



**BIRCHCLIFF ENERGY LTD.**

**Year Ended December 31, 2010**

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**ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM**

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**March 29, 2011**

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### Definitions

In this Annual Information Form, the capitalized terms set forth below have the following meanings:

“**ABCA**” means the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta);

“**AJM**” means AJM Petroleum Consultants;

“**AJM Evaluation**” means the independent evaluation dated February 9, 2011 prepared by AJM, evaluating the Corporation’s oil and gas assets as at December 31, 2010;

“**Annual Information Form**” means this Annual Information Form dated March 29, 2011;

“**Birchcliff**” or “**Corporation**” means Birchcliff Energy Ltd.;

“**Common Shares**” means common shares of the Corporation;

“**East District**” means the area designated by Birchcliff as the East District on the map found at page 8;

“**ERCB**” means the Energy Resources Conservation Board;

“**Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play**” means Birchcliff’s Montney and Doig formation natural gas resource play located in Birchcliff’s West and East Districts;

“**Natural Gas Deep Drilling Program**” means the Government of Alberta, Department of Energy natural gas deep drilling program for royalty adjustments;

“**NI 51-101**” means National Instrument 51-101 - *Standards of Disclosure for Oil & Gas Activities*;

“**North District**” means the area designated by Birchcliff as the North District on the map found on page 8;

“**PCS Gas Plant**” means the Corporation’s 100% owned and operated natural gas processing plant located in the West District, Pouce Coupe South region at 03-22-078-12W6;

“**Peace River Arch**” means the Peace River Arch area of Alberta, a geological area centred northwest of Grande Prairie, adjacent to the British Columbia border;

“**TSX**” means Toronto Stock Exchange;

“**West District**” means the area designated by Birchcliff as the West District on the map found on page 8;

“**Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin**” means the vast sedimentary basin underlying Western Canada that is the source of most of Western Canada’s current oil and gas production; and

“**Worsley Light Oil Resource Play**” means Birchcliff’s Charlie Lake light oil resource play located near the Town of Worsley in the North District.

### Conventions

Certain other terms used herein but not defined herein are defined in NI 51-101 and CSA Staff Notice 51-324 and, unless the context otherwise requires, shall have the same meanings herein as in NI 51-101 and CSA Staff Notice 51-324. Unless otherwise indicated, references herein to “\$” or “dollars” are to Canadian dollars. All financial information herein has been presented in Canadian dollars in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Canada. All operational information contained in this Annual Information Form relates to consolidated operations unless the context otherwise requires.

## ABBREVIATIONS

In this Annual Information Form, the abbreviations set forth below have the following meanings:

### Oil and Natural Gas Liquids

bbl	barrel
bbls	barrels
bbls/d	barrels per day
mbbls	thousand barrels
MMbbls	million barrels
boe	barrel of oil equivalent
boe/d	barrel of oil equivalent per day
mboe	thousand barrels of oil equivalent
MMboe	million barrels of oil equivalent
NGLs	natural gas liquids

### Natural Gas

Mcf	thousand cubic feet
MMcf	million cubic feet
Bcf	billion cubic feet
mcf/d	thousand cubic feet per day
MMcf/d	million cubic feet per day
m <sup>3</sup>	cubic metres
GJ	Gigajoule

### Other

AECO	benchmark natural gas price determined at the AECO 'C' hub in southeast Alberta
WTI	West Texas Intermediate crude oil, a benchmark oil price determined at Cushing, Oklahoma
°API	the measure of the density or gravity of liquid petroleum products
psi	pounds per square inch
\$000s	thousands of dollars

## CONVERSIONS

The following table sets forth certain conversions between Standard Imperial Units and the International System of Units (or metric units).

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Multiply By</u>
mcf	cubic metres	28.174
mcf	GJ	1.055
cubic metres	cubic feet	35.494
bbls	cubic metres	0.159
cubic metres	bbls	6.289
feet	metres	0.305
metres	feet	3.281
miles	kilometres	1.609
kilometres	miles	0.621
acres	hectares	0.405
hectares	acres	2.471
sections	acres	640
sections	hectares	256

### **Boe Conversions**

Barrel of oil equivalent (“**boe**”) amounts may be misleading, particularly if used in isolation. A boe conversion ratio of six thousand cubic feet (6 Mcf) of natural gas to one barrel of oil (1 bbl) is based on an energy equivalency conversion method primarily applicable at the burner tip and does not represent a value equivalency at the wellhead.

## FORWARD LOOKING INFORMATION

This Annual Information Form and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain certain forward-looking statements and forward-looking information (hereinafter collectively referred to as “forward-looking information”) within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities laws. These statements relate to future events or future performance and are based upon the Corporation’s current internal expectations, estimates, projections, assumptions and beliefs. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. In some cases, words such as “plan”, “expect”, “project”, “intend”, “believe”, “anticipate”, “estimate”, “may”, “will”, “potential”, “proposed” and other similar words, or statements that certain events or conditions “may” or “will” occur, are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

In particular, this Annual Information Form contains forward-looking information, including among other places, under the headings “Description of the Business”, “Reserves Data and Other Information” and “Risk Factors”. This forward-looking information includes but is not limited to statements regarding: expected processing capacity of the PCS Gas Plant and its future expansion; overall production; planned drilling, exploration and development; planned 2011 capital spending and sources of funding; expected results from the Corporation’s portfolio of oil and gas assets; the quantity and development of oil and gas reserves; future net cash flows and discounted cash flows; expected operating, general administrative, services, environmental compliance costs and expenses; royalty rates and incentives; treatment under tax laws; expected ability to transition to new accounting standards and other expectations, beliefs, plans, goals, objectives, assumptions, information and statements about possible future events, conditions, results of operations or performance. The Corporation cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Consequently, there is no representation by the Corporation that actual results achieved will be the same in whole or in part as those set out in the forward-looking information.

Statements regarding oil and gas reserves contained in the “Statement of Reserves Data and Other Oil and Gas Information” incorporated by reference to this Annual Information Form and elsewhere may be deemed to be forward-looking information as such statements involve the implied assessment that the resources described can be profitably produced in the future.

With respect to such forward-looking information the key assumptions on which the Corporation relies are: that future prices for crude oil and natural gas, future currency exchange rates and interest rates, and future availability of debt and equity financing will be at levels and costs that allow the Corporation to manage, operate and finance its business and develop its properties and meet its future obligations; that the regulatory framework in respect of royalties, taxes and environmental matters applicable to the Corporation will not become so onerous as to preclude the Corporation from viably managing, operating and financing its business and the development of its properties; that the Corporation will continue to be able to identify, attract and employ qualified staff and obtain the outside expertise and specialized and other equipment it requires to manage, operate and finance its business and develop its properties; and various assumptions as to future prices for crude oil and natural gas, currency exchange rates, inflation rates, future well production rates, well drainage areas, success rates of future well drilling and future costs and availability of labour and services. With respect to estimates of reserves volumes and associated future net revenues and numbers of future wells to be drilled a key assumption is the validity of the commodity prices, currency exchange rates, future capital and operating costs and well production rates forecast by the Corporation’s independent reserves evaluator. With respect to the number of future wells to be drilled a key assumption is the validity of the geological and other technical interpretations that have been performed by the Corporation’s technical staff and that indicate that commercially economic reserves can be recovered from the Corporation’s lands as a result of drilling such future wells.

Undue reliance should not be placed on forward-looking information, as there can be no assurance that the plans, intentions or expectations upon which they are based will occur. Forward-looking information involves numerous assumptions, uncertainties and both known and unknown risks. There is a risk that such predictions, forecasts, and projections may not occur. Although the Corporation believes that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, there can be no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Some of those risks include: risks inherent of the oil and gas

industry, such as operational risks in exploring for, developing and producing crude oil and nature gas, market demand and unpredictable facilities outages; risks and uncertainties involving geology of oil and gas deposits; uncertainty of reserves and resources estimates, reserves life and underlying reservoir risk; general economic conditions in Canada, the United States and globally; changes in governmental regulation of the oil and gas industry, including environmental regulation; fluctuations in foreign exchange rates or interest rates; adverse conditions in the debt and equity markets; and competition from others for scarce resources.

