



***NORTH
AMERICAN***
ENERGY PARTNERS INC.

***CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICY
AND BOARD MANDATE***

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICY AND BOARD MANDATE

1. Introduction

The Board is responsible for the stewardship of the Corporation as well as supervision of the management of the business and affairs of the Corporation. The Board is committed to following corporate governance practices that help ensure the Board serves the best interests of the Corporation in discharging those responsibilities. This Policy sets out the framework for those corporate governance practices.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- (a) establish a framework to assist the Board in achieving good corporate governance in all aspects of the Corporation's business; and
- (b) ensure compliance with the governance requirements of applicable regulators and stock exchanges.

3. Definitions

In this Policy:

- (a) **"Board"** means the board of directors of the Corporation;
- (b) **"CEO"** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation;
- (c) **"Chair"** or **"Board Chair"** means the chair of the Board;
- (d) **"Committee"** means any committee of directors established by the Board for the purpose of carrying out certain delegated functions of the Board;
- (e) **"Committee Chair"** means the chair of any Committee;
- (f) **"Corporation"** means North American Energy Partners Inc.;
- (g) **"Executive Officer"** means the CEO, President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and each Vice-President of the Corporation; and
- (h) **"Lead Director"** means the lead director appointed under Section 5.5, if applicable.

4. Scope

This Policy applies to all activities of the Board.

5. Policy

5.1 Directors

The Board has determined that it will be comprised of at least 6 directors in order to fill all of the Committees required for an effective governance structure and to meet the regulatory requirements of applicable stock exchanges. The Board has also determined that there will be no more than 10 directors in order to encourage lively, informed discussion and facilitate decision-making while managing the costs of operating the Board.

Directors are expected to use their skill and experience to provide oversight to the business of the Corporation. Directors are expected to attend meetings and to be prepared to participate actively and knowledgeably. A full description of the responsibilities of each director is set out in Appendix A.

5.2 Chair

The Board will elect a Chair who shall remain as the Chair until such time as he or she retires or until an alternate Chair is selected. The position description for the Chair is set out in Appendix B.

5.3 Committees

In order to ensure effective management of the workload and concurrently meet the regulatory requirements of applicable stock exchanges the Board will delegate certain of its responsibilities to the following Committees:

- (a) Audit Committee
- (b) Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- (c) Operations Committee

The Board will appoint a Committee Chair for each Committee from among the members of the Committee. The position description for Committee Chairs is set out in Appendix C.

Each Committee will prepare a charter to describe its responsibilities and will annually review its charter to ensure it is current. Each Committee charter, and any amendments, will be reviewed and approved by the Operations Committee and the Board and publicly disclosed on the Corporation's website once approved.

Each Committee will perform an assessment of its effectiveness each year based on the guidelines set by the Operations Committee and will report the findings of that annual review to the Board.

5.4 Board and Committee Composition

The Board will periodically review Board and Committee composition, consider and approve the nomination of directors recommended by the Operations Committee, fill vacancies among the directors, appoint additional directors and appoint directors to Committees.

5.5 Director Qualifications and Diversity Criteria

In addition to having a Board comprised of highly experienced and skilled individuals, having a diversity of perspectives and viewpoints among its members is a significant benefit to corporate governance. To this end, the Board will, when identifying and selecting candidates for appointment or election to the Board, consider:

- (a) what competencies, qualifications, skills, knowledge, experience and expertise the Board, as a whole, should possess;
- (b) the competencies, qualifications, skills, knowledge, experience and expertise of existing Board members;
- (c) the competencies, qualifications, skills, knowledge, experience and expertise of potential candidates and the way in which the same would complement that of existing Board members;
- (d) whether a potential candidates can devote sufficient time and resources to his or her duties as a board member; and
- (e) diversity criteria, including but not limited to the gender, age, cultural and geographic backgrounds of potential candidates and how the same would lead to greater diversity on the Board.

Diversity of perspectives and viewpoints at the executive level is equally as important as at the Board level and, accordingly, the Board will also consider the above diversity criteria when identifying and selecting candidates for appointment to Executive Officer positions.

