

# **SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION**

## **NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER**

### **I. Authority and Purpose**

The primary purposes of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the "Committee") are to (i) assist the Board of Directors (the "Board") in identifying qualified individuals to become Board members, consistent with criteria approved by the Board, (ii) determine the composition of the Board and its committees, (iii) recommend to the Board the director nominees for the annual meeting of shareholders, (iv) to establish and monitor a process of assessing the Board's effectiveness, and (v) develop and recommend to the Board and implement a set of corporate governance principals and procedures. The Committee shall undertake those specific duties and responsibilities listed below and such other duties as the Board shall from time to time prescribe. All powers of the Committee are subject to the restrictions designated in the Company's Bylaws and by applicable law.

### **II. Committee Membership**

The Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members. Each member of the Committee shall meet the independence requirements established by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the New York Stock Exchange and the standards established by the Board from time to time.

Committee members shall be elected by the Board and shall serve until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified. If any Committee member resigns or ceases to be a director of the Company, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board. Committee members may be removed at any time by vote of the Board.

### **III. Structure and Meetings**

The Committee shall conduct its business in accordance with this Charter, the Company's Bylaws and any direction by the whole Board.

The Committee Chairperson shall be designated by the Board, or, if it does not do so, the Committee members shall elect a Chairperson by a vote of the majority of the full Committee. The Committee Chairperson may be removed at any time by vote of the Board.

The Committee will meet at least two times each year. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer or other officer acting for him, the Chairperson of the Committee or any two members of the Committee may call meetings of the Committee upon such notice as is required for special Board meetings in accordance with the Company's Bylaws. A majority of the Committee, but not less than two members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Unless the

Committee by resolution determines otherwise, any action required or permitted to be taken by the Committee may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Committee consent thereto in writing and the writing or writings are filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Committee. As necessary or desirable, the Chairperson of the Committee may require that any director, officer or employee of the Company, or other person whose advice and counsel are sought by the Committee, be present at meetings of the Committee. Members of the Committee may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another, and such participation shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

The Committee Chairperson will preside at each meeting and, in consultation with the other members of the Committee, will set the frequency and length of each meeting and the agenda of items to be addressed at each meeting. The Chairperson of the Committee (or other member designated by the Chairperson or the Committee in the Chairperson's absence) shall regularly report to the full Board on its proceedings and any actions that it takes. The Committee will maintain written minutes of its meetings, which minutes will be maintained with the books and records of the Company.

#### **IV. Duties and Responsibilities**

The Committee shall have the authority and responsibility for:

##### **A. Corporate Governance Guidelines.**

(1) Developing and recommending to the Board and implementing compliance programs and a set of corporate governance principals applicable to the Company that shall include, at a minimum, director qualifications and responsibilities, responsibilities of key Board committees, director compensation, director access to management and, as necessary and appropriate, independent advisors, annual Board performance evaluations, director orientation and continuing education, and management selection and succession.

(2) Developing and recommending to the Board, and implementing and monitoring compliance with, a code of business conduct and ethics for directors, officers and employees, and promptly disclosing any waivers for directors or executive officers. The code of business conduct and ethics shall include, at a minimum, rules addressing conflicts of interest, corporate opportunities, confidentiality, fair dealing, protection and proper use of the Company's assets, compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations (including insider trading laws), and the reporting of illegal or unethical behavior.

(3) Reviewing and reassessing the adequacy of such compliance programs, corporate governance principals and code of business conduct and ethics on an annual basis; and recommending to the Board any changes the Committee deems appropriate.

(4) Making recommendations to the Board regarding any non-compliance with, waivers to, or alteration of, the principals or code of business conduct and ethics, by Board members and executive officers.

(5) Developing and recommending to the Board policies and procedures for the review, approval or ratification of transactions with related persons.

**B. Review of Board Composition and Performance.**

(1) Overseeing the evaluation of the Board and management on an annual basis.

(2) Conducting annual reviews of each director's independence and qualifications and making recommendations, including reelection or the removal of a director, to the Board based on its findings.

(3) Assessing and making recommendations to the Board concerning the Board's composition on an annual basis, including size of the Board, diversity, age, education, geographic location, skills and experience in the context of the needs of the Board.

(4) Annually reviewing with the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer potential candidates for the position of Chairman of the Board and advising the Board of its recommendations.

(5) Annually reviewing with the Chairman of the Board member qualifications and assignments to each of the Board's committees and recommending to the Board the committee member appointments and removals.

(6) Identifying individuals qualified to become Board members, consistent with any criteria, guidelines and procedures approved by the Board, and recommending to the Board the director nominees for the next annual meeting of shareholders. In considering potential new directors and officers, the Committee will review individuals from various disciplines and backgrounds. A review is also to be made of the activities and associations of each candidate to ensure that there is no apparent legal impediment, conflict of interest, or other consideration that might hinder or prevent service on the Board. In making its selection, the Committee will bear in mind that the foremost responsibility of a director of the Company is to represent the interests of the shareholders as a whole.

**V. Performance Evaluation**

The Committee shall annually review and assess the adequacy of this Charter and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval. The Committee shall also perform an annual evaluation of its own performance and report the evaluation results to the Board.

## **VI. Committee Resources**

The Committee shall have the sole authority to retain and terminate any search firm to be used to identify director candidates and to approve such firm's fees and other retention terms. The Chairperson of the Committee (or other member designated by the Chairperson or the Committee in the Chairperson's absence) shall immediately report the retention (and the terms thereof) or termination of any search firm to the Board. Engagement of any independent legal, accounting, and other advisors will be subject to Board approval. The Committee shall receive appropriate funding from the Company for payment of (i) compensation to any search firm employed by the Committee; and (ii) ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties. The Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees when appropriate.