The foregoing list of risk factors is not exhaustive. The forward-looking information contained in this Annual Information Form is expressly qualified by this cautionary statement. Additional information on these and other risk factors that could affect operations or financial results are included under the heading “Risk Factors” in this Annual Information Form; in the “Statement of Reserves Data and Other Oil and Gas Information”; in the Report on Reserves Data by the Corporation’s Independent Qualified Reserves Evaluator; and in the Report of Management and Directors on Oil and Gas Disclosure. In addition, information is available in the Corporation’s other reports filed with Canadian securities regulatory authorities. Forward-looking information is based on estimates and opinions of management at the time the information is presented. The Corporation is not under any duty to update the forward-looking information after the date of this Annual Information Form to conform such information to actual results or to changes in the Corporation’s plans or expectations, except as otherwise required by applicable securities laws.

## CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Birchcliff Energy Ltd. (“**Birchcliff**” or the “**Corporation**”) was originally incorporated on July 6, 2004 under the *Alberta Business Corporation Act* (“**ABCA**”) as 1116463 Alberta Ltd. and on September 10, 2004 changed its name to Birchcliff Energy Ltd. On January 18, 2005, the Corporation amalgamated under the ABCA with Scout Capital Corp. (“**Scout**”), a public corporation, pursuant to a Plan of Arrangement to form an amalgamated corporation that continued under the name Birchcliff Energy Ltd. On May 31, 2005, the Corporation amalgamated under the ABCA with Veracel Inc. (“**Veracel**”), pursuant to a plan of arrangement to form an amalgamated corporation that continued under the name Birchcliff Energy Ltd.

The registered and head office of the Corporation is located at 500, 630 – 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 0J9. The Common Shares of the Corporation are listed for trading on the TSX under the trading symbol “**BIR**” and are included in the Standards and Poor’s S&P/TSX Composite Index.

The Corporation has no subsidiaries.

## GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS

The Corporation is an intermediate oil and gas exploration, development and production company based in Calgary, Alberta, with operations focused in one core area of Alberta, the Peace River Arch.

### Three Year History

#### 2008

March 14, 2008, the Corporation raised gross proceeds of \$130 million from the issuance of 14,375,000 Common Shares at a price of \$8.00 per Common Share and the issuance of 1,522,843 Common Shares on a “flow-through” basis at a price of \$9.85 per Common Share, and repaid in full all amounts outstanding under the Corporation’s \$100 million non-revolving credit facility.

June 25, 2008 the Corporation’s revolving credit facilities were increased to \$240 million in aggregate.

#### 2009

April 17, 2009, the Corporation received the necessary regulatory approval for the construction of the PCS Gas Plant in its West District, Pouce Coupe South region, with Phase I of the PCS Gas Plant designed to process 30 MMcf of natural gas per day.

May 21, 2009, the Corporation amended its credit agreement with its bank syndicate, which increased its existing revolving credit facilities (consisting of an extendible revolving term credit facility with an authorized limit of \$235 million and an extendible revolving working capital facility with an authorized limit of \$20 million) to an aggregate limit of \$255 million from \$240 million and extended the conversion date of those facilities until May 21, 2010.

May 21, 2009, the Corporation established a new \$50 million non-revolving one year term credit facility (the “**Term Facility**”), subject to consent of the banking syndicate at the time of draw-down.

June 30, 2009, the Corporation raised gross proceeds of \$62 million from the issuance of 8,000,000 Common Shares pursuant to a public offering at a price of \$6.20 per Common Share and the issuance of 2,000,000 Common Shares at a price of \$6.20 per Common Share to its major shareholder pursuant to a private placement.

November 2009, construction of Phase I of the PCS Gas Plant began.



## **2010**

January 15, 2010, the Corporation received the approval from its syndicate of banks to extend the maturity date of the Term Facility to May 21, 2011.

March 20, 2010, Phase I of the PCS Gas Plant commenced operation.

May 21, 2010, the Corporation terminated the Term Facility and amended its credit agreement with its bank syndicate, which increased its existing revolving credit facility (consisting of an extendible revolving term credit facility with an authorized limit of \$320 million and an extendable revolving working capital facility with an authorized limited of \$30 million) to an aggregate limit of \$350 million from \$255 million and extended the conversion date of those facilities until May 20, 2011.

November 26, 2009, the Corporation received the necessary regulatory approval for the construction of Phase II of the PCS Gas Plant, designed to increase the processing capacity from 30 MMcf to 60 MMcf of natural gas per day and on February 11, 2010, construction of Phase II of the PCS Gas Plant began.

September 2, 2010 the Corporation received Energy Resources Conservation Board (“**ERCB**”) approval for Phase III of the PCS Gas Plant, designed to add another 60 MMcf/d of processing capacity, bringing the total processing capacity to 120 MMcf/d. It is expected that a decision to proceed with construction of Phase III will be made in the second quarter of 2011.

November 2, 2010, Phase II of the PCS Gas Plant commenced operation.

November 30, 2010, the Corporation amended its credit agreement with its bank syndicate, which increased its existing revolving credit facility (consisting of an extendible revolving term credit facility with an authorized limit of \$345 million and an extendable revolving working capital facility with an authorized limited of \$30 million) to an aggregate limit of \$375 million from \$350 million.

### **Prior Corporate History**

The Corporation was incorporated as a private corporation in July of 2004 and in September 2004 assembled a management team and began hiring a full technical team and a small complement of administrative staff. The Corporation’s initial startup costs were funded from \$700,000 of loans from Jeff Tonken and Larry Shaw, which were repaid in January 2005. On January 18, 2005, the Corporation amalgamated under the ABCA with Scout pursuant to a plan of arrangement to form an amalgamated corporation that continued under the name Birchcliff Energy Ltd. and on the same day raised gross proceeds of approximately \$60 million from the issuance of equity and completion of the amalgamation with Scout. On January 19, 2005, following the amalgamation with Scout, the common shares of the Corporation were listed for trading on the TSX Venture Exchange under the trading symbol “BIR”.

March 29, 2005, the Corporation contracted to acquire significant oil and natural gas properties in the Peace River Arch area of Alberta for a purchase price of approximately \$242.8 million (the “**PRA Acquisition**”) and on May 5, 2005, the Corporation completed an acquisition of minor oil and natural gas assets in the Peace River Arch area of Alberta for a purchase price of approximately \$2.7 million.

May 31, 2005, the Corporation amalgamated under the ABCA with Veracel pursuant to a plan of arrangement to form an amalgamated corporation that continued under the name Birchcliff Energy Ltd., following Veracel raising approximately \$136 million of gross proceeds from the issuance of equity on that same day.

Following the amalgamation with Veracel, the Corporation completed the PRA Acquisition on May 31, 2005. The acquired properties were estimated to be producing approximately 4,350 boe per day at that time and the Corporation estimates that it acquired approximately 8.3 million boe of proved reserves and 11.4 million boe of proved plus probable reserves as a result of the PRA Acquisition.

Also on May 31, 2005, in conjunction with the PRA Acquisition, the Corporation established a \$70 million revolving credit facility with a Canadian chartered bank, subject to the lender's review semi-annually in May and October of each year.

June 2, 2005, the Corporation raised \$10 million of gross proceeds from the issuance of two million Common Shares issued at a price of \$5.00 per Common Share on a "flow-through" basis.

July 21, 2005 the Common Shares were listed for trading on TSX under the trading symbol "BIR" and were de-listed from TSX Venture Exchange.

