

**Companion Policy 51-102CP**  
***Continuous Disclosure Obligations***

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**Companion Policy 51-102CP**  
*Continuous Disclosure Obligations*

**PART 1 INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS**

**1.1 Introduction and Purpose**

- (1) National Instrument 51-102 *Continuous Disclosure Obligations* (the “Instrument”) sets out disclosure requirements for all issuers, other than investment funds, that are reporting issuers in one or more jurisdictions in Canada.
- (2) The purpose of this Companion Policy (the “Policy”) is to help you understand how the provincial and territorial regulatory authorities interpret or apply certain provisions of the Instrument. This Policy includes explanations, discussion and examples of various parts of the Instrument.

**1.2 Filing Obligations**

- (1) Reporting issuers must file continuous disclosure documents under the Instrument only in the local jurisdictions in which they are a reporting issuer.
- (2) In some circumstances, the Instrument permits an issuer to satisfy a filing requirement by filing a different document instead. If an issuer is relying on one of these sections, the issuer must file the substitute document in the appropriate filing category and type on SEDAR. For example, an exchangeable share issuer relying on section 13.3(2) that must file a copy of its parent issuer’s annual financial statements must file those financial statements under the exchangeable share issuer’s SEDAR profile in the “Annual Financial Statement” filing type.

**1.3 Corporate Law Requirements**

Reporting issuers are reminded that they may be subject to requirements of corporate law that address matters similar to those addressed by the Instrument, and which may impose additional or more onerous requirements. For example, applicable corporate law may require the delivery of annual financial statements to shareholders or may require the board of directors to approve interim financial statements.

**1.4 Definitions**

- (1) **General** – Many of the terms for which the Instrument or Forms prescribed by the Instrument provide definitions are defined somewhat differently in the applicable securities legislation of several local jurisdictions. A term used in the Instrument and defined in the securities statute of a local jurisdiction has the meaning given to it in the statute unless: (a) the definition in that statute is restricted to a specific portion of the statute that does not govern continuous disclosure; or (b) the context otherwise requires.

For instance, the terms “form of proxy”, “material change”, “proxy”, and “recognized quotation and trade reporting system” are defined in local securities legislation of most

jurisdictions. The provincial and territorial regulatory authorities consider the meanings given to these terms in securities legislation to be substantially similar to the definitions set out in the Instrument.

- (2) **Asset-backed security** – Section 1.8 of Companion Policy 44-101CP provides guidance for the definition of “asset-backed security”.
- (3) **Directors and Executive Officers** – Where the Instrument or any of the Forms use the term “directors” or “executive officers”, a reporting issuer that is not a corporation must refer to the definitions in securities legislation of “director”. The definition of “director” typically includes a person acting in a capacity similar to that of a director of a company. Therefore, non-corporate issuers must determine in light of the particular circumstances which individuals or persons are acting in such capacities for the purposes of complying with the Instrument and the Forms. Further, in considering paragraph (c) of the definition of “executive officer”, we would consider an individual that is employed by an entity separate from the reporting issuer, but that performs a policy-making function in respect of the reporting issuer through that separate entity or otherwise, to fit within this definition.
- (4) **Investment Fund** - Generally, the definition of “investment fund” would not include a trust or other entity that issues securities which entitle the holder to substantially all of the net cash flows generated by: (i) an underlying business owned by the trust or other entity, or (ii) the income-producing properties owned by the trust or other entity. Examples of trusts or other entities that are not included in the definition are business income trusts, real estate investment trusts and royalty trusts.
- (5) **Reverse Takeover** – The definition of reverse takeover is tied to the concept for accounting purposes. For issuers that use Canadian GAAP, the Handbook defines what transactions an issuer must treat as a reverse takeover. Under the Handbook, although legally the enterprise (the legal parent) that issued the securities is regarded as the parent or continuing enterprise, the enterprise (the legal subsidiary) whose former securityholders now control (as that term is used in the Handbook) the combined enterprise is treated as the acquirer for accounting purposes. As a result, for accounting purposes, the issuing enterprise (the legal parent) is deemed to be a continuation of the acquirer and the acquirer is deemed to have acquired control of the assets and business of the issuing enterprise in consideration for the issue of capital.
- (6) **Restructuring transaction** – A “restructuring transaction” includes a transaction in which a reporting issuer acquires assets, which may include assets that constitute a business, and issues securities resulting in
  - new securityholders owning or controlling more than 50% of the reporting issuer’s outstanding voting securities, and
  - a new control person or company, or new control group.

The acquisition and issuance may be in a single transaction, or a series of transactions. To be a “series of transactions”, the transactions must be related to each other.

The phrase “new securityholders” includes both beneficial owners who did not hold any of the reporting issuer’s securities before the restructuring transaction, and beneficial owners that held some securities in the reporting issuer before the transaction, but who now, as a result of the transaction, own more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities.

## **1.5 Plain Language Principles**

We believe that plain language will help investors understand your disclosure so that they can make informed investment decisions. You can achieve this by

- using short sentences
- using definite everyday language
- using the active voice
- avoiding superfluous words
- organizing the document in clear, concise sections, paragraphs and sentences
- avoiding jargon
- using personal pronouns to speak directly to the reader
- avoiding reliance on glossaries and defined terms unless it facilitates understanding of the disclosure
- not relying on boilerplate wording
- avoiding abstract terms by using more concrete terms or examples
- avoiding multiple negatives
- using technical terms only when necessary and explaining those terms
- using charts, tables and examples where it makes disclosure easier to understand.

## **1.6 Signature and Certificates**

Reporting issuers are not required by the Instrument to sign or certify documents filed under the Instrument. Certification requirements apply to some documents under Multilateral Instrument 52-109 *Certification of Disclosure in Companies’ Annual and Interim Filings*. Whether or not a document is signed or certified, it is an offence under securities legislation to make a false or misleading statement in any required document.

## **1.7 Audit Committees**

Reporting issuers are reminded that their audit committees must fulfill their responsibilities set out in other securities legislation. For example, the responsibilities of audit committees are set out in Multilateral Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees* or, in British Columbia, BC Instrument 52-509 *Audit Committees*.