It is not in the best interests of the Corporation or its shareholders to set any specific targets or quotas for recruiting Board members or Executive Officers based on diversity criteria. Diversity criteria will be considered as one important aspect of the identification and selection process but should not be considered paramount to other important criteria.

5.6 Independence

The Board will be composed of a majority of independent directors. Each Committee will be composed solely of independent directors.

The Board has determined that an independent director is a director who is not a member of management and who does not have a relationship with the Corporation or with management that may affect or be perceived to affect, the director's ability to act in the best interests of the Corporation. A director is not independent if he or she does not satisfy the independence requirements contained in any applicable securities legislation or regulation or in the rules or policies of any applicable regulator or stock exchange on which the Corporation's securities are listed for trading. The Board may adopt other categorical standards for determining whether a director is independent and will review the independence of each of the non-management directors annually.

The CEO of the Corporation will serve as a director of the Corporation and will be the only management director.

In the event the Board determines that it is appropriate and in the best interests of the Corporation to have the same individual serve concurrently as both Chair and CEO, the Board may make such appointment. In such case, however, the Board will appoint an independent director (the "Lead Director") to act as the effective leader of the Board, to ensure that the Board's agenda will enable the Board to successfully carry out its duties and to facilitate the Board's exercise of independent judgment in carrying out its duties. The position description for the Lead Director is set out in Appendix D.

The Board has adopted a policy of meeting *in camera*, with only independent directors present, at each regularly scheduled Board meeting. *In camera* sessions are of no fixed duration and participating directors are encouraged to raise and discuss any issues of concern.

Directors are expected to speak and act independently, respecting differing views held by other directors and management.

5.7 Interlocks

An interlock occurs when two or more directors of the Corporation are members on the same board of directors of another public company. No more than two directors may sit on the same public company board without the prior consent of the Board. In considering whether or not to permit more than two directors to serve on the same board, the Board must take into account all relevant considerations including, in particular, the total number of Board interlocks at that time. Also, none of the members of the Audit Committee may serve on more than three public company audit committees without Board approval.

5.7 Strategic Planning

The Board will adopt a strategic planning process and approve, on at least an annual basis, a strategic plan which takes into account, among other things, the opportunities and risks of the business of the Corporation.

5.8 Identification and Management of Risks

The Board will identify the principal risks of the Corporation's business and ensure the implementation of appropriate systems to manage such risks, including ensuring implementation of appropriate internal control and management information systems.

5.9 Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

The Board is responsible for ensuring a culture of integrity within the Corporation and in fulfilling that responsibility will:

- (a) satisfy itself as to the integrity of the Executive Officers and that the Executive Officers create a culture of integrity throughout the organization;
- (b) approve and adopt a Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy applicable to directors, officers and employees of the Corporation and periodically review the same to ensure conformance with evolving best practices for corporate governance;
- (c) monitor compliance with the Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy, address and respond to any material departures from the same by any director or Executive Officer that come to the attention of the Board, consider any request for a waiver from the provisions of the same for the benefit of any director or Executive Officer and grant any such waiver if determined by the Board to be appropriate and in the best interests of the Corporation; and
- (d) ensure that, in conducting its business, the Board avoids conflicts of interest by directors.

A director has a conflict if he or she is:

- (a) a party to a material contract or transaction or proposed material contract or transaction with the Corporation;
- (b) a director or officer of any entity which is a party to a material contract or transaction or proposed material contract or transaction with the Corporation; or
- (c) a person who has a material interest in any entity which is a party to a material contract or transaction or proposed material contract or transaction with the Corporation.

Immediately upon becoming aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest a director shall inform the Chair as well as the Lead Director if a Lead Director has been appointed. The director shall also advise the CEO and the corporate secretary of the conflict.

Because it may be impractical for a director who serves as a director or officer of another entity or who has a material interest in another entity to know that the entity is entering into a material contract or transaction with the Corporation (and therefore to give notice of every such material contract or transaction), it is sufficient for the director to deliver a general notice to the Board declaring that he or she is a director or officer or has a material interest in an entity and is to be regarded as interested in any material contract or transaction made with that entity. To minimize the possibility of a conflict of interest not being identified, directors will provide to the Corporation and update annually, a list of all shares and options held in the Corporation and all other director positions they hold or shares held in other organizations.