November 1, 2005, as part of the semi-annual review process, the Corporation increased its revolving credit facility limit from \$70 million to \$80 million on the same terms as the original credit facility.

December 20, 2005, the Corporation raised approximately \$13.5 million of gross proceeds from the issuance of 1,482,400 Common Shares issued at a price of \$9.12 per Common Share on a "flow-through" basis.

May 25, 2006, the Corporation's revolving credit facility was amended and syndicated into a syndicated extendible revolving term credit facility with an authorized limit of \$105 million and an extendible revolving working capital facility with an authorized limit of \$15 million. The \$120 million of credit facilities were provided by a syndicate of two Canadian chartered banks.

November 22, 2006, the Corporation raised gross proceeds of approximately \$30 million from the issuance of 3,200,000 Common Shares at a price of \$4.40 per Common Share and 2,740,000 Common Shares issued at a price of \$5.85 per Common Share on a "flow-through" basis.

September 4, 2007, the Corporation entered into a purchase and sale agreement to acquire from Compton Petroleum Corporation, oil and natural gas assets in the Peace River Arch area of Alberta (the "**Worsley Property**") for total cash consideration of approximately \$270 million (the "**Worsley Acquisition**").

September 27, 2007, the Corporation raised gross proceeds of approximately \$115 million from the issuance of 30,263,170 Common Shares at a price of \$3.80 per Common Share pursuant to a public offering. The net proceeds to the Corporation of approximately \$109,000,000 were used to fund a portion of the purchase price of the Worsley Property. The Corporation's \$120 million revolving credit facilities were increased to \$200 million in aggregate and a new \$100 million non-revolving credit facility was added in conjunction with the completion of the Worsley Acquisition. The terms of the revolving credit facilities remained the same. The Corporation completed the Worsley Acquisition for a net purchase price of approximately \$263 million. The non-revolving credit facility was drawn in full on September 27, 2007 to fund a portion of the purchase price of the Worsley Property and had a maturity date of September 27, 2008.

### **Significant Acquisitions in 2010**

Within its focus area, the Corporation is always reviewing potential property acquisitions and corporate mergers and acquisitions for the purposes of determining whether any such potential transaction is of interest to the Corporation and the terms on which such a potential transaction would be available. As a result, the Corporation may from time to time be involved in discussions or negotiations with other parties or their agents in respect of potential property acquisitions and corporate mergers and acquisition opportunities, but the Corporation is not committed to any such potential transaction and cannot be reasonably confident that it can complete any such potential transaction until appropriate legal documentation has been signed by relevant parties.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

### General

The Corporation is in the business of exploring for, developing and producing oil and natural gas resources in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin with operations focused in one core area of Alberta, the Peace River Arch. The Corporation's business model envisages continuous growth through drilling and the acquisition of suitable properties via asset purchases, farm-ins and corporate acquisitions or mergers.

### Principal Properties

The following is a description of the Corporation's principal oil and natural gas properties as at December 31, 2010. Unless otherwise stated, production stated is the average gross sales volumes for the period indicated in respect of the Corporation's working interest before the deduction of royalties and before royalty income volumes. Unless otherwise specified, gross and net acreage and well information is at December 31, 2010.



### Peace River Arch Area

All of Birchcliff's operations are concentrated within one core area, the Peace River Arch area of Alberta, which is centred northwest of Grande Prairie, adjacent to the Alberta/British Columbia border, and is considered by management to be one of the most desirable natural gas and light oil drilling areas in North America.

The Peace River Arch is one of the most prolific natural gas and oil producing areas of the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin and is generally characterized by multiple horizons with a myriad of structural, stratigraphic and hydrodynamic traps. There is an abundance of prolific resource plays, related in part to the proximity of the area to the deep basin, where generation and trapping of hydrocarbons preferentially occurs. The Peace River Arch provides all-season access that allows the Corporation to drill, equip and tie-in wells on an almost continuous basis, excluding the spring breakup period.

The Corporation's strategy in the Peace River Arch is focused on developing sound exploration and development opportunities that can support extensive drilling and production growth in a repeatable, low risk manner. Birchcliff works to de-risk plays by drilling both vertical and horizontal exploration wells to develop an in-depth understanding of oil and gas pools, rock properties and petrophysical characteristics. The Corporation designs, tests and evaluates the drilling, completion and production technologies and practices to get continual improvements in productivity and to drive down capital and operating costs. The Corporation's pool delineation strategy de-risks future development and reduces future costs as new well pads and infrastructure are designed and built to support multiple horizontal well locations and increased production. The Corporation has a focused strategy to acquire additional contiguous land blocks at Crown sales or through selective acquisitions. The Corporation's dominant land and infrastructure position in the Peace River Arch has helped Birchcliff develop an in-depth knowledge of the land, the geology, the reservoirs, the infrastructure and the stakeholders.

The Corporation's 2010 average production in the Peace River Arch was 13,079 boe per day. The fourth quarter production averaged 16,375 boe per day and the December average was 19,102 boe per day. Wells in the Peace River Arch have the potential to initially produce 500 to 10,000 mcf per day (83 to 1,666 boe per day) of natural gas or 30 to 500 bbl per day of light oil.

The Corporation has excellent control of and access to infrastructure in the Peace River Arch to process its light oil and natural gas production. In 2010, the Corporation commenced processing natural gas through the new 100% owned PCS Gas Plant, which has a processing capacity of 60 MMcf per day. The Corporation holds working interests in 15 gas plants, three of which are wholly owned and five of which the Corporation operates. The Corporation holds working interests in five oil batteries, two of which the Corporation operates. The Corporation has working interests in 37 compressor sites, the majority of which it wholly owns and operates.

In 2010, the Corporation invested \$19.1 million to expand and maintain its land position in the Peace River Arch and at December 31, 2010 held 500,069 (456,952 net) acres of undeveloped land, with an average working interest of 91%.

Birchcliff spent \$199.4 million on exploration and development projects (including acquisitions and dispositions) in the Peace River Arch in 2010, including the drilling of 56 (48.2 net) wells. All were successful except one (1.0 net) dry hole. Drilling depths on a true vertical depth basis can range from 300 metres for the shallower horizons to 2,700 metres for the deeper, higher impact targets. The capital cost for the horizontal wells has continued to decrease as the Corporation realizes efficiencies by multi-well pads, increased proximity to existing infrastructure and more cost competitive pricing for services.

During 2011, the Corporation expects to spend approximately \$159 million, which will include the drilling of 44 (36.3 net) wells. Of these wells 17 (13.6 net) will be Montney/Doig horizontal gas wells and 11 (11 net) will be Worsley horizontal light oil wells. Of this capital, approximately 55% is expected to be spent in the West District, 33% in the North District and 8% in the East District.

***Birchcliff's Districts within the Peace River Arch***

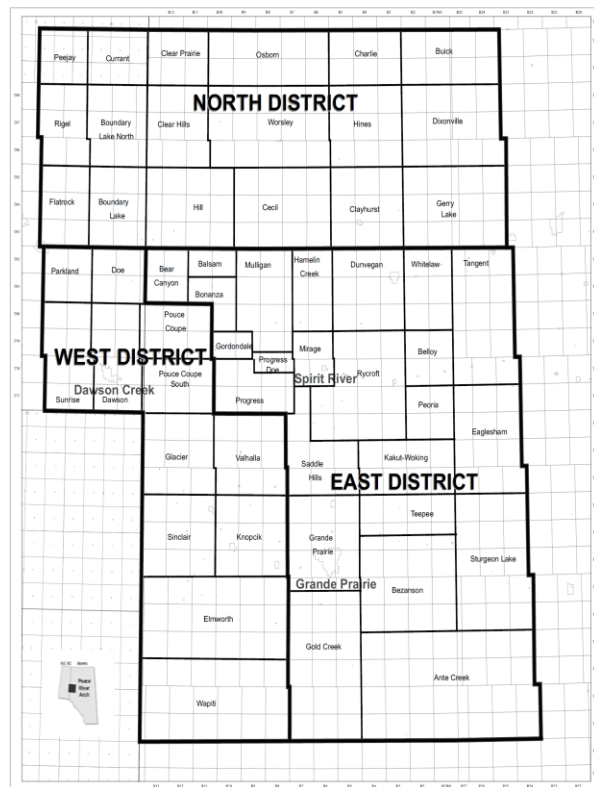
Within the Peace River Arch, the Corporation has three districts, each with its own technical team: West District, North District and East District. Each of the districts is comprised of a number of regions.