## **1.8 Acceptable Accounting Principles, Auditing Standards and Reporting Currency**

An issuer filing any of the following items under the Instrument must comply with National Instrument 52-107 *Acceptable Accounting Principles, Auditing Standards and Reporting Currency* (“NI 52-107”):

- (a) financial statements;
- (b) an operating statement for an oil and gas property as referred to in section 8.10 of the Instrument;
- (c) financial information as to the assets, liabilities and results of operations of a business as referred to in section 8.6 of the Instrument; or
- (d) financial information derived from a credit support issuer’s financial statements as referred to in section 13.4 of the Instrument.

NI 52-107 sets out, among other things, when issuers can use accounting principles and auditing standards other than Canadian accounting principles and auditing standards in preparing financial statements.

## **1.9 Ordinary Course of Business**

Whether a contract has been entered into in the ordinary course of business is a question of fact. It must be considered in the context of the reporting issuer’s business and the industry in which it operates.

## **1.10 Material Deficiencies**

After filing a document under the Instrument, a reporting issuer may determine that the document was materially deficient in some respect and, as a result, the filing does not comply with the requirements of the Instrument. In this situation, the reporting issuer is expected to comply with the Instrument by filing an amended version of the materially deficient document.

## **PART 2 FOREIGN ISSUERS AND INVESTMENT FUNDS**

### **2.1 Foreign Issuers**

National Instrument 71-102 *Continuous Disclosure and Other Exemptions Relating to Foreign Issuers* provides relief for foreign reporting issuers from certain continuous

disclosure and other obligations, including certain obligations contained in the Instrument.

## **2.2 Investment Funds**

Section 2.1 of the Instrument states that the Instrument does not apply to an investment fund. Investment funds should look to securities legislation of the local jurisdiction including National Instrument 81-106 *Investment Fund Continuous Disclosure* to find the continuous disclosure requirements applicable to them.

## **PART 3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **3.1 Financial Year**

- (1) **Length of Financial Year** - For the purposes of the Instrument, unless otherwise expressly provided, references to a financial year apply irrespective of the length of that year. The first financial year of a reporting issuer commences on the date of its incorporation or organization and ends at the close of that year.
- (2) **Non-Standard Year** –An issuer with a non-standard year should advise the regulator or securities regulatory authority how it calculates its interim and annual periods before its first financial statements are due under the Instrument.

### **3.2 Audit of Comparative Annual Financial Statements**

Section 4.1 of the Instrument requires a reporting issuer to file annual financial statements that include comparative information for the immediately preceding financial year and that are audited. The auditor's report must cover both the most recently completed financial year and the comparative period, except if the issuer changed its auditor during the periods presented in the financial statements and the new auditor has not audited the comparative period. In this situation, the auditor's report would normally refer to the former auditor's report on the comparative period and the former auditor's report would not be re-filed. This is consistent with Assurance and Related Services Guideline AuG-8 *Auditor's Report on Comparative Financial Statements* in the Handbook.

### **3.3 Filing Deadline for Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report**

Section 4.2 of the Instrument sets out filing deadlines for annual financial statements. While section 4.2 of the Instrument does not address the auditor's report date, reporting issuers are encouraged to file their annual financial statements as soon as practicable after the date of the auditor's report. The delivery obligations set out in section 4.6 of the Instrument are not tied to the filing of the financial statements.

### **3.4 Auditor Involvement with Interim Financial Statements**

- (1) The board of directors of a reporting issuer, in discharging its responsibilities for ensuring the reliability of interim financial statements, should consider engaging an external auditor to carry out a review of the interim financial statements.
- (2) Subsection 4.3(3) of the Instrument requires a reporting issuer to disclose if an auditor has not performed a review of the interim financial statements, to disclose if an auditor was unable to complete a review and why, and to file a written report from the auditor if the auditor has performed a review and expressed a reservation in the auditor's interim review report. No positive statement is required when an auditor has performed a review and provided an unqualified communication. If an auditor was engaged to perform a review on interim financial statements applying review standards set out in the Handbook, and the auditor was unable to complete the review, the issuer's disclosure of the reasons why the auditor was unable to complete the review would normally include a discussion of
  - (a) inadequate internal control;
  - (b) a limitation on the scope of the auditor's work; or
  - (c) the failure of management to provide the auditor with the written representations the auditor believes are necessary.
- (3) If a reporting issuer's annual financial statements are audited in accordance with Canadian GAAS, the terms "review" and "interim review report" used in subsection 4.3(3) of the Instrument refer to the auditor's review of, and report on, interim financial statements applying standards for a review of interim financial statements by the auditor as set out in the Handbook. However, if the reporting issuer's financial statements are audited in accordance with auditing standards other than Canadian GAAS, the corresponding review standards should be applied.

### **3.5 Delivery of Financial Statements**

Section 4.6 of the Instrument requires reporting issuers to send a request form to the registered holders and beneficial owners of their securities. The registered holders and beneficial owners may use the request form to request a copy of the reporting issuer's annual financial statements and related MD&A, interim financial statements and related MD&A, or both. Reporting issuers are only required to deliver financial statements and MD&A to the person or company that requests them. As a result, if a beneficial owner requests financial statements and MD&A through its intermediary, the issuer is only required to deliver the requested documents to the intermediary.

Failing to return the request form or otherwise specifically request a copy of the financial statements or MD&A from the reporting issuer will override the beneficial owner's standing instructions under NI 54-101 in respect of the financial statements.



The Instrument does not prescribe when the request form must be sent, or how it must be returned to the reporting issuer.

### **3.6 Comparative Interim Financial Information After Becoming a Reporting Issuer**

Section 4.7(4) of the Instrument provides that a reporting issuer does not have to provide comparative financial information when it first becomes a reporting issuer if it complies with specific requirements. Section 4.10(3) of the Instrument provides a similar exemption for comparative financial information for a reverse takeover acquirer. These exemptions may, for example, apply to an issuer that was, before becoming a reporting issuer or before the reverse takeover, a private entity and that is unable to prepare the comparative financial information because it is impracticable to do so.

### **3.7 Change in Year-End**

Appendix A to this Policy is a chart outlining the financial statement filing requirements under section 4.8 of the Instrument if a reporting issuer changes its financial year-end.