5.10 Director Compensation

The Board will compensate directors in a form and amount that is fair and appropriate for the services they perform and which is customary for comparable companies, having regard to such matters as time commitment, responsibility and trends in director compensation.

The Board, based upon recommendations of the Compensation Committee, will periodically review the adequacy and form of directors' compensation, including compensation of the Chair and the Committee Chairs, to ensure that it is competitive and realistically reflects the responsibilities and risks involved in being a director.

To more closely align the interests of directors and the Corporation's shareholders, a portion of the directors' fees may be paid in the form of equity, which may be in the form of deferred share units or other stock-based compensation. In addition, directors are encouraged to hold shares of the Corporation for their own accounts.

A management director will not receive additional compensation for Board service.

5.11 Orientation and Education for Directors

The Board, in conjunction with management, will provide an orientation program for new directors. The Board will ensure that all new directors understand the role of the Board and its Committees. Each director will be provided with a copy of all of the corporate governance policies and charters. Management will conduct

orientation sessions with new directors to review the Corporation's business, issues, risks and opportunities.

The Board, in conjunction with management, will provide continuing education opportunities for all directors so that individuals may maintain or enhance their skills and abilities as directors on an ongoing basis. Management will provide directors with opportunities to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Corporation's business and to ensure their understanding of the Corporation's business remains current.

5.12 Executive Team

The Board will appoint the Executive Officers of the Corporation and will monitor their performance against a set of mutually agreed corporate objectives directed at maximizing shareholder value. The Board will ensure that Executive Officers receive training and education as determined by the Board to be appropriate to ensure their ongoing professional development and improvement.

The Board expects management succession planning to be an ongoing activity to be reviewed and approved by the Board. This planning process will include, on a continuing basis, the CEO's recommendation of a successor in the event of an unexpected incapacitation of the CEO.

5.13 Access to Advisors

The Board and each Committee will have access to independent legal, accounting, financial and other advisors as each deems necessary or appropriate to assist the Board or Committee in the conduct of its respective duties. The engagement of such advisors will be at the expense of the Corporation.

Any individual director who wishes to engage a non-management advisor at the expense of the Corporation to assist on matters involving his or her responsibilities as a director must review the request with and obtain the authorization of the Chair. Authorization of the Lead Director must also be obtained where a Lead Director has been appointed.

5.14 Term Limits

As set out in the by-laws, the election of directors will take place at each annual meeting of shareholders where the terms of all directors then in office shall be deemed to end. If qualified, however, each shall be eligible for re-election. The Board has determined that fixed term limits for directors should not be established. The Board is of the view that such a policy would have the effect of forcing directors off the Board who have developed, over a period of service,

considerable insight into the Corporation and who, therefore, can be expected to provide an increasing contribution to the Board. At the same time, the Board recognizes the value of some turnover in Board membership to provide ongoing input of fresh ideas and views and annually considers changes to the composition of the Board.

5.15 Evaluation

The Board is responsible to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Board, its Committees and the individual directors and to foster a process of continuing improvement. Each director will periodically participate in a Board and Committee effectiveness assessment as well as an individual assessment by the director's peers. Board and Committee assessments will consider, among other things, the effectiveness of the Board or Committee in achieving its mandate as set out in this Policy or the relevant Committee charter, as applicable. Individual peer assessments will consider, among other things, the competencies and skills the individual director is expected to bring to the Board, the director responsibilities set out in Appendix A and the applicable position descriptions for any director serving as Board Chair, Lead Director or the chair of any Committee. The Operations Committee is responsible for establishing the process for Board, Committee and individual director assessments.