***West District***

The West District is centred approximately 95 kilometres northwest of Grande Prairie and contains three primary regions: Pouce Coupe, Pouce Coupe South and Glacier. The principal asset in the West District is the Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play, which is one of the most sought after natural gas resource plays in North America.

Approximately 80% of Birchcliff's total proved plus probable reserves are located in the West District and provide years of low-risk development drilling and exploration opportunities.

The West District represented approximately 76% of the natural gas production and 2% of the oil production in 2010. Natural gas production is primarily from the Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play. In 2010, West District production averaged 7,599 boe per day and the operating netback for this production was \$18.39 per boe. Average operating costs in the West District were \$6.14 per boe, a 25% decrease from 2009.



Production from the West District flows through six gas plants and one oil battery. The Corporation owns and operates two gas plants in the West District; most notably the new 100% owned PCS Gas Plant, which has a designed inlet capacity of 60 MMcf per day, and a smaller 100% owned sweet gas plant in Pouce Coupe North. Birchcliff has ownership interests in three other sweet gas plants in the West District, at 32.9%, 15% and 5.2% working interests. The Corporation also processes gas at the East District Canadian Natural Resources Limited operated Progress gas plant, in which Birchcliff has a small working interest. Other gas is delivered to the Spectra gathering system, which is processed under firm service contracts at either the Fourth Creek plant or the Gordondale East gas plant.

In 2010, the Corporation invested \$15.4 million to expand and maintain the land position in the West District. At December 31, 2010, Birchcliff had interests in approximately 176,281 (148,987 net) acres of land of which 119,122 (109,058 net) acres were undeveloped. The average working interest in undeveloped land in the West District is approximately 92%.

The Corporation spent \$159.4 million on West District exploration, development and minor acquisition projects in 2010, including the drilling and completion of 25 (20.8 net) wells. The West District offers multiple, stacked targets down to total vertical depths of 2,700 metres.

In 2010, the West District accounted for:

- 75% of total corporate exploration and development expenditures
- 58% of total corporate production volumes
- 80% of total corporate proved plus probable reserves
- 24% of total corporate net undeveloped land holdings

During 2011, the Corporation expects to spend approximately \$86.8 million in the West District, which includes the drilling and completion of 17 (13.6 net) Montney/Doig horizontal wells, all of which are expected to be on production by year end 2011. Our Montney/Doig natural gas horizontal wells qualify for the Natural Gas Deep Drilling Program as well as horizontal gas drilling incentives. These programs add significant value to our drilling opportunities.

#### *North District*

The North District is centred approximately 250 kilometres north of Grande Prairie. Within the North District, Worsley is the primary region and the most significant asset is the Worsley Light Oil Resource Play.

Approximately 14% of the Corporation's total proved plus probable reserves are located in the North District. Birchcliff's plans for this district are focused on the Worsley Light Oil Resource Play, including extension of the oil pool to the north and the south, recompletion and infill development opportunities, expansion of the water flood and expansion of the application of horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracture stimulation technology as it relates to the Corporation's oil properties.

The North District represented approximately 12% of natural gas production and 76.5% of oil production in 2010, with production primarily from the oil rich Charlie Lake formation. In 2010, North District production averaged 3,564 boe per day and operating netback for this production was \$42.22 per boe.

Most of the production from the North District flows through a Birchcliff-operated gas plant and oil battery, in which the Corporation has a 98.8% and 84.6% working interest, respectively. Both of these facilities are located in the core of the Worsley region. The Corporation also holds a 29.7% working interest in a sweet gas plant in the Hill region of the North District.

In 2010, the Corporation invested \$1.7 million to expand and maintain the North District land position. As of December 31, 2010, the Corporation had interests in approximately 135,928 (124,493 net) acres of land of which 113,522 (108,139 net) acres are undeveloped. The average working interest in undeveloped land in the North District is approximately 95%.

The Corporation spent \$42.5 million on North District exploration and development projects in 2010, including the drilling and completion of 17 (17.0 net) wells. The Corporation enhanced the water flood area by converting two producing wells to injection wells and generated a surveillance model to evaluate pattern performance and prepare for 2011 activities. Currently about one third of the Birchcliff owned portion of the Worsley light oil pool is under water flood. The water flood response has exceeded

management's expectations and the Corporation looks forward to further expansion of the water flood area in 2011.

In 2010, the North District accounted for:

- 19% of total corporate exploration and development expenditures
- 27% of total corporate production volumes
- 14% of total corporate proved plus probable reserves
- 24% of total corporate net undeveloped land holdings

During 2011, the Corporation expects to spend approximately \$52.4 million in the North District, which includes the drilling and completion of 15 (15.0 net) oil wells, comprised of 11 horizontal wells and four vertical wells. In the north end of the light oil pool, the Corporation plans to drill six horizontal wells, applying multi-stage fracture stimulation technology to increase production. In the south east-end of the light oil pool, the Corporation plans to drill two multi-lateral horizontal wells, and one single leg horizontal well, to help define optimal inter-well spacing. All of these horizontal wells are eligible for the current horizontal oil royalty reduction program, which is calculated from the total measured depth drilled. The Corporation expects to drill five wells in the water flood area and expand the water flood area to the south by converting two wells to injection wells. In addition, the Corporation plans to drill one exploration horizontal well outside of the pool boundaries.

#### *East District*

The East District is centred approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Grande Prairie. Progress, Rycroft and Bezanson are the primary regions contained within the East District. The Progress Doe Creek oil pool and the Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play are the East District's primary assets. During 2010, Birchcliff initiated research, evaluation and testing of new resource plays in the East District where the Corporation has significant land holdings prospective for a number of resource plays.

The East District represented approximately 13% of natural gas production and 21% of oil production in 2010. Production is from multiple zones, from the late Devonian to the Cretaceous. In 2010, production from the East District averaged 1,915 boe per day.

The Corporation processes East District production through eight gas plants and three oil batteries. Birchcliff operates two gas plants and one oil battery in the East District; one gas plant with a 55.5% working interest, one gas plant with a 100% working interest and an oil battery with a 22.5% working interest. Birchcliff has ownership interests in six other gas plants and two other oil batteries in the East District.

In 2010, the Corporation invested approximately \$1.9 million to expand and maintain the land position in the East District. At December 31, 2010, the Corporation had interests in approximately 358,358 (285,727 net) acres of land of which 267,419 (239,755 net) acres were undeveloped. The average working interest in undeveloped land in the East District is approximately 90%.

The Corporation spent \$12.9 million on East District exploration and development projects (excluding acquisitions and dispositions) in 2010, including the drilling and completion of 14 (10.4 net) wells. Birchcliff participated in the drilling of several wells in the Progress Doe Creek oil pool including four unit vertical producers, four non-unit horizontal producers and two non-unit water injection wells. Birchcliff also drilled a Halfway oil horizontal well in the Progress region that began producing in January 2011, proving up the concept of using horizontal multi-stage fracture stimulation technology to obtain commercial oil rates from the area's tighter Halfway shore face sands.