### **3.8 Reverse Takeovers**

- (1) Following a reverse takeover, although the reverse takeover acquiree is the reporting issuer, from an accounting perspective, the financial statements will be those of the reverse takeover acquirer. Those financial statements must be prepared and filed as if the reverse takeover acquirer had always been the reporting issuer.
- (2) The reverse takeover acquiree must file its own financial statements required by sections 4.1 and 4.3 and the related MD&A for all interim and annual periods ending before the date of the reverse takeover, even if the filing deadline for those financial statements is after the date of the reverse takeover.

### **3.9 Change in Corporate Structure**

- (1) Section 4.9 of the Instrument requires a reporting issuer to file a notice if the issuer has been party to certain transactions. The reporting issuer may satisfy this requirement by filing a copy of its material change report or news release, provided that
  - (a) the material change report or news release contains all the information required in the notice; and
  - (b) the reporting issuer files the material change report or news release with the securities regulatory authority or regulator
    - (i) under the Change in Corporate Structure category on SEDAR, or
    - (ii) if the issuer is not an electronic filer, as a notice under section 4.9.
- (2) If the transaction was a reverse takeover, the notice should state that fact and who the reverse takeover acquirer was for accounting purposes.

- (3) Under paragraph 4.9(h) of the Instrument, the issuer must state the periods of the interim and annual financial statements it has to file for its first financial year. Issuers should explain how they determined the periods, particularly if section 4.7 of the Instrument applies.

### **3.10 Change of Auditor**

The term “disagreement” defined in subsection 4.11(1) should be interpreted broadly. A disagreement may not involve an argument, but rather, a mere difference of opinion. Also, where a difference of opinion occurs that meets the criteria in item (b) of the definition of “disagreement”, and the issuer reluctantly accepts the auditor’s position in order to obtain an unqualified report, a reportable disagreement may still exist. The subsequent rendering of an unqualified report does not, by itself, remove the necessity for reporting a disagreement.

Subsection 4.11(5) of the Instrument requires a reporting issuer, upon a termination or resignation of its auditor, to prepare a change of auditor notice, have the audit committee or board of directors approve the notice, file the reporting package with the regulator or securities regulatory authority in each jurisdiction where it is a reporting issuer, and if there are any reportable events, issue and file a news release describing the information in the reporting package. Subsection 4.11(6) of the Instrument requires the reporting issuer to perform these procedures upon an appointment of a successor auditor. If a termination or resignation of a former auditor and appointment of a successor auditor occur within a short period of time, it may be possible for a reporting issuer to perform the procedures described above required by both subsections 4.11(5) and 4.11(6) concurrently and meet the timing requirements set out in those subsections. In other words, the reporting issuer would prepare only one comprehensive notice and reporting package.

## **PART 4 DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **4.1 Disclosure of Financial Results**

- (1) Subsection 4.5(1) of the Instrument requires that annual financial statements be approved by the board of directors before filing. Subsections 4.5(2) and 4.5(3) of the Instrument require that interim financial statements be approved by the board of directors or by the company’s audit committee before filing. We believe that extracting information from financial statements that have not been approved as required by those provisions and releasing that information to the marketplace in a news release is inconsistent with the prior approval requirement. Also see National Policy 51-201 *Disclosure Standards*.
- (2) Reporting issuers that intend to disclose financial information to the marketplace in a news release should consult NI 52-107. We believe that disclosing financial information in a news release without disclosing the accounting principles used is inconsistent with the requirement in NI 52-107 to identify the accounting principles used in the financial statements.

## **4.2 Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

Reporting issuers that intend to publish financial measures other than those prescribed by GAAP should refer to CSA Staff Notice 52-306 *Non-GAAP Financial Measures* for a discussion of staff expectations concerning the use of non-GAAP measures.

## **PART 5 MD&A**

### **5.1 Delivery of MD&A**

Reporting issuers are not required to send a request form to their securityholders under Part 5 of the Instrument. This is because the request form that must be delivered under section 4.6 of the Instrument relates to both a reporting issuer's financial statements, and the MD&A applicable to those financial statements.

### **5.2 Additional Information for Venture Issuers Without Significant Revenue**

Section 5.3 of the Instrument requires certain venture issuers to provide in their annual or interim MD&A or MD&A supplement (unless the information is included in their interim and annual financial statements), a breakdown of material costs whether capitalized, deferred or expensed. A component of cost is generally considered to be a material component if it exceeds the greater of

- (a) 20% of the total amount of the class; and
- (b) \$25,000.

### **5.3 Disclosure of Outstanding Share Data**

Section 5.4 of the Instrument requires disclosure of information relating to the outstanding securities of the reporting issuer as of the latest practicable date. The "latest practicable date" should be current, as close as possible, to the date of filing of the MD&A. Disclosing the number of securities outstanding at the period end is generally not sufficient to meet this requirement.

### **5.4 Additional Disclosure for Equity Investees**

Section 5.7 of the Instrument requires issuers with significant equity investees to provide in their annual or interim MD&A or MD&A supplement (unless the information is included in their interim and annual financial statements), summarized information about the equity investee. Generally, we will consider that an equity investee is significant if the equity investee would meet the thresholds for the significance tests in Part 8 using the financial statements of the equity investee and the issuer as at the issuer's financial year-end.

## **PART 6 AIF**

### **6.1 Additional and Supporting Documentation**

Any material incorporated by reference in an AIF is required to be filed with the AIF unless the material has been previously filed. When a reporting issuer using SEDAR files a previously unfiled document with its AIF, the reporting issuer should ensure that the document is filed under the appropriate SEDAR filing type and document type specifically applicable to the document, rather than generic type “Documents Incorporated by Reference”. For example, a reporting issuer that has incorporated by reference an information circular in its AIF and has not previously filed the circular should file the circular under the “Management Proxy Materials” filing subtype and the “Management proxy/information circular” document type.

If the reporting issuer incorporates a document, or a portion of a document, by reference into its AIF, and that document, or that portion of the document, as applicable, incorporates another document by reference, the issuer must also file the underlying document with its AIF.

### **6.2 AIF Disclosure of Asset-backed Securities**

- (1) **Factors to consider** - Issuers that have distributed asset-backed securities under a prospectus are required to provide disclosure in their AIF under section 5.3 of Form 51-102F2. Issuers of asset-backed securities must determine which other prescribed disclosure is applicable and ought to be included in the AIF. Applicable disclosure for a special purpose issuer of asset-backed securities generally pertains to the nature, performance and servicing of the pool of financial assets servicing the asset-backed security. The nature and extent of required disclosure may vary depending on the type and attributes of the underlying pool.