<p>Prepared By:</p> <p>/s/ Jordan Slator</p> <p>Jordan Slator General Counsel</p>	<p>Approved By:</p> <p>/s/ Ron McIntosh</p> <p>Ron McIntosh Chairman of the Board</p>	<p>Date Approved / Issued:</p> <p>October 31, 2017</p>
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APPENDIX A – Responsibilities of Directors

Directors are expected to:

- Understand and fulfill the legal requirements and fiduciary and other obligations of a director.
- Act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Corporation.
- Exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.
- Participate, as necessary, in the review and approval of Corporation policies and strategies and in monitoring their implementation.
- Exercise their directors' powers for the purposes for which they are intended.
- Comply with the Corporation's Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.
- Disclose to the Board when their personal interests and their duty to the Corporation are brought into conflict.
- Use their abilities, experience and influence constructively.
- Respect the confidentiality of fellow Board members and of the Corporation.
- Understand the difference between governing and managing and not encroach on management's mandate and areas of responsibility.
- Participate, as requested by the Board, on Board Committees. The Board will endeavour to limit a director's participation to two Committees in order to enable the director to give proper attention to each Committee, as well as to the Board. Committee members are expected to become knowledgeable about the purpose and goals of the relevant Committees, as well as the process of Committee work and the role of management, staff and outside advisors supporting the Board's Committees.
- When appropriate, communicate with the Board Chair and the CEO between meetings and be responsive when an officer of the Corporation or member of the Board desires to communicate between meetings.
- Prepare for Board and Committee meetings in advance.
- Attend all regular scheduled Board and Committee meetings in person. It is acceptable, on an infrequent basis, for directors to participate in these meetings by conference call if attendance in person is not possible. A director will notify the Board Chair or the CEO if he or she will not be able to attend or participate in a meeting.

- Become sufficiently knowledgeable about the Corporation's business, services, principal regulators and industry.
- Develop an understanding of the role of the Corporation in the communities in which it operates.
- Maintain an understanding of the legislative, business, social and political environments within which the Corporation operates.
- Maintain an understanding of the strategic planning process and principal risks of the Corporation.
- Remain knowledgeable about the executive management structure and overall management of the Corporation.
- Keep abreast of corporate governance developments and emerging best practices in corporate governance.
- Take part in a periodic performance review of the Board as a whole and of any Committee to which he or she is a member in an honest and positive manner in order to contribute to continuous improvement in relation to the functioning of the Board and the Committees.

Appendix B: Board Chair – Position Description

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This position description is intended to identify the specific responsibilities of the Board Chair of the Corporation and to enhance coordination and communication between the Committee Chairs, the Board Chair, the Lead Director, the Board and the CEO.
- 1.2 The Board Chair shall be appointed by the Board and will hold office until such time as he or she resigns or is replaced by a majority vote of the Board.
- 1.3 The prime responsibility of the Board Chair is to provide leadership to the Board in matters relating to the effective execution of all Board responsibilities.
- 1.4 The Board Chair's performance will be measured against the effectiveness with which the Board functions, including satisfaction of Board members regarding the functioning of the Board.
- 1.5 The responsibilities of the Board Chair are to be carried out consistently with the principles stated in the Corporation's Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.
- 1.6 The responsibilities of the Board Chair are to be carried out in conjunction and cooperation with the Lead Director when a Lead Director has been appointed. In any case where the Lead Director has a specific responsibility that overlaps or conflicts with the responsibilities of the Board Chair, the Board Chair's responsibilities are to be interpreted as being subject and subordinate to the responsibilities of the Lead Director.

2 Board Leadership

The Board Chair has the responsibility to:

- 2.1 Provide leadership in ensuring that the Board works harmoniously as a cohesive team.
- 2.2 Facilitate the Board functioning independently of management by ensuring that independent directors meet regularly without management or other non-independent directors present as well as by engaging outside advisors as required.
- 2.3 Provide guidance to the Board and management to ensure that the responsibilities of the Board are well understood by both the Board and management and that the boundaries between Board and management responsibilities are clearly understood and respected.