In 2010, the East District accounted for:

- 6% of total corporate exploration and development expenditures
- 15% of total corporate production volumes
- 6% of total corporate proved plus probable reserves
- 52% of total corporate net undeveloped land holdings

During 2011, the Corporation expects to spend approximately \$12 million in the East District. In the Progress Doe Creek pool, the Corporation anticipates drilling and completion of three unit in-fill oil wells (two vertical and one horizontal), five non-unit horizontal Doe Creek oil wells and two non-unit water injection conversions. In the Bonanza region, the Corporation plans to drill one development Doig oil well which, if successful, will result in several follow up oil drills planned for 2012. In the Progress region, pending production results of the recent Halfway horizontal well, the Corporation plans to drill one follow up well during the fourth quarter of 2011. Depending on the technical review, the Corporation may also drill a horizontal oil well in one of the emerging resource plays.

### ***Birchcliff's Resource Plays in the Peace River Arch***

Birchcliff is focused on two resource plays within the Peace River Arch: the Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play in the West and East Districts, and the Worsley Light Oil Resource Play in the North District. The Corporation has also acquired lands that are prospective for one or more new resource plays. Birchcliff characterizes its resource plays as plays that have regionally pervasive, continuous, low permeability hydrocarbon accumulations or systems that usually require intensive stimulation to produce. The production characteristics of these plays include steep initial declines that rapidly trend to much lower decline rates, yielding long life production and reserves. Resource plays exhibit a statistical distribution of estimated ultimate recoveries and therefore provide a repeatable distribution of drilling opportunities. As more wells are drilled into the play, there is a substantial decrease in both the geological and technical risks.

#### *Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play*

The Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play is classified by Birchcliff as a hybrid resource play because it is comprised of approximately 300 metres (1,000 feet) of gas saturated rock with both tight silt and sand reservoir rock interlayered with shale gas source rock.

Most of the capital invested in the Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play has been directed toward the Basal Doig/Upper Montney zones. However, in an effort to expand the stratigraphic potential of the play, 11 (8.2 net) of the 23 horizontal natural gas wells drilled in 2010 were drilled in the Middle/Lower Montney zones. The Corporation believes the Middle/Lower Montney reservoir characteristics are similar to the Basal Doig/Upper Montney reservoirs. Drilling results to date have met or exceeded expectations and have resulted in an expansion of the Corporation's opportunity portfolio.

Wells on the Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play are drilled to approximately 2,300 to 2,500 metres for a vertical well and 4,000 to 5,000 metres measured depth for a horizontal well. Initial well productivity for the vertical wells is 500 to 1,000 mcf per day (83 to 166 boe per day) and 3,000 to 10,000 mcf per day (500 to 1,666 boe per day) for the horizontal wells.

Well spacing is an important consideration for the Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play. Industry competitors typically have drilled up to four wells per section per stratigraphic zone on 400 meter inter-well spacing (160 acre spacing). Recently, industry competitors in the Peace River Arch area have drilled up to eight wells per section per stratigraphic zone using 200 meter inter-well spacing (80 acre spacing units).

Reserve assignments by AJM Petroleum Consultants ("AJM") to Birchcliff's lands in the Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play are currently based on 300 meter inter-well spacing. Birchcliff's technological

analysis supports reducing inter-well spacing and in the future the Corporation expects AJM to assign additional future horizontal locations and reserves based on reduced inter-well spacing.

#### *Worsley Light Oil Resource Play*

The Worsley Light Oil Resource Play has demonstrated consistent and prolific production performance. Successful expansion of the pool, water flood performance and the application of horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracture stimulation technology have all contributed to its continued reserve growth, production growth and high netbacks. The Corporation's assets in the Worsley region (acquired in September 2007) have provided \$167 million in operating cash flow, \$125 million of which has been invested back into the property.

Vertical wells on the Worsley Light Oil Resource Play are drilled to approximately 1,400 metres and horizontal wells are drilled to a measured depth of 2,500 to 3,000 metres. Vertical wells deliver initial productivity rates of 30 to 100 boe per day and horizontal wells deliver 60 to 400 boe per day.

Birchcliff drilled 16 successful 100% owned development oil wells (five vertical and 11 horizontal) in the Worsley Light Oil Resource Play in 2010. Birchcliff's 2010 drilling program successfully delineated and extended the pool to the west and the south, which increased the estimate of original oil in place. With this success, a sizeable number of follow up locations have been identified. The Corporation has expanded the water flood by converting two producing wells to injection wells. As a result of these activities, approximately one third of the Birchcliff owned portion of the Worsley Light Oil Resource Play is under the water flood. The water flood response has exceeded the Corporation's expectations and it is committed to further expansion of the water flood area.

#### *New Resource Plays*

Birchcliff has invested considerable time and capital analyzing and evaluating various new resource plays in the Peace River Arch. Several industry competitors have recently announced important developments on new resource plays in this area of Alberta. In 2010, the Corporation acquired 165,819 gross (163,128 net) acres of land (approximately 255 net sections) in several large contiguous blocks at 100% working interest that are prospective for one or more of these new resource plays. While still in the early development phase, based on the high level of industry activity and Birchcliff's own internal technical evaluation, the Corporation is optimistic about the potential value of these new resource plays. The Corporation is also conducting detailed core work on various plays to better understand rock properties and play potential. In 2011, Birchcliff plans to drill a vertical exploration well in one of these new resource plays. With favourable results from the vertical well, the Corporation will re-enter the well and drill horizontally to evaluate it for commerciality.

#### **Facilities**

Birchcliff holds working interests in 15 gas plants, three of which are wholly owned and five of which the Corporation operates. Birchcliff holds working interests in five oil batteries, two of which the Corporation operates. Birchcliff has working interests in 37 compressor sites, the majority of which it wholly owns and operates. These facilities provide low processing costs, third-party revenue, and more importantly, enable the Corporation to control production and maintain a high degree of operating flexibility in this highly competitive area. During 2011, the Corporation expects to spend approximately \$28.4 million throughout its core area on its natural gas, oil and water facilities and production optimization projects. These investments will help the Corporation to control infrastructure and continue to reduce its operating costs.



The major facilities in which the Corporation has an interest are summarized below:

<b>Facility Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Operated</b>	<b>WI%</b>	<b>Facility Design Capacity (Gas: MMcf/d) (Oil: bbl/d)</b>
<b>West District</b>				
Pouce Coupe South Gas Plant	03-22-078-12W6	Yes	100.0	60 sour
Pouce Coupe North Gas Plant	07-08-080-12W6	Yes	100.0	15 sweet
Pouce Coupe South Gas Plant	16-07-078-11W6	No	5.2	18 sweet
<b>North District</b>				
Worsley Oil Battery and Storage Facilities	08-21-087-09W6	Yes	90.7	5,032 sour
Worsley Gas Plant	08-21-087-09W6	Yes	98.8	10 sour
Boundary Lake South Gas Plant	01-18-084-12W6	No	29.7	47 sweet
<b>East District</b>				
Progress Gas Plant	01-01-078-10W6	No	2.6	142 sour
Progress Gas Plant	07-22-078-09W6	No	0.3	44 sour
Progress Oil Battery	04-33-078-08W6	No	43.4	943 sour
Rycroft Gas Plant	07-02-077-04W6	Yes	55.5	24 sour
Bezanson Gas Plant	01-18-071-03W6	Yes	100.0	14 sweet
Rycroft Gas Plant	15-11-076-06W6	No	50.0	17 sweet
Rycroft Gas Plant	08-25-077-06W6	No	2.4	4 sour
Woking Oil Battery	14-18-075-03W6	Yes	22.5	19 sour

#### ***Pouce Coupe South Gas Plant***

Birchcliff's 100% working interest PCS Gas Plant, capable of processing up to 60 MMcf per day of natural gas, is located in the West District, in the heart of the Corporation's Montney/Doig Natural Gas Resource Play. The strategically situated site for the PCS Gas Plant enables the Corporation to control and operate all essential infrastructure - from wellhead to sales point.