An issuer of asset-backed securities should consider the following factors in preparing its AIF:

1. The extent of disclosure respecting the issuer will depend on the extent of the issuer’s on-going involvement in the conversion of the assets comprising the pool to cash, and the distribution of cash to securityholders; this involvement may, in turn, vary dramatically depending on the type, quality and attributes of the assets comprising the pool and on the overall structure of the transaction.
2. Requested disclosure respecting the business and affairs of the issuer should be interpreted to apply to the financial assets underlying the asset-backed securities.
3. Financial information respecting the pool of assets to be described and analyzed in the AIF will consist of information commonly set out in servicing reports prepared to describe the performance of the pool and the specific

allocations of income, loss and cash flows applicable to outstanding asset-backed securities made during the relevant period.

- (2) **Underlying pool of assets** - Paragraph 5.3(2)(a) of Form 51-102F2 requires issuers of asset-backed securities that were distributed by way of prospectus to include information relating to the composition of the underlying pool of financial assets, the cash flows from which service the asset-backed securities. Disclosure respecting the composition of the pool will vary depending upon the nature and number of the underlying financial assets. For example, in a geographically dispersed pool of financial assets, it may be appropriate to provide a summary disclosure based on the location of obligors. In the context of a revolving pool, it may be appropriate to provide details relating to aggregate outstanding balances during a year to illustrate historical fluctuations in asset origination due, for example, to seasonality. In pools of consumer debt obligations, it may be appropriate to provide a breakdown within ranges of amounts owing by obligors in order to illustrate limits on available credit extended.

## **PART 7 MATERIAL CHANGE REPORTS**

### **7.1 Publication of News Release**

Section 7.1 of the Instrument requires reporting issuers to *immediately* issue and file a news release disclosing the nature of a material change. This requirement is substantively the same as the material change reporting requirements in some securities legislation for the news release to be issued *forthwith*.

## **PART 8 BUSINESS ACQUISITION REPORTS**

### **8.1 Obligations to File a Business Acquisition Report**

- (1) **Filing of a Material Change Report** - The requirement in the Instrument for a reporting issuer to file a business acquisition report is in addition to the reporting issuer's obligation to file a material change report, if the significant acquisition constitutes a material change.
- (2) **Filing of a Business Acquisition Report by SEC Issuers** - If a document or a series of documents that an SEC issuer files with or furnishes to the SEC in connection with a business acquisition contains all of the information, including financial statements, required to be included in a business acquisition report under the Instrument, the SEC issuer may file a copy of the documents as its business acquisition report.
- (3) **Financial Statement Disclosure of Significant Acquisitions** –Reporting issuers are reminded that NI 52-107 prescribes the accounting principles, auditing standards and reporting currency that must be used to prepare and audit the financial statements required by Part 8 of the Instrument.
- (4) **Acquisition of a Business** – A reporting issuer that has made a significant acquisition must include in its business acquisition report certain financial statements of each business acquired. The term “business” should be evaluated in light of the facts and

circumstances involved. We generally consider that a separate entity, a subsidiary or a division is a business and that in certain circumstances a smaller component of a company may also be a business, whether or not the business previously prepared financial statements. In determining whether an acquisition constitutes the acquisition of a business, a reporting issuer should consider the continuity of business operations, including the following factors:

- (a) whether the nature of the revenue producing activity or potential revenue producing activity will remain generally the same after the acquisition; and
  - (b) whether any of the physical facilities, employees, marketing systems, sales forces, customers, operating rights, production techniques or trade names are acquired by the reporting issuer instead of remaining with the vendor after the acquisition.
- (5) **Acquisition by a Subsidiary** – If a reporting issuer’s subsidiary, which is also a reporting issuer, has acquired a business, both the parent and subsidiary must test the significance of the acquisition. Even if the subsidiary files a business acquisition report, the parent must also file a business acquisition report if the acquisition is also significant for the parent.

## 8.2 Significance Tests

- (1) **Nature of Significance Tests** – Subsection 8.3(2) of the Instrument sets out the required significance tests for determining whether an acquisition of a business by a reporting issuer is a “significant acquisition”. The first test measures the assets of the acquired business against the assets of the reporting issuer. The second test measures the reporting issuer’s investments in and advances to the acquired business against the assets of the reporting issuer. The third test measures the income from continuing operations of the acquired business against the income from continuing operations of the reporting issuer. If any one of these three tests is satisfied at the prescribed level, the acquisition is considered “significant” to the reporting issuer. The test must be applied as at the time of the acquisition using the most recent annual audited financial statements of the reporting issuer and the business. These tests are similar to requirements of the SEC and provide issuers with certainty that if an acquisition is not significant at the time of the acquisition, then no business acquisition or report will be required to be filed.
- (2) **Business Using Accounting Principles Other Than Those Used by the Reporting Issuer** – Subsection 8.3(13) of the Instrument provides that where the financial statements of the business or related businesses are prepared in accordance with accounting principles other than those used in reporting issuer’s financial statements, for purposes of applying the significance tests, the relevant financial statements for the business or related businesses must be reconciled. It is unnecessary for the reconciliation to be audited for the purpose of the tests.
- (3) **Acquisition of a Previously Unaudited Business** – Subsections 8.3(2) and 8.3(4) of the Instrument require the significance of an acquisition to be determined using the most recent audited financial statements of the reporting issuer and the business acquired.

However, if the financial statements of the business or related businesses for the most recently completed financial year were not audited, subsection 8.3(14) of the Instrument permits use of the unaudited financial statements for the purpose of applying the significance tests. If the acquisition is determined to be significant, then the annual financial statements required by subsection 8.4(1) of the Instrument must be audited.

