

STERLING MINING COMPANY

CHARTER FOR THE COMPENSATION & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 28, 2006

1. PURPOSE

The Compensation and Management Development Committee's (the "Committee") basic responsibility is to review the performance and development of Company management in achieving corporate goals and objectives and to assure that senior executives of the Company are compensated effectively in a manner consistent with the strategy of the Company, competitive practice, and the requirements of the appropriate regulatory bodies. Toward that end, the Committee will oversee, review and administer all compensation, equity and employee benefit plans and programs.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee will consist of not less than two directors, each of whom will be an "independent director" as required by the rules of any exchange as may be in effect and are applicable to the Company from time to time. If the Company is listed on an exchange, the Company shall apply the standards for determining independence set forth in the corporate governance requirements of the American Stock Exchange, as the same be in effect from time to time. In addition to the foregoing independence requirement, each member of the Committee will be "non-employee director" within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), and an "outside director" within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended. Each appointed Committee member will be subject to annual reconfirmation and may be removed by the Board of Directors (the "Board") at any time.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

In carrying out its purpose, the Committee will have the following responsibilities and duties:

- Review annually and approve the Company's compensation strategy to ensure that employees of the Company are rewarded appropriately for their contributions to company growth and profitability.
- Review annually and approve corporate goals and objectives relevant to executive compensation and evaluate performance in light of those goals.
- Review annually and determine the individual elements of total compensation for the Chief Executive Officer and all other officers within the meaning of Rule 16a-1(f)

issued by the SEC (“Officers”), and communicate in the annual Board Compensation Committee Report to shareholders the factors and criteria on which the Chief Executive Officer and all other executive officers’ (within the meaning of Rule 3b-7 issued by the SEC) compensation for the last year was based.

- Approval all special perquisites, special cash payments and other special compensation and benefit arrangements for the Company’s Officers.
- Review and recommend compensation for non-employee members of the Board, including but not limited to the following elements: retainer, meeting fees, committee fees, committee chair fees, equity or stock compensation, benefits and perquisites.
- With sole and exclusive authority, make and approve stock option grants and other discretionary awards under the Company’s stock option or other equity incentive plans to all persons who are Board members.
- Grant stock options and other discretionary awards under the Company’s stock option or other equity incentive plans to all other eligible individuals in the Company’s service. The Committee may delegate to the president the authority to make grants to eligible individuals (other than any such corporate officer) who are not Officers, provided that the Committee shall have fixed the price (or a formula for determining the price) and the vesting schedule for such grants, approved the form of documentation evidencing such grants, and determined the appropriate number of shares or the basis for determining such number of shares by position, compensation level or category of personnel. Any corporate officer(s) to whom such authority is delegated shall regularly report to the Committee the grants so made. Any such delegation may be revoked at any time by the Committee.
- Amend the provisions of the Company’s stock option or other equity incentive plans, to the extent authorized by the Board, and make recommendations to the Board with respect to incentive compensation and equity-based plans.
- Approve for submission to the shareholders stock option or other equity incentive plans or amendments thereto.
- Oversee and periodically review the operation of all of the Company’s employee benefit plans, including but not limited to the Section 401(k) Plan and the Employee Stock Purchase Plan, including its sub-plan, the International Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Responsibility for day-to-day administration, including the preparation and filing of all government reports and the preparation and delivery of all required employee materials and communications, will be performed by company personnel.
- Ensure that the annual incentive compensation plan is administered in a manner consistent with the Company’s compensation strategy and the terms of such plan, including but not limited to the following: participation, target annual incentive awards, corporate financial goals, actual awards paid to Officers, total funds reserved

for payment under the plan, and potential qualification under IRS Code Section 162(m).

- Review matters related to management performance, compensation and succession planning (including periodic review and approval of Chief Executive Officer and other Officer succession planning) and executive development for executive staff.
- Approve separation packages and severance benefits for Officers to the extent that the packages are outside the ordinary plan limits.
- Exercise, as necessary and appropriate, all of the authority of the Board with respect to the election of corporate officers of the Company during the periods between the regular meetings of the Board.
- Have full access to the Company's executives and personnel as necessary to carry out its responsibilities.
- Obtain such data or other resources as it deems necessary to perform its duties, including but not limited to obtaining external consultant reports or published salary surveys, and engaging independent compensation consultants and other professionals to assist in the design, formulation, analysis and implementation of compensation programs for the Company's Officers and other key employees.
- Have responsibility for the review and approval of all reports and summaries of compensation policies and decisions as may be appropriate for operational purposes or as may be required under applicable law.
- Perform any other activities consistent with this Charter, the Company's Bylaws and governing law as the Committee or the Board deems necessary or appropriate.
- Review the Committee Charter from time to time and recommend any changes to the Board.
- Report to the Board on the major items covered at each Committee meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any action of the Committee, other than the grant of stock options or other discretionary awards under the Company's stock option or other equity incentive plans, may be subject to Board review and may be revised, modified or rescinded by the Board.

4. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee will meet as often as necessary to carry out its responsibilities. Meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Committee and/or by the management of the Company. Minutes of each meeting will be duly filed in the Company records. Reports of meetings of the Committee will be made to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting following the Committee meeting accompanied by any recommendations to the Board approved by the Committee.

The Committee will also meet as and when necessary to act upon any other matters within its jurisdiction under this Charter. A majority of the total number of members of the Committee will constitute a quorum at all Committee meetings. Minutes will be kept of each meeting of the Committee.