



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES ON DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

NEW CONCEPT ENERGY

It is the policy of the Board of Directors that at least one-half, but not less than three Directors be independent of the Company and of the Company's management. For a Director to be deemed "independent," the Board shall affirmatively determine that the Director has no material relationship with the Company or its affiliates or any member of the senior management of the Company or his or her affiliates. This determination shall be disclosed in the proxy statement for each annual meeting of the Company's stockholders. In making this determination, the Board shall apply the following standards:

- A Director who is an employee, or whose immediate family member is an executive officer, of the Company may not be deemed independent until three years after the end of such employment relationship. Employment as an interim Chairman or Chief Executive Officer will not disqualify a Director from being considered independent following that employment.
- A Director who receives, or whose immediate family member receives, more than \$100,000 per year in direct compensation from the Company, other than director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service (provided such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service), may not be deemed independent until three years after he or she ceases to receive more than \$100,000 in compensation. Compensation received by a Director for former service as an interim Chairman or Chief Executive Officer and compensation received by an immediate family member for service as a non-executive employee of the Company will not be considered in determining independence under this test.
- A Director who is affiliated with or employed by, or whose immediate family member is affiliated with or employed in a professional capacity by, a present or former internal or external auditor of the Company may not be deemed independent until three years after the end of the affiliation or the employment or

auditing relationship.

- A Director who is employed, or whose immediate family member is employed, as an executive officer of another company where any of the Company's current executive officers serve on that company's compensation committee may not be deemed independent until three years after the end of such service or the employment relationship.
- A Director who is an executive officer, general partner or employee, or whose immediate family member is an executive officer or general partner, of an entity that makes payments to, or receives payments from, the Company for property or services in an amount which, in any single fiscal year, exceeds the greater of \$1 million or 2% of such other entity's consolidated gross revenues, may not be deemed independent until three years after failing below that threshold.
- Further to the provision above that applies to goods and services generally, a Director who is, or whose immediate family member is, an executive officer, general partner or significant equity holder (i.e., in excess of 10%) of an entity that is a paid provider of professional services to the Company, any of its affiliates, any executive officer or any affiliate of an executive officer, if the payments for such services exceed \$60,000 (but do not exceed the greater of \$1 million or 2% of such other entity's consolidated gross revenues) within the preceding twelve-month period may not be deemed independent.
- A Director who is, or whose immediate family member is, affiliated with or employed by a tax-exempt entity that receives significant contributions (i.e., more than 2% of the annual contributions received by the entity or more than \$200,000 in a single fiscal year, whichever amount is lower) from the Company, any of its affiliates, any executive officer or any affiliate of an executive officer within the preceding twelve-month period may not be deemed independent, unless the contribution was approved in advance by the Board of Directors.

For purposes of these guidelines, the terms:

- **“affiliate”** means any consolidated subsidiary of the Company and any other Company or entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the Company, as evidenced by the power to elect

a majority of the board of directors or comparable governing body of such entity; and

- **“immediate family”** means spouse, parents, children, siblings, mothers- and fathers-in-law, sons- and daughters-in-law, brothers- and sisters-in-law and anyone (other than employees) sharing a person’s home, but excluding any person who is no longer an immediately family member as a result of legal separation or divorce, or death or incapacitation.

The Board shall undertake an annual review of the independence of all non-employee Directors. In advance of the meeting at which this review occurs, each such non-employee Director shall be asked to provide the Board with full information regarding the Director’s business and other relationships with the Company and its affiliates and with senior management and their affiliates to enable the Board to evaluate the Director’s independence.

Directors have an affirmative obligation to inform the board of any material changes in their circumstances or relationships that may impact their designation by the Board as “independent.” This obligation includes all business relationships between, on the one hand, Directors or members of their immediate family, and, on the other hand, the Company and its affiliates or members of senior management and their affiliates, whether or not such business relationships are subject to the approval requirement set forth in the following provision.

Adopted by the Board of Directors
October 20, 2004