- (4) **Application of Investment Test for Significance of an Acquisition** – One of the significance tests set out in subsections 8.3(2) and (4) of the Instrument is whether the reporting issuer’s consolidated investments in and advances to the business or related businesses exceed a specified percentage of the consolidated assets of the reporting issuer. In applying this test, the “investments in” the business should be determined using the total cost of the purchase, as determined by generally accepted accounting principles, including consideration paid or payable and the costs of the acquisition. If the acquisition agreement includes a provision for contingent consideration, for the purpose of applying the test, the contingent consideration should be included in the total cost of the purchase unless the likelihood of payment is considered remote at the date of the acquisition. In addition, any payments made in connection with the acquisition which would not constitute purchase consideration but which would not have been paid unless the acquisition had occurred, should be considered part of investments in and advances to the business for the purpose of applying the significance tests. Examples of such payments include loans, royalty agreements, lease agreements and agreements to provide a pre-determined amount of future services.
- (5) **Application of the Significance Tests When the Financial Year Ends are Non-Coterminous** – Subsection 8.3(2) of the Instrument requires the significance of a business acquisition to be determined using the most recent audited financial statements of both the reporting issuer and the acquired business. For the purpose of applying the tests under this subsection, the year-ends of the reporting issuer and the acquired business need not be coterminous. Accordingly, neither the audited financial statements of the reporting issuer nor those of the business should be adjusted for the purposes of applying the significance tests. However, if the acquisition of a business is determined to be significant and *pro forma* income statements are required by subsection 8.4(5) of the Instrument and, if the business’ year-end is more than 93 days before the reporting issuer’s year-end, the business’ reporting period required under paragraph 8.4(7)(c) of the Instrument should be adjusted to reduce the gap to 93 days or less. Refer to subsection 8.7(3) of this Policy for further guidance.

### 8.3 Optional Significance Tests

- (1) **Optional Significance Tests – Decrease in Significance** – If an acquisition is determined under subsection 8.3(2) of the Instrument to be significant, a reporting issuer has the option under subsections 8.3(3) and (4) of the Instrument of applying optional significance tests using more recent financial statements than those used for the required significance tests in subsection 8.3(2). The optional significance tests under subsections 8.3(3) and (4) have been included to recognize the possible growth of a reporting issuer between the date of its most recently completed year-end and the date of filing a business

acquisition report and the corresponding potential decline in significance of the acquisition to the reporting issuer.

- (2) **Availability of the Optional Significance Tests** – The optional significance tests permitted under subsections 8.3(4) and (6) of the Instrument are available to all reporting issuers. However, depending on how or when a reporting issuer integrates the acquired business into its existing operations and the nature of post-acquisition financial records it maintains for the acquired business, it may not be possible for a reporting issuer to apply the optional significance test under subsection 8.3(6).
- (3) **Optional Investment Test** – For the purpose of applying the optional investment test under paragraph 8.3(4)(b) of the Instrument, the reporting issuer’s investments in and advances to the business should be as at the date of the acquisition and not as at the date of the reporting issuer’s financial statements used to determine its consolidated assets for the optional investment test.
- (4) **Optional Income Test based on Pro Forma Information** – A reporting issuer may apply the optional income test in subsection 8.3(11.1) of the Instrument based on more recent pro forma consolidated income from continuing operations. By permitting reporting issuers to base the optional income test on pro forma consolidated income from continuing operations, this test recognizes the possible growth of a reporting issuer as a result of acquisitions completed between its most recently completed year end and the date of filing a business acquisition report and the corresponding potential decline in significance of the acquisition to the reporting issuer.

#### **8.4 Financial Statements of Related Businesses**

Subsection 8.4(8) of the Instrument requires that if a reporting issuer includes in its business acquisition report financial statements for more than one related business, separate financial statements must be presented for each business except for the periods during which the businesses were under common control or management, in which case the reporting issuer may present the financial statements on a combined basis. Although one or more of the related businesses may be insignificant relative to the others, separate financial statements of each business for the same number of periods required must be presented. Relief from the requirement to include financial statements of the least significant related business or businesses may be granted depending on the facts and circumstances.

#### **8.5 Application of the Significance Tests for Step-By-Step Acquisitions**

Subsection 8.3(11) of the Instrument explains how the significance test should be applied when the reporting issuer increases its investment in a business by way of a step-by-step purchase as described in the Handbook. If the reporting issuer acquired an interest in the business in a previous year and that interest is reflected in the most recent audited financial statements of the reporting issuer filed, then the issuer should determine the significance of only the incremental investment in the business which is not reflected in the reporting issuer’s most recent audited financial statements filed.



## 8.6 Preparation of Divisional and Carve-out Financial Statements

- (1) **Interpretations** – In this section of this Policy, unless otherwise stated,
  - (a) a reference to “a business” includes a division or some lesser component of another business acquired by a reporting issuer that constitutes a significant acquisition; and
  - (b) the term “parent” refers to the vendor from whom the reporting issuer purchased a business.
  
- (2) **Acquisition of a Division** - As discussed in subsection 8.1(4) of this Policy, the acquisition of a division of a business and in certain circumstances, a lesser component of a person or company, may constitute an acquisition of a business for purposes of the Instrument, whether or not the subject of the acquisition previously prepared financial statements. To determine the significance of the acquisition and comply with the requirements for financial statements in a business acquisition report under Part 8 of the Instrument, financial statements for the business must be prepared. This section provides guidance on preparing these financial statements.
  
- (3) **Divisional and Carve-Out Financial Statements** – The terms “divisional” and “carve-out” financial statements are often used interchangeably although a distinction is possible. Some companies maintain separate financial records and financial statements for a business activity or unit that is operated as a division. Financial statements prepared from these financial records are often referred to as “divisional” financial statements. In other circumstances, no separate financial records for a business activity are maintained; they are simply consolidated with the parent’s records. In these cases, if the parent’s financial records are sufficiently detailed, it is possible to extract or “carve-out” the information specific to the business activity in order to prepare separate financial statements of that business. Financial statements prepared in this manner are commonly referred to as “carve-out” financial statements. The guidance in this section applies to the preparation of both divisional and carve-out financial statements unless otherwise stated.
  
- (4) **Preparation of Divisional and Carve-Out Financial Statements**
  - (a) When complete financial records of the business acquired have been maintained, those records should be used for preparing and auditing the financial statements of the business. For the purposes of this section, it is presumed that the parent maintains separate financial records for its divisions.
  - (b) When complete financial records of the business acquired do not exist, carve-out financial statements should generally be prepared in accordance with the following guidelines:
    - (i) *Allocation of Assets and Liabilities* - A balance sheet should include all assets and liabilities directly attributable to the business.