Construction of the PCS Gas Plant was divided into phases, with Phase I, capable of processing 30 MMcf per day, commencing operation in March 2010 and Phase II, which doubled the processing capability to 60 MMcf per day, commencing operation in November 2010.

Using leading edge technology, the PCS Gas Plant is a state-of-the-art facility and meets or exceeds all ERCB and Alberta Environment requirements. The facility employs energy efficient equipment to optimize performance and keep operating costs low.

Construction of Phases I and II of the PCS Gas Plant, including the associated infrastructure, 47 kilometres of pipelines and an acid gas disposal well, required a capital investment of approximately \$77 million. Now that the Corporation has successfully converted this capital into enhanced processing facilities and infrastructure, it has achieved the goal of significantly lowering gas processing costs. In view of current natural gas prices, being able to produce gas at the low end of the industry cost structure gives the Corporation a strong competitive advantage. The PCS Gas Plant is a key component in positioning the

Corporation to become the dominant low-cost finder and producer of natural gas in the Pouce Coupe region.

#### *Phase III Expansion*

To further solidify the significant advantages of the PCS Gas Plant, Birchcliff has received ERCB approval for a Phase III expansion, which is designed to add an additional 60 MMcf per day of processing capacity, for a total processing capacity of 120 MMcf per day. The decision to proceed with construction of Phase III will be made in the second quarter of 2011 and is primarily subject to the outlook for natural gas prices.

#### **Worsley Oil Battery and Gas Plant**

The Worsley oil battery and gas plant are located in the North District, in the heart of the Worsley Light Oil Resource Play. Control of infrastructure in the Worsley region allows Birchcliff to effectively manage the operating costs associated with the oil production from this region. Birchcliff operates the Worsley oil battery and gas plant with a 84.6% working interest in the oil battery and a 98.8% working interest in the gas plant.

#### **Production**

The Corporation had an annual production rate of approximately 13,079 boe per day in 2010 and expects that the annual production rate in 2011 will be approximately 18,500 boe per day. The Corporation expects to average 17,500 boe per day in the first half of 2011 and 19,500 boe per day during the second half of 2011.

#### **Product Sales Revenues**

The only significant products produced and sold by the Corporation are light crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids. Virtually all of these products are sold on a short term basis at prices that are a function of current market prices. None of the Corporation's products are sold to non-arm's length parties or to shareholders.

The following table sets forth the aggregate sale of those products produced by the Corporation during the years ended December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2010:

<b>Product</b>	<b>2010 Sales Revenues</b>	<b>2009 Sales Revenues</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	\$87,575,795	\$74,754,426
<b>Light Crude Oil</b>	\$90,125,269	\$68,915,748
<b>Natural Gas Liquids</b>	\$11,919,255	\$6,368,386

#### **Specialized Skill and Knowledge**

The Corporation's business requires the application of extremely high levels of technical skill in the areas of geology and geophysics, well drilling and completions and well production operations. Birchcliff has assembled a team of skilled technical experts who provide the technical skills required to succeed in its business. See "*Risk Factors – Reliance on Key Personnel*".

#### **Competition Conditions**

The oil and natural gas industry is competitive in all its phases. The Corporation competes with numerous other participants in the search for, and the acquisition of lands, oil and natural gas projects and properties. The Corporation's competitors include companies which have more financial resources, staff and facilities than those of the Corporation. Birchcliff believes that it has a competitive advantage in its focus area based upon the facilities, land base it controls and the experience it has developed on the plays it pursues. See "*Risk Factors – Competition*".

### **Seasonal Factors**

The exploration for and development of oil and natural gas reserves in the Corporation's focus area is dependent on access to areas where operational activities are to be conducted. Seasonal weather variations, including freeze-up and break-up can delay such access.

### **Environmental Regulation**

The oil and gas industry is currently subject to environmental regulations pursuant to a variety of provincial and federal legislation. Compliance with such legislation can require significant expenditures or result in operational restrictions. Breach of such requirements may result in suspension or revocation of necessary licenses and authorizations, civil liability for pollution damage and the imposition of material fines and penalties, all of which might have a significant negative impact on earnings and overall competitiveness. See "*Risk Factors - Regulatory Risks*".

### **Employees**

At December 31, 2010, the Corporation had 82 full time and five part time employees and three contract service providers in its head office; 30 full time employees and seven contract service providers in its field office in Spirit River, Alberta; and 16 employees and five contract service providers in its field office in Worsley, Alberta. The Corporation hires skilled contractors to perform drilling operations, well completions and other field service operations.

### **Environmental Policies**

The Corporation has an active program to monitor and comply with health, safety and environmental laws, rules and regulations applicable to its operations. Birchcliff's corporate policies require operational activities to be conducted in a manner which meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and industry standards to safeguard the environment and protect employees, contractors and the public at large. All employees receive pertinent health, safety and environmental training for their role. The Corporation conducts regularly scheduled operational audits and assessments to identify risks and take steps to reduce or prevent accidents. See "*Risk Factors – Health, Safety & Environmental Risks*".

## **RISK FACTORS**

### **Commodity Price Risk**

Birchcliff's liquidity and cash flow is largely impacted by petroleum and natural gas commodity prices. The Corporation has not hedged any of its oil and natural gas production at the date hereof and although it does monitor the hedge market, its strategy is to continue to sell its oil and natural gas production at the spot market rate. Management remains bullish about future commodity prices and believes the Corporation is well positioned to take advantage of a rising oil and natural gas price environment. If there is a significant deterioration in the price it receives for oil and natural gas, the Corporation will consider reducing its capital spending or access alternate sources of capital.

### **Foreign Currency Exchange Risk**

The Corporation is exposed to foreign currency fluctuations because its Canadian revenues are strongly linked to United States dollar denominated benchmark prices. The Corporation has not hedged any of its foreign exchange risk at the date hereof.

### **Production Risks**

The Corporation believes it has a stable production base from a large number of producing wells and that an adverse event affecting production at any single well would not cause a liquidity issue. Nonetheless, the Corporation remains subject to the risk that production rates of its most significant wells may decrease in an unpredictable and uncontrollable manner, which could result in a material decrease in the Corporation's overall production and associated cash flows.

The majority of the Corporation's production passes through owned or third party infrastructure prior to it being ready for transfer at designated commodity sales points. There is a risk that should this infrastructure fail and cause a significant portion of the Corporation's production to be shut-in and unable to be sold, this could have a material adverse effect on the Corporation's available cash flow. The Corporation mitigates this risk by purchasing business interruption and property insurance policies for its significant owned infrastructure and contingent business interruption insurance policies for its significant third party infrastructure.

### **Replacement of Reserves**

Oil and natural gas reserves naturally deplete as they are produced over time. The success of the Corporation's business is highly dependent on its ability to acquire and/or discover new reserves in a cost efficient manner. Substantially, all of the Corporation's cash flow is derived from the sale of the petroleum and natural gas reserves it accumulates and develops. In order to remain financially viable, the Corporation must be able to replace reserves over time at a lesser cost on a per unit basis than its cash flow on a per unit basis. The reserves and costs used in this determination are estimated each year based on numerous assumptions and these estimates and costs may vary materially from the actual reserves produced or from the costs required to produce those reserves. In order to mitigate this risk, the Corporation employs a competent and experienced team of petroleum and natural gas professionals and closely monitors the capital expenditures made for the purposes of increasing its petroleum and natural gas reserves. Historically, the Corporation's finding, development and acquisition costs and reserves replacement on a proved plus probable basis have remained competitive compared to industry peers.