- 2.4 Attend Committee meetings and communicate with directors between meetings, as required.
- 2.5 Establish procedures to govern the Board's work including:
- working with the CEO and Secretary to schedule meetings of the Board and its Committees;
 - developing the agenda for Board meetings with input from other directors and management;
 - working with the CEO and Secretary to ensure that proper and timely information is delivered to the Board;
 - working with the CEO to ensure that the conduct of Board meetings provides adequate time for serious discussion of relevant issues;
 - chairing all meetings of the Board, to the fullest extent possible;
 - encouraging full participation, stimulating debate, facilitating consensus and ensuring clarity regarding decision-making;
 - in conjunction with the Lead Director if applicable, ensuring that independent directors have the opportunity to meet *in camera* at each meeting of the Board;
 - ensuring that any decisions arising from in-camera sessions are conveyed to the Secretary to be included in the minutes of the meeting;
 - ensuring that the Board has appropriate administrative support; and
 - addressing complaints, questions and concerns regarding Board matters, including consideration and approval of a director's request to engage a non-management advisor at the Corporation's expense.

3 Board Development

The Board Chair has the responsibility to:

- 3.1 Assist the Operations Committee in implementing the Board assessment process and lead the Board in discussing the results.
- 3.2 Lead in continuous improvement of Board processes and provide directors with opportunities to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Corporation's business.

- 3.3 Upon recommendation of the Operations Committee, and in conjunction with the Lead Director if applicable, approach new candidates to serve on the Board.

4 Working with Management

The Board Chair has the responsibility to:

- 4.1 Represent shareholders and the Board to management and represent management to the Board and shareholders.
- 4.2 Work with the Board and the CEO to ensure that the Corporation is building a healthy governance culture.
- 4.3 Assist in effective communication between the Board and management, including follow-up of major items required by management or the Board.
- 4.4 Communicate openly and effectively with the CEO regarding strategy, governance matters, performance of the Corporation and feedback from directors.
- 4.5 Maintain regular contact with the CEO to keep well informed on the major affairs and operations of the Corporation.
- 4.6 Assist the Compensation Committee in monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Executive Officers, except the CEO where the Chair also serves as CEO, and ensuring succession plans are in place at the senior management level.
- 4.7 Serve as advisor to the CEO and other Executive Officers.

5 Shareholder Relations

The Board Chair has the responsibility to:

- 5.1 Chair annual and special meetings of the shareholders.
- 5.2 Receive concerns addressed to the Board from stakeholders about the Corporation's corporate governance, business conduct and ethics or financial practices. The Board Chair will inform and consult with management to determine an appropriate response.

Appendix C: Committee Chair – Position Description

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This position description is intended to identify the specific responsibilities of each Committee Chair of the Corporation and to enhance coordination and communication between the Committee Chairs, the Board Chair, the Lead Director, the Board and the CEO.
- 1.2 Each Committee Chair shall be an independent director and shall be appointed by the Board. Each Committee Chair will hold office until such time as he or she resigns or is replaced by a majority vote of the Board.
- 1.3 The prime responsibility of each Committee Chair is to provide leadership in matters relating to the effective execution of all Committee responsibilities.
- 1.4 Each Committee Chair's performance will be measured based on the satisfaction of Committee members and of the Board regarding the functioning of the Committee.
- 1.5 The responsibilities of each Committee Chair are to be carried out in a manner consistent with the principles stated in the Corporation's Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.

2 Role and Responsibilities

Each Committee Chair has the responsibility to:

- 2.1 provide leadership in ensuring that the Committee works harmoniously as a cohesive team;
- 2.2 facilitate the Committee functioning independently of management by meeting regularly without management and engaging outside advisors as required;
- 2.3 communicate with Committee members between meetings as required;
- 2.4 facilitate information sharing with other Committees, as required, to address matters of mutual interest or concern;
- 2.5 lead in continuous improvement of Committee processes and provide Committee members with opportunities to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Corporation's business;
- 2.6 assist in effective communication between the Committee and management, including follow-up of major items required by management, the Board or by the Committee;

- 2.7 establish procedures to govern the Committee's work including:
- work with the CEO and Secretary to schedule meetings of the Committee;
 - develop the agenda for Committee meetings with input from the Board Chair, other Committee members and management;
 - work with the Board Chair, CEO and Secretary to ensure that proper and timely information is delivered to the Committee;
 - work with the Board Chair and CEO to ensure that the conduct of Committee meetings provides adequate time for proper discussion of relevant issues;
 - chair all meetings of the Committee;
 - encourage full participation, stimulating debate, facilitating consensus and ensuring clarity regarding decision-making;
 - report regularly to the Board on the activities of the Committee, including the results of meetings and reviews undertaken and any associated recommendations;
 - ensure that the Board Chair and the Lead Director, if one has been appointed, are briefed regularly on the key issues facing the Committee;
 - ensure that the Committee has appropriate administrative support; and
 - address complaints, questions and concerns regarding Committee matters.