- (ii) *Allocation of Revenues and Expenses* - Income statements should include all revenues and expenses directly attributable to the business. Some fundamental expenditures may be shared by the business and its parent in which case the parent's management must determine a reasonable basis for allocating a share of these common expenses to the business. Examples of such common expenses include salaries, rent, depreciation, professional fees, general and administration.
  - (iii) *Calculation of Income and Capital Taxes* - Income and capital taxes should be calculated as if the entity had been a separate legal entity and filed a separate tax return for the period presented.
  - (iv) *Disclosure of Basis of Preparation* - The financial statements should include a note describing the basis of preparation. If expenses have been allocated as discussed in subparagraph (b)(ii), the financial statements should include a note describing the method of allocation for each significant line item, at a minimum.
- (5) **Statements of Assets Acquired, Liabilities Assumed and Statements of Operations** – When it is impracticable to prepare carve-out financial statements of a business, a reporting issuer may be required to include in its business acquisition report an audited statement of assets acquired and liabilities assumed and a statement of operations of the business. The statement of operations should exclude only those indirect operating costs not directly attributable to the business, such as corporate overhead. If indirect operating costs were previously allocated to the business and there is a reasonable basis of allocation, they should not be excluded.

## **8.7 Preparation of Pro Forma Financial Statements Giving Effect to Significant Acquisitions**

- (1) **Objective and Basis of Preparation** – The objective of pro forma statements is to illustrate the impact of a transaction on a reporting issuer's financial position and results of operations by adjusting the historical financial statements of the reporting issuer to give effect to the transaction. Accordingly, the pro forma financial statements should be prepared on the basis of the reporting issuer's financial statements as already filed. No adjustment should be made to eliminate extraordinary items or discontinued operations.
- (2) **Pro Forma Balance Sheet and Income Statements** – Subsection 8.4(5) of the Instrument does not require a pro forma balance sheet to be prepared to give effect to significant acquisitions that are reflected in the reporting issuer's most recent annual or interim balance sheet filed under the Instrument.
- (3) **Non-coterminous Year-ends** - Where the financial year-end of a business differs from the reporting issuer's year-end by more than 93 days, paragraph 8.4(7)(c) requires an income statement for the business to be constructed for a period of 12 consecutive months. For example, if the constructed reporting period is 12 months and ends on June 30, the 12 months should commence on July 1 of the immediately preceding year; it

should not begin on March 1st of the immediately preceding year with three of the following 15 months omitted, such as the period from October 1 to December 31, since this would not be a consecutive 12 month period.

- (4) **Effective Date of Adjustments** - For the pro forma income statements included in a business acquisition report, the acquisition and the adjustments should be computed as if the acquisition had occurred at the beginning of the reporting issuer's most recently completed financial year and carried through the most recent interim period presented, if any. However, one exception to the preceding is that adjustments related to the allocation of the purchase price, including the amortization of fair value increments and intangibles, should be based on the purchase price allocation arising from giving effect to the acquisition as if it occurred on the date of the reporting issuer's most recent balance sheet filed.
- (5) **Acceptable Adjustments** – Pro forma adjustments should be limited to those that are directly attributable to the specific acquisition transaction for which there are firm commitments and for which the complete financial effects are objectively determinable.
- (6) **Multiple Acquisitions** – If a reporting issuer has completed multiple acquisitions during the current financial year, then, under subsection 8.4(5) of the Instrument, the pro forma financial statements must give effect to each acquisition. The pro forma adjustments may be grouped by line item on the face of the pro forma financial statements provided the details for each transaction are disclosed in the notes.
- (7) **Pro Forma Financial Statements Based on Earlier Interim Financial Statements** - The pro forma financial statements are prepared on the basis of the financial statements included in the business acquisition report. As a result, if the reporting issuer relies on subsection 8.4(4) of the Instrument to include financial statements for an earlier interim period of the acquired business than would otherwise be required under subsection (3), the issuer uses its comparable interim period to prepare the pro forma statements.

### **8.7.1 Financial Year End Changed**

If the transition year of the acquired business is less than 9 months, the issuer may be required to include financial statements for the transition year of the acquired business in addition to financial statements for the two financial years required by subsection 8.4(1) of the Instrument. The transition year may or may not be audited, but at minimum, the most recently completed financial year must be audited in accordance with subsection 8.4(2).

### **8.8 Relief from the Requirement to Audit Operating Statements of an Oil and Gas Property**

The securities regulatory authority or regulator may exempt a reporting issuer from the requirement to audit the operating statements referred to in section 8.10 of the Instrument if, during the 12 months preceding the date of the acquisition, the average daily production of the property is less than 20 percent of the total average daily production of the vendor for the same or similar periods, and

- (a) the reporting issuer provides written submissions prior to the deadline for filing the business acquisition report which establishes to the satisfaction of the appropriate regulator, that despite reasonable efforts during the purchase negotiations, the reporting issuer was prohibited from including in the purchase agreement the rights to obtain an audited operating statement of the property;
- (b) the purchase agreement includes representations and warranties by the vendor that the amounts presented in the operating statement agree to the vendor's books and records; and
- (c) the reporting issuer discloses in the business acquisition report its inability to obtain an audited operating statement, the reasons therefor, the fact that the representations and warranties referred to in paragraph (b) have been obtained, and a statement that the results presented in the operating statement may have been materially different if the statement had been audited.

For the purpose of determining average daily production when production includes both oil and natural gas, production may be expressed in barrels of oil equivalent using the conversion ratio of 6000 cubic feet of gas to one barrel of oil.

## **8.9 Exemptions From Requirement for Financial Statements in a Business Acquisition Report**

- (1) **Exemptions** – We are of the view that relief from the financial statement requirements of Part 8 of the Instrument should be granted only in unusual circumstances and generally not related solely to cost or the time involved in preparing and auditing the financial statements. Reporting issuers seeking relief from the financial statement or audit requirements of Part 8 must apply for the relief before the filing deadline for the business acquisition report and before the closing date of the transaction, if applicable. Reporting issuers are reminded that many securities regulatory authorities and regulators do not have the power to grant retroactive relief.
- (2) **Conditions to Exemptions** – If relief is granted from the requirements of Part 8 of the Instrument to include audited financial statements of an acquired business or related businesses, conditions will likely be imposed, such as a requirement to include audited divisional or partial income statements or divisional statements of cash flow, or an audited statement of net operating income for a business.
- (3) **Exemption from Comparatives if Financial Statements Not Previously Prepared** – Section 8.9 of the Instrument provides that a reporting issuer does not have to provide comparative financial information for an acquired business in a business acquisition report if it complies with specific requirements. This exemption may, for example, apply to an acquired business that was, before the acquisition, a private entity and that the reporting issuer is unable to prepare the comparative financial information for because it is impracticable to do so.