### **Health, Safety & Environmental Risks**

Health, safety and environment risks influence the workforce, operating costs and the establishment of regulatory standards. The Corporation provides staff with the training and resources they need to complete work safely and effectively; incorporates hazard assessment and risk management as an integral part of everyday operations; monitors performance to ensure its operations comply with legal obligations and internal standards; and identifies and manages environmental liabilities associated with its existing asset base. The Corporation has a site inspection program and a corrosion risk management program designed to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The Corporation carries insurance to cover a portion of property losses, liability to others and business interruption resulting from unusual events.

The Corporation is subject to the risk that the unexpected failure of its equipment used in drilling, completing or producing wells or in transporting production could result in release of fluid substances that pollute or contaminate lands at or near its facilities, which could result in significant liability to the Corporation for costs of clean up, remediation and reclamation of contaminated lands. The Corporation conducts its operations with due regard for the potential impact on the environment. This includes hiring skilled personnel, providing adequate training to all staff involved with operations, and by retaining expert advice and assistance to deal with environmental remediation and reclamation work where such expertise is needed.

### **Regulatory Risk**

Government royalties, income tax laws, environmental laws and regulatory requirements can have a significant financial and operational impact on the Corporation. As an oil and natural gas producer, the Corporation is subject to a broad range of regulatory requirements. The Corporation hires and retains skilled personnel that are knowledgeable regarding changes to the regulatory regime under which it operates.

All of the Corporation's properties are currently located within the province of Alberta. There is a risk that, although the Corporation believes it is making an economic investment at the time all of the upfront capital is invested in facilities or drilling, completing and equipping an oil or natural gas well, the Government may at any point in the economic life of that project, expropriate without compensation a portion of the expected profit under a new royalty/tax regulation or regime with no grandfathering provisions. This may cause a particular project to become uneconomic once the new royalties or taxes take effect. This type of possible future government action is unpredictable and cannot be forecast by the Corporation.

## **Counterparty Risk**

The Corporation assumes customer credit risk associated with oil and gas sales and joint venture participants. To mitigate this risk, the Corporation performs regular reviews of receivables to minimize default or non-payment and takes the majority of its production in kind. The Corporation also puts in place security arrangements with respect to amounts owed to it by others when reviews indicate it is appropriate to do so.

## **Access to Credit Markets**

Due to the nature of the Corporation's business it is necessary from time to time for the Corporation to access other sources of capital beyond its internally generated cash flow in order to fund the development and acquisition of its long term asset base. As part of this strategy, the Corporation obtains some of this necessary capital by incurring debt and therefore the Corporation is dependent to a certain extent on continued availability of the credit markets.

The continued availability of the credit markets for the Corporation is primarily dependent on the state of the economy and the health of the banking industry in Canada and the United States. There is risk that if the economy and banking industry experience unexpected and/or prolonged deterioration, the Corporation's access to credit markets may contract or disappear altogether. The Corporation tries to mitigate this risk by dealing with reputable lenders and tries to structure its lending agreements to give it the most flexibility possible should these situations arise. However, the situations that may give rise to credit markets tightening or disappearing are beyond the Corporation's control.

The Corporation is also dependent, to a certain extent, on continued access to equity capital markets. The Corporation is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and maintains an active investor relations program. Continued access to capital is dependent on the Corporation's ability to continue to perform at a level that meets market expectations.

## **Operating Hazards and Other Uncertainties**

Acquiring, developing and exploring for oil and natural gas involves many risks, which even a combination of experience, knowledge and careful evaluation may not be able to manage effectively. These risks include, but are not limited to, encountering unexpected formations or pressures, premature declines of reservoirs, blow-outs, equipment failures, human error or willful misconduct by field workers, and other accidents, cratering, sour gas releases, uncontrollable flows of oil, natural gas or well fluids, adverse weather conditions, pollution, other environmental risks, fires and spills. Like other oil and natural gas companies, the Corporation attempts to conduct its business and financial affairs so as to protect against operational, political and economic risks applicable to operations in the relevant area, but there can be no assurance that the Corporation will be successful in this regard. The Corporation is also subject to deliverability uncertainties related to the proximity of its reserves to pipelines and processing facilities and the possible inability to secure space on gathering systems that deliver production to processing facilities and on pipelines which deliver oil and natural gas to commercial markets. Although prior to drilling, the Corporation will obtain insurance in accordance with industry standards to address certain of these risks, such insurance has limitations on liability that may not be sufficient to cover the full extent of such liabilities. In addition, such risks may not in all circumstances be insurable or, in certain circumstances, the Corporation may elect not to obtain insurance to deal with specific risks due to high premiums associated with such insurance or other reasons. The payment of such uninsured liabilities would reduce the funds available to the Corporation. The occurrence of a significant event that the Corporation is not fully insured against, or the insolvency of the insurer of such event, could have a material adverse effect on its financial position, results of operations or prospects.

## **Reliance on Key Personnel**

The Corporation's success depends, in large measure, on certain key personnel. The loss of the services of such key personnel could have a material adverse effect on the Corporation. The Corporation does not have "key person" insurance in effect for management and the contributions of these individuals to the Corporation's immediate operations are likely to be of central importance. In addition, the competition for

qualified personnel in the oil and natural gas industry is intense and there can be no assurance that the Corporation will be able to continue to attract and retain all personnel necessary for the development and operation of its business. Shareholders must rely upon the ability, expertise, judgment, discretion, integrity and good faith of the Corporation's management.

### **Uncertainty of Reserves Estimates**

There are a number of uncertainties inherent in estimating the quantities of proved plus probable reserves, including many factors beyond the control of the Corporation. In general, estimates of economically recoverable oil and natural gas reserves and the future net cash flows therefrom are based upon a number of variable factors and assumptions, such as historical production from the properties, the assumed effects of regulation by governmental agencies and future operating costs, all of which may vary considerably from actual results. For those reasons, estimates of the economically recoverable oil and natural gas reserves attributable to any particular group of properties, classification of such reserves based on risk of recovery and estimates of future net revenues expected therefrom, prepared by different engineers or by the same engineer at different times, may vary substantially. The actual production, revenues, taxes and development and operating expenditures of the Corporation with respect to these reserves will vary from such estimates, and such variances could be material. Estimates with respect to proved plus probable reserves that may be developed and produced in the future are often based upon volumetric calculations and upon analogy to similar types of reserves rather than actual production history. Estimates based on these methods are generally less reliable than those based on actual production history. Subsequent evaluation of the same reserves based upon production history will result in variations, which may be substantial, in the estimated reserves. Consistent with the securities disclosure legislation and policies of Canada, as interpreted by the securities regulatory authorities in Canada, the Corporation has used forecast prices and costs in calculating reserve quantities included herein. Actual future net cash flows also will be affected by other factors such as actual production levels, supply and demand for oil and natural gas, curtailments or increases in consumption by oil and natural gas purchasers, changes in governmental regulations or taxation and the impact of inflation on costs.

### **Acquisition Risks**

The Corporation seeks out opportunities for the acquisition of oil and natural gas properties. Typically, once an opportunity is identified, a review of available information relating to the properties is conducted with most of the review effort being focused on the most significant properties. Lesser properties involved are reviewed on a higher level basis for reasonableness. There is a risk that even a detailed review of records and properties may not necessarily reveal every existing or potential problem, nor will it permit the Corporation to become sufficiently familiar with the properties to assess fully their deficiencies and potential. Inspections may not always be performed on every well, and environmental problems, such as ground water contamination, are not necessarily observable even when an inspection is undertaken. Even when problems are identified, the Corporation often assumes certain environmental and other risk liabilities in connection with acquired properties. There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating quantities of proved plus probable oil and gas reserves and actual future production rates and associated costs with respect to acquired properties, and actual results may vary substantially from those assumed in estimates.

Although title reviews may be conducted prior to the purchase of oil and natural gas producing properties or the commencement of drilling wells, such reviews do not guarantee or certify that an unforeseen defect in the chain of title will not arise to defeat the Corporation's ownership claims which could result in a reduction of the revenue received by the Corporation.