Appendix D: Lead Director – Position Description

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This position description is intended to identify the specific responsibilities of the Lead Director of the Corporation and to enhance coordination and communication between the Committee Chairs, the Board Chair, the Lead Director, the Board and the CEO.
- 1.2 The Lead Director shall be an independent director and shall be appointed by the Board to serve in that role at any time that any particular person serves concurrently as both Board Chair and CEO. The Lead Director will hold office until such time as he or she resigns or is replaced by a majority vote of the Board or until such time as the Board determines that a Lead Director is unnecessary due to a separation of the roles of Board Chair and CEO.
- 1.3 The prime responsibilities of the Lead Director are to act as the effective leader of the Board, to ensure that the Board's agenda will enable the Board to successfully carry out its duties and to facilitate the Board's exercise of independent judgment in carrying out its duties.
- 1.4 The Lead Director's performance will be measured against the effectiveness with which the Board functions, including satisfaction of the independent directors regarding the effective exercise by the Board of independent judgement.
- 1.5 The responsibilities of the Lead Director are to be carried out consistently with the principles stated in the Corporation's Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.
- 1.6 The responsibilities of the Lead Director are to be carried out in conjunction and cooperation with the Board Chair. In any case where the Lead Director has a specific responsibility that overlaps or conflicts with the responsibilities of the Board Chair, the Board Chair's responsibilities are to be interpreted as being subject and subordinate to the responsibilities of the Lead Director.

2 Role and Responsibilities

The Lead Director has the responsibility to:

- 2.1 together with the Board Chair, oversee the Board's discharge of its duties;
- 2.2 work with the Board chair, the CEO and the Board to ensure the Corporation is building a healthy governance culture;

- 2.3 work with the Board Chair and management to set the agenda for each meeting of the Board and ensure the Board is provided with appropriate associated materials;
- 2.4 attend Committee meetings and communicate with directors between meetings, as required.
- 2.5 together with the Board Chair, work with the Committees of the Board to ensure they have a proper structure and appropriate assignments;
- 2.6 together with the Board Chair, oversee the responsibilities and functions delegated to the Committees of the Board, including, but not limited to, compensation, performance evaluations and internal control systems;
- 2.7 assist the Compensation Committee in monitoring and evaluating the performance of the CEO and, together with the Board Chair, assist the Compensation Committee in monitoring and evaluating the performance of the other Executive Officers as well as ensuring succession plans are in place at the senior management level.
- 2.8 together with the Board Chair, take steps to foster the Board's understanding of its responsibilities and boundaries with management;
- 2.9 chair Board meetings when the Board Chair is absent or in circumstances where the Board Chair is conflicted;
- 2.10 act as a leader for the independent directors;
- 2.11 serve as an independent contact for directors, shareholders and other stakeholders on matters when the person making contact believes it to be inappropriate to discuss the matter initially with the Board Chair or in other situations where the Board Chair is not available;
- 2.12 communicate with the Board Chair and CEO so that he or she is aware of concerns of the independent directors, shareholders and other stakeholders;
- 2.13 be available to counsel the Board Chair on matters appropriate for review in advance of discussion with the full Board;
- 2.14 organize and present agendas for *in camera* independent director meetings based on input from directors and management;
- 2.15 preside over *in camera* independent director meetings and conduct the meetings in an efficient, effective and focused manner;

- 2.16 oversee the distribution of information to independent directors for purposes of *in camera* independent directors meetings in a manageable form, sufficiently in advance of the meeting;
- 2.17 brief the Board Chair on decisions reached or suggestions made at *in camera* independent director meetings;
- 2.18 perform other functions as may be reasonably requested by the Board.