- (4) Relief may be granted from the requirement to include certain financial statements of an acquired business or related businesses in a business acquisition report in some situations that may include the following:
- (a) the business's historical accounting records have been destroyed and cannot be reconstructed. In this case, as a condition of granting the exemption, the reporting issuer may be requested by the securities regulatory authority or regulator to
    - (i) represent in writing to the securities regulatory authority or regulator, no later than the time the business acquisition report is required to be filed, that the reporting issuer made every reasonable effort to obtain copies of, or reconstruct the historical accounting records necessary to prepare and audit the financial statements, but such efforts were unsuccessful; and
    - (ii) disclose in the business acquisition report the fact that the historical accounting records have been destroyed and cannot be reconstructed; or
  - (b) the business has recently emerged from bankruptcy and current management of the business and the reporting issuer is denied access to the historical accounting records necessary to audit the financial statements. In this case, as a condition of granting the exemption, the reporting issuer may be requested by the securities regulatory authority or regulator to
    - (i) represent in writing to the securities regulatory authority or regulator, no later than the time the business acquisition report is required to be filed that the reporting issuer has made every reasonable effort to obtain access to, or copies of, the historical accounting records necessary to prepare and audit the financial statements but that such efforts were unsuccessful; and
    - (ii) disclose in the business acquisition report the fact that the business has recently emerged from bankruptcy and current management of the business and the reporting issuer are denied access to the historical accounting records.

## **8.10 Audits and Auditor Review of Financial Statements of an Acquired Business**

- (1) **Unaudited Comparatives in Annual Financial Statements of an Acquired Business** – Subsection 8.4(1) requires a reporting issuer to include comparative financial information of the business in the business acquisition report. This comparative financial information may be unaudited.
- (2) **Auditor Review of Interim Financial Statements of an Acquired Business** – An issuer does not have to engage an auditor to review the interim financial statements of an acquired business included in a business acquisition report. However, if the issuer later incorporates the business acquisition report into a prospectus, the interim financial statements will have to be reviewed in accordance with the requirements relating to financial statements included in a prospectus.

## **PART 9 PROXY SOLICITATION AND INFORMATION CIRCULARS**

### **9.1 Beneficial Owners of Securities**

Reporting issuers are reminded that NI 54-101 prescribes certain procedures relating to the delivery of materials, including forms of proxy, to beneficial owners of securities and related matters. It also prescribes certain disclosure that must be included in the proxy-related materials sent to beneficial owners.

## **PART 10 ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS**

### **10.1 Electronic Delivery of Documents**

Any documents required to be sent under the Instrument may be sent by electronic delivery, as long as such delivery is made in compliance with Québec Notice 11-201 *Relating to the Delivery of Documents by Electronic Means*, in Québec, and National Policy 11-201 *Delivery of Documents by Electronic Means*, in the rest of Canada.

## **PART 11 ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS**

### **11.1 Additional Filing Requirements**

Paragraph 11.1(1)(b) of the Instrument requires a document to be filed only if it contains information that has not been included in disclosure already filed by the reporting issuer. For example, if a reporting issuer has filed a material change report under the Instrument and the Form 8-K filed by the reporting issuer with the SEC discloses the same information, whether in the same or a different format, there is no requirement to file the Form 8-K under the Instrument.

### **11.2 Re-filing Documents or Re-stating Financial Information**

If a reporting issuer decides to re-file a document, or re-state financial information for comparative periods in financial statements for reasons other than retroactive application of a change in an accounting standard or policy or a new accounting standard, and the re-filed or re-stated information is likely to differ materially from the information originally filed, the issuer should disclose in the news release required by section 11.5 of the Instrument when it makes that decision

- (a) the facts underlying the changes,
- (b) the general impact of the changes on previously filed information, and
- (c) the steps the issuer would take before filing an amended document, or filing re-stated financial information, if the issuer is not filing amended information immediately.

## **PART 12 FILING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS**

### **12.1 Statutory or Regulatory Instruments**

Paragraph 12.1(1)(a) of the Instrument requires reporting issuers to file copies of their articles of incorporation, amalgamation, continuation or any other constating or establishing documents, unless the document is a statutory or regulatory instrument. This is a very narrow exception. For example, it would apply to Schedule I or Schedule II banks under the *Bank Act*, whose charter is the *Bank Act*. It would not apply when only the form of the constating document is prescribed under statute or regulation, such as articles under the *Canada Business Corporations Act*.

### **12.2 Contracts that Affect the Rights or Obligations of Securityholders**

Paragraph 12.1(1)(e) of the Instrument requires reporting issuers to file contracts that can reasonably be regarded as materially affecting the rights of its securityholders generally. A warrant indenture is one example of this type of contract. We would expect that contracts entered into in the ordinary course of business would not usually affect the rights of securityholders generally, and so would not have to be filed.

### **12.3 Filing of Other Material Contracts**

We expect that the contracts required under section 12.2 of the Instrument to be filed by a reporting issuer will generally be the same contracts the reporting issuer is required to provide disclosure of under section 15.1 of Form 51-102F2. The exemption in subsection 12.2(2) of the Instrument does not affect the issuer's obligation in section 15.1 of Form 51-102F2 to disclose the particulars of the material contracts.

## **PART 13 EXEMPTIONS**

### **13.1 Prior Exemptions and Waivers**

Section 13.2 of the Instrument essentially allows a reporting issuer, in certain circumstances, to continue to rely upon an exemption or waiver from continuous disclosure obligations obtained prior to the Instrument coming into force if the exemption or waiver relates to a substantially similar provision in the Instrument and the reporting issuer provides written notice to the securities regulatory authority or regulator of its reliance on such exemption or waiver. Upon receipt of such notice, the securities regulatory authority or regulator, as the case may be, will review it to determine if the provision of the Instrument referred to in the notice is substantially similar to the provision from which the prior exemption or waiver was granted. The written notice should be sent to each jurisdiction where the prior exemption or waiver is relied upon. Contact addresses for these notices are:

**Alberta Securities Commission**

4th Floor  
300 – 5th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 3C4  
Attention: Director, Corporate Finance

**British Columbia Securities Commission**

P.O. Box 10142, Pacific Centre  
701 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7Y 1L2  
Attention: Financial Reporting

**Manitoba Securities Commission**

500 – 400 St. Mary Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 4K5  
Attention: Filings Department

**New Brunswick Securities Commission**

85 Charlotte Street, Suite 300  
Saint John, N.B.  
E2L 2J2  
Attention: Corporate Finance

**Securities Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador**

P.O. Box 8700  
2nd Floor, West Block  
Confederation Building  
75 O’Leary Avenue  
St. John’s, NFLD  
A1B 4J6  
Attention: Director of Securities

**Department of Justice, Northwest Territories**

Legal Registries  
P.O. Box 1320  
1st Floor, 5009-49th Street  
Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2L9  
Attention: Director, Legal Registries



**Nova Scotia Securities Commission**

2nd Floor, Joseph Howe Building  
1690 Hollis Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3J9  
Attention: Corporate Finance

**Department of Justice, Nunavut**

Legal Registries Division  
P.O. Box 1000 – Station 570  
1st Floor, Brown Building  
Iqaluit, NT X0A 0H0  
Attention: Director, Legal Registries Division

**Ontario Securities Commission**

Suite 1903, Box 55  
20 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 3S8  
Attention: Manager, Team 3, Corporate Finance

**Registrar of Securities, Prince Edward Island**

P.O. Box 2000  
95 Rochford Street, 5th Floor,  
Charlottetown, PEI  
C1A 7N8  
Attention: Registrar of Securities

**Autorité des marchés financiers**

800 Square Victoria, 22nd Floor  
P.O. Box 246, Tour de la Bourse  
Montréal, Québec  
H4Z 1G3  
Attention: Direction des marchés des capitaux

**Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission – Securities Division**

Suite 601  
1919 Saskatchewan Drive  
Regina, SK S4P 4H2  
Attention: Deputy Director, Corporate Finance

**Registrar of Securities, Government of Yukon**

Corporate Affairs J-9

P.O. Box 2703

Whitehorse, Yukon

Y1A 5H3

Attention: Registrar of Securities

[Amended December 29, 2006]

**Appendix A**  
**Examples of Filing Requirements for Changes in the Year End**

The following examples assume the old financial year ended on December 31, 20X0

Transition Year	Comparative Annual Financial Statements to Transition Year	New Financial Year	Comparative Annual Financial Statements to New Financial Year	Interim Periods for Transition Year	Comparative Interim Periods to Interim Periods in Transition Year	Interim Periods for New Financial Year	Comparative Interim Periods to Interim Periods in New Financial Year
<b>Financial year end changed by up to 3 months</b>							
2 months ended 2/28/X1	12 months ended 12/31/X0	2/28/X2	2 months ended 2/28/X1 and 12 months ended 12/31/X0*	Not applicable	Not applicable	3 months ended 5/31/X1 6 months ended 8/31/X1 9 months ended 11/30/X1	3 months ended 6/30/X0 6 months ended 9/30/X0 9 months ended 12/31/X0
Or							
14 months ended 2/28/X2	12 months ended 12/31/X0	2/28/X3	14 months ended 2/28/X2	3 months ended 3/31/X1 6 months ended 6/30/X1 9 months ended 9/30/X1 12 months ended 12/31/X1	3 months ended 3/31/X0 6 months ended 6/30/X0 9 months ended 9/30/X0 12 months ended 12/31/X0	3 months ended 5/31/X2 6 months ended 8/31/X2 9 months ended 11/30/X2	3 months ended 6/30/X1 6 months ended 9/30/X1 9 months ended 12/31/X1
				or			
				2 months ended 2/28/X1 5 months ended 5/31/X1 8 months ended 8/31/X1 11 months ended 11/30/X1	3 months ended 3/31/X0 6 months ended 6/30/X0 9 months ended 9/30/X0 12 months ended 12/31/X0	3 months ended 5/31/X2 6 months ended 8/31/X2 9 months ended 11/30/X2	3 months ended 6/30/X1 6 months ended 9/30/X1 9 months ended 12/31/X1
<b>Financial year end changed by 4 to 6 months</b>							
6 months ended 6/30/X1	12 months ended 12/31/X0	6/30/X2	6 months ended 6/30/X1 and 12 months ended 12/31/X0*	3 months ended 3/31/X1	3 months ended 3/31/X0	3 months ended 9/30/X1 6 months ended 12/31/X1 9 months ended 3/31/X2	3 months ended 9/30/X0 6 months ended 12/31/X0 9 months ended 3/31/X1
<b>Financial year end changed by 7 or 8 months</b>							
7 months ended 7/31/X1	12 months ended 12/31/X0	7/31/X2	7 months ended 7/31/X1 and 12 months ended 12/31/X0*	3 months ended 3/31/X1	3 months ended 3/31/X0	3 months ended 10/31/X1 6 months ended 1/31/X2 9 months ended 4/30/X2	3 months ended 9/30/X0 6 months ended 12/31/X0 9 months ended 3/31/X1
Or							
				4 months ended 4/30/X1	3 months ended 3/31/X0	3 months ended 10/31/X1 6 months ended 1/31/X2 9 months ended 4/30/X2	3 months ended 9/30/X0 6 months ended 12/31/X0 10 months ended 4/30/X1
<b>Financial year end changed by 9 to 11 months</b>							
10 months ended 10/31/X1	12 months ended 12/31/X0	10/31/X2	10 months ended 10/31/X1	3 months ended 3/31/X1 6 months ended 6/30/X1	3 months ended 3/31/X0 6 months ended 6/30/X0	3 months ended 1/31/X2 6 months ended 4/30/X2 9 months ended 7/31/X2	3 months ended 12/31/X0 6 months ended 3/31/X1 9 months ended 6/30/X1
or							
				4 months ended 4/30/X1 7 months ended 7/31/X1	3 months ended 3/31/X0 6 months ended 6/30/X0	3 months ended 1/31/X2 6 months ended 4/30/X2 9 months ended 7/31/X2	3 months ended 12/31/X0 6 months ended 3/31/X1 9 months ended 6/30/X1

\* Balance sheet required only at the transition year end date