### **Costs and Availability of Equipment, Services and Qualified Personnel**

Inflation is a risk common to all businesses in Canada. During times of high commodity prices for oil and natural gas, there is a risk of substantially increased cost of operation, which impacts both the amount of capital required to perform operations and the netback the Corporation achieves from its production sales. Oil and natural gas exploration and development activities are dependent on the availability of drilling and related equipment in the particular areas where such activities will be conducted. Demand for such limited equipment or access restrictions may affect the availability of such equipment to the Corporation and may

delay exploration and development activities. To the extent the Corporation is not the operator of its oil and gas properties, the Corporation will be dependent on other operators for the timing of activities related to such properties and will be largely be unable to direct or control the activities of the operators.

### **Additional Funding Requirements**

The cash flow from the Corporation's reserves may not be sufficient to fund the Corporation's ongoing activities at all times. From time to time, the Corporation may require additional financing in order to carry out its oil and natural gas acquisition, exploration and development activities. Failure to obtain such financing on a timely basis could cause the Corporation to forfeit its interest in certain properties, miss certain acquisition opportunities and reduce or terminate the Corporation's operations. If the revenues from the Corporation's reserves decrease as a result of lower oil and natural gas prices or otherwise, it will affect the Corporation's ability to expend the necessary capital to replace the Corporation's reserves or to maintain the Corporation's production. If the Corporation's cash flow from operations is not sufficient to satisfy its capital expenditure requirements, there can be no assurance that additional debt or equity financing will be available to meet these requirements or available on terms acceptable to the Corporation.

### **Competition**

The oil and natural gas industry is highly competitive particularly as it pertains to the exploration for and development of new sources of crude oil and natural gas reserves. The industry also competes with other industries in supplying non-petroleum energy products. The Corporation actively competes for land, production and reserve acquisitions, exploration leases, licenses and concessions and skilled technical and operating personnel with a substantial number of other oil and natural gas companies, many of which have greater financial resources than the Corporation.

### **Climate Change Risks**

North American climate change policy is evolving at both regional and national levels and recent political and economic events may significantly affect the scope and timing of new climate change measures that are ultimately put in place. Although it is not the case today, the Corporation expects that some of its significant facilities may ultimately be subject to future regional, provincial and/or federal climate change regulations to manage greenhouse gas ("**GHG**") emissions.

The Specified Gas Emitters Regulation, which came into effect in Alberta in 2007, requires large industrial facility emitters of GHG to reduce GHG emissions intensities by 12% below a baseline based on 2003-2005 emissions. Each of the Corporation's facilities is below the 100,000 tonnes per year threshold that this regulation applies to.

The Government of Alberta's climate change strategy sets a target to reduce GHG emissions in Alberta by 200 megatonnes or 50% by 2050. Implementing carbon capture and storage technology across industrial sectors is a large component of the strategy, along with energy-efficiency measures, clean energy technologies, and expanding the use of renewable sources of energy.

The Canadian government has expressed interest in pursuing the development of a North American cap and trade system for GHG emissions. In April 2007, the Government of Canada released the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions ("**Framework**"). The Framework outlines short, medium and long-term objectives for managing both GHG emissions and air pollutants in Canada. It is uncertain how the Framework will fit within a North American cap and trade system and what the specific requirements for industrial emitters such as the Corporation will be. Proposed regulations have not yet been released and therefore it is uncertain whether the impacts from such future regulations will be material to the Corporation.

## RESERVES DATA AND OTHER OIL AND GAS INFORMATION

An independent evaluation dated February 9, 2011 of the Corporation's oil and gas assets as at December 31, 2010 (the "**AJM Evaluation**") was prepared by AJM in accordance with COGEH and NI 51-101.

The reserves data derived from the AJM Evaluation and other information required to be disclosed by NI 51-101 is contained in the following documents:

Form 51-101F1 – *Statement of Reserves Data and Other Oil and Gas Information* dated March 29, 2011;

Form 51-101F2 – *Report on Reserves Data by Independent Qualified Reserves Evaluator* dated March 29, 2011; and

Form 51-101F3 – *Report of Management and Directors on Oil and Gas Disclosure* dated March 29, 2011.

Each of these documents is filed on SEDAR contemporaneously with this Annual Information Form and can be accessed on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Each of these documents is incorporated by reference herein.

## DIVIDEND POLICY

The Corporation has never paid any dividends on its Common Shares and it is unlikely to pay any dividends on its Common Shares in the foreseeable future.

## CAPITAL STRUCTURE

The authorized capital of the Corporation consists of an unlimited number of Common Shares and an unlimited number of preferred shares issuable in series, each without par value. At December 31, 2010, there were 125,129,234 Common Shares outstanding and there were no preferred shares outstanding. The material characteristics of each class of authorized shares are set forth below.

### Common Shares

The holders of Common Shares are entitled to receive notice of and to attend all meetings of the shareholders of the Corporation and to vote one vote per Common Share at such meetings. The holders of Common Shares are entitled to receive dividends declared on the Common Shares declared by the Corporation's Board of Directors (the "**Board**") and subject to the rights of the holders of shares ranking prior to the Common Shares, to receive *pro rata* the distribution of assets of the Corporation in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up in equal rank with the holders of other Common Shares of the Corporation.

### Preferred Shares

The preferred shares are issuable in series and each series will have such designation, rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions as are fixed by the Board at the time of issue. As a class, the preferred shares are entitled to preference over the Common Shares with respect to the payment of dividends and in the distribution of assets in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up.

The preferred shares of each series shall rank on a parity with the preferred shares of every other series provided that when any cumulative dividends or amounts payable on return of capital in respect of any series are not paid in full in accordance with their respective terms, the preferred shares of all series shall participate rateably in respect of such dividends in accordance with the sums which would be payable on such shares if all such dividends were declared and paid in full in accordance with their respective terms and on any return of capital in accordance with the sums payable on such return of capital if all sums so payable were paid in full in accordance with their terms.



## MARKET FOR SECURITIES

The Common Shares are listed for trading on TSX under the trading symbol “**BIR**”. The following table sets forth the price ranges and volumes of the Common Shares that were traded on TSX during the financial year ended December 31, 2010.

<b>Month</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Monthly Trading Volume</b>
January	\$10.63	\$9.00	7,129,700
February	\$10.11	\$9.00	11,684,400
March	\$9.84	\$8.41	18,008,100
April	\$9.49	\$8.76	7,477,200
May	\$9.60	\$8.26	27,493,000
June	\$10.90	\$9.00	7,763,300
July	\$10.30	\$9.50	3,687,600
August	\$10.29	\$8.87	4,476,500
September	\$9.26	\$8.58	4,095,600
October	\$8.91	\$7.90	11,609,300
November	\$10.15	\$8.54	14,776,700
December	\$10.05	\$9.43	5,287,300

## ESCROWED SECURITIES AND SECURITIES SUBJECT TO CONTRACTUAL RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER

There are no securities of the Corporation being held in escrow or subject to contractual restrictions on transfer.

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

### Directors

The directors of the Corporation are elected annually at the annual meeting of shareholders. The following table sets out the name, province and country of residence, year first elected to the Board, principal occupation during the past five years or more, educational background and other current directorships of each of the directors of the Corporation.

Name, Province and Country of Residence	Director of Birchcliff Since	Present Position, Principal Occupations During the Past Five Years or More, Education Qualifications and Other Directorships
<b>Gordon W. (Scotty) Cameron</b> <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup> <i>Alberta, Canada</i> Independent Director	January 18, 2005	Mr. Cameron is a Director of Birchcliff and is a member of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Reserves Evaluation Committee. He has more than 42 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is one of the Company's founders. Prior to joining Birchcliff