors' annual audit. The Committee's review should include an explanation from the external auditors of the factors considered in determining the audit scope, including major risk factors. The external auditors should confirm to the Committee whether or not any limitations have been placed upon the scope or nature of their audit procedures.
8. Be directly responsible for the oversight of the work of the external auditors, including the resolution of disagreements between management of the Company and the external auditors.

9. Review with the Company's management and external auditors the Company's accounting and financial reporting controls. Obtain annually in writing from the external auditors their observations, if any, on significant weaknesses in internal controls as noted in the course of the auditor's work.
10. The Committee is to meet at least once annually, with the independent auditors, separately, without any management representatives present for the purpose of oversight of accounting and financial practices and procedures.
11. Review with the Company's management and external auditors significant accounting and reporting principles, practices and procedures applied by the Company in preparing its financial statements. Discuss with the external auditors their judgment about the quality of the accounting principles used in financial reporting.
12. Inquire as to the independence of the external auditors and obtain from the external auditors, at least annually, a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the Company and the external auditors and the compensation paid to the external auditors.
13. At the completion of the annual audit, review with management and the external auditors the following:
 - a. The annual financial statements and related footnotes and financial information to be included in the Company's annual report to shareholders.
 - b. Results of the audit of the financial statements and the related report thereon and, if applicable, a report on changes during the year in accounting principles and their application.
 - c. Significant changes to the audit plan, if any, and any serious disputes or difficulties with management encountered during the audit. Inquire about the cooperation received by the external auditors during the audit, including all requested records, data and information.
 - d. Inquire of the external auditors whether there have been any material disagreements with management, which, if not satisfactorily resolved, would cause them to issue a not standard report on the Company's financial statements.
14. Meet with management, to discuss any relevant significant recommendations that the external auditors may have, particularly those characterized as "material" or "serious". Typically, such recommendations will be presented by the external auditors in the form of a Letter of Comments and Recommendations to the Committee. The Committee should review responses of management to the Letter of Comments and Recommendations from external auditors and receive follow-up reports on action taken concerning the aforementioned recommendations.
15. Have the sole authority to review in advance, and grant any appropriate pre-approvals, of all non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditors and, in connection therewith, to approve all fees and other terms of engagement. The Committee shall also review and approve disclosures required to be included in periodic reports filed with securities regulators with respect to non-audit services performed by external auditors.
16. Be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Company's disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Company's financial statements, and periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures.
17. Review and approve the Company's hiring of partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and past auditors.
18. Review any proposed appointments to senior financial positions of the Company.
19. Review with management and the external auditors the methods used to establish and monitor the Company's policies with respect to unethical or illegal activities by the Company's employees that may have a material impact in the financial statements.

20. Review all risk assessment reports prepared by management from time to time to determine if risks are properly identified and managed and if any issues need to be reported to the Board.

21. The Committee will conduct an appropriate review of all proposed related party transactions to identify potential conflict of interest and disclosure situations. The Committee shall submit the related party transaction to the Board of Directors for approval by a majority of independent directors, excluding any director who is the subject of a related transaction, and

22. The Committee will prepare a report for the inclusion on the Company's proxy statement for its annual meeting of stockholders describing the Committee's structure, its members and their experience and education. The report will address all issues then required by the rules of the regulatory authorities.

Complaint Procedures

The Committee shall establish 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 confidentiality, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters. The Committee must periodically review such procedures to ensure they are effective and ensure compliance by the Company with such procedures.

"Whistleblower" Procedures

The Committee shall provide for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and the Committee shall provide for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matter.

Annual Performance Evaluation

The Committee will conduct and review with the Board annually an evaluation of the Committee's performance with respect to the requirements of the Charter. The evaluation should set forth the goals and objectives of the Committee for the upcoming year.

Other

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 Company's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These are the responsibility of management and the independent auditor. Nor is it the duty of the Committee to assure compliance with the laws and regulations.

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