



**AK STEEL HOLDING CORPORATION
(INCLUDING AK STEEL CORPORATION)
(the “Corporation”)**

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

This Charter is intended as a component of the flexible governance framework within which the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Corporation, assisted by its committees, directs the affairs of the Corporation. While it should be interpreted in the context of all applicable laws, regulations and listing requirements, as well as in the context of the Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation and By Laws, it is not intended to establish by its own force any legally binding obligations.

I. PURPOSES

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee (the “Committee”) is to assist the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Corporation in fulfilling its responsibility to oversee management’s conduct of the Corporation’s financial reporting process including: (i) overseeing the integrity of the Corporation’s financial statements; (ii) compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (iii) independent auditor’s qualifications and independence; and (iv) performance of independent auditors and internal audit function.

In discharging its oversight role, the Committee is empowered to investigate any matter brought to its attention, with full access to all of the Corporation's books, records, facilities and personnel and the power to retain outside counsel, auditors or other experts for this purpose. The Board and the Committee are in place to represent the Corporation’s shareholders. Accordingly, the Corporation’s independent auditors are ultimately accountable to the Board and the Committee. Similarly, the Corporation’s independent auditors, internal auditors, executive and financial management and general counsel will have full access to the Committee and each is responsible for bringing before this Committee in a timely manner any matter such firm or person feels appropriate to the discharge of the Committee’s responsibility.

II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall consist of three or more members of the Board, each of whom the Board has selected and determined to be “independent” in accordance with applicable rules of the Securities & Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and the New York Stock Exchange. All members of the Committee shall meet the financial literacy requirements of the New York Stock Exchange and at least one member shall be an “audit committee financial expert” as such term is defined under applicable SEC rules. No member of the Committee may serve on the audit committee of more than three public companies, including the Corporation, unless the Board has determined that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such member to effectively serve on the Committee. Such determination shall be disclosed in the Company’s annual proxy statement.

Committee members shall continue to be members until their successors are elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation or removal. Any member may be removed by the Board, with or without cause, at any time. The Chair of the Committee shall be recommended by the Nominating and Governance Committee and approved by the Board. He or she shall serve at the pleasure of the Board to convene and chair meetings of the Committee, set agendas for meetings, and determine the Committee's information needs. In the absence of the Chair at a duly convened meeting, the Committee shall select a temporary substitute from among its members.

III. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet on a regularly scheduled basis at least five times annually and at such other times as may be necessary or desirable. The Committee shall meet at least once each quarter with the internal auditor and the independent auditor in separate executive sessions to provide the opportunity for full and frank discussion without members of senior management present. In addition, the Committee shall meet at least once each quarter in a separate session with management. The Committee shall establish its own schedule and rules of procedure. Members may participate telephonically in meetings of the Committee. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum sufficient for the taking of any action by the Committee.

IV. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee's role is one of oversight. The Board recognizes that the Corporation's management is responsible for preparing the Corporation's financial statements and that the Corporation's independent auditors are responsible for auditing those financial statements and are ultimately accountable to the Board and the Committee, who are in place to represent the Corporation's shareholders. Additionally, the Board recognizes that accounting personnel, including the Corporation's internal audit staff and its independent auditors, have more time, knowledge and detailed information regarding the Corporation's financial affairs than do Committee members. Accordingly, in carrying out its oversight role, the Committee is not expected to provide any expert or special assurance as to the Corporation's financial statements or any professional certification as to the work of its independent auditors.

The following are the principal responsibilities of the Committee in carrying out its oversight role, with the understanding that the Committee may perform additional responsibilities as directed by the Board:

- 1) The Committee shall be responsible for the selection, appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the Corporation's independent auditors.
- 2) Pre-approve all non-audit services for which the independent auditors are engaged by the Corporation. In between regularly scheduled meetings, the Chairman of the Committee has the authority to pre-approve such services, subject to ratification by the Committee at its next meeting.

- 3) The Committee shall:
 - (a) ensure that the Corporation's independent auditors submit to the Corporation on a periodic basis a formal written statement delineating all relationships between those accountants and the Corporation consistent with Independence Standards Board Standard Number 1;
 - (b) discuss with the Corporation's independent auditors any such disclosed relationships and their impact on the accountants' independence;
 - (c) recommend that the Board take appropriate action in response to the auditors' report to satisfy itself as to the auditors' independence.
 - (d) set hiring policies for employees or former employees of the independent auditors; and
 - (e) review the independent auditors' quality control procedures and any related issues.
- 4) The Committee shall review with the Corporation's independent auditors, on a quarterly basis, the Corporation's critical accounting policies and practices and alternative treatments.
- 5) The Committee shall review the structure and effectiveness of the Corporation's financial reporting and management information systems to assess whether accurate and timely financial information is available to the Corporation's management and the Board.
- 6) The Committee shall discuss with management and the Corporation's independent auditors the quality and adequacy of the Corporation's internal controls to:
 - (a) foster compliance with the Corporation's accounting and financial management policies;
 - (b) maintain compliance with applicable governmental requirements;
 - (c) safeguard data and information systems from misuse; and
 - (d) foster responsible conduct by all employees engaged in administering and accounting for the receipt and disbursement of funds.
- 7) The Committee shall oversee the Corporation's internal audit function, including discussing with management and the internal auditors the internal audit function's organization, objectivity, responsibilities, plans, results and staffing. The internal audit function has a dotted line reporting relationship to the Audit Committee.
- 8) The Committee shall review the Corporation's overall risk management profile and actions the Corporation has taken to monitor and control major risk exposures.

- 9) The Committee shall review with management and the Corporation's independent auditors the audited financial statements and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors as to whether those financial statements should be included in the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K. In that connection, the Committee shall review and consider with the Corporation's independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards ("SAS") No. 61 (as amended).
- 10) As a whole, or through the Committee chair, the Committee shall, prior to the Corporation's filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission of each Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, review with the Corporation's independent auditors the Corporation's interim financial results to be included in that Quarterly Report and the matters required by SAS No. 61 (as amended) to be discussed;
- 11) As a whole, or through the Committee chair, the Committee shall discuss the Corporation's earnings releases, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies, as well as the Corporation's use therein of non-GAAP financial measures. The Committee does not need to discuss these matters in advance of each such release;
- 12) The Committee shall review the Corporation's financial reporting procedures to monitor compliance by the Corporation with the financial disclosure requirements of applicable laws.
- 13) The Committee shall periodically review (i) legal and regulatory matters that may have a material impact on the Company's financial statements and (ii) the scope and effectiveness of compliance policies and programs.
- 14) The Committee shall prepare, for inclusion in the proxy statement to be distributed in connection with the Corporation's Annual Meeting of Stockholders, a formal report of its responsibilities and activities during the period since the preceding Annual Meeting.
- 15) The Committee shall establish and maintain procedures for (1) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints regarding accounting or internal auditing matters and (2) confidential, anonymous submission by Corporate employees regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
- 16) At least annually, the Committee shall evaluate how well it has fulfilled its role and prepare a formal report thereon. The Committee shall review the adequacy of this Charter on an annual basis and recommend to the Nominating and Governance Committee amendments thereto when the same are deemed appropriate. Amendments then will be recommended to the Board for approval.

As adopted by the Board of Directors on March 4, 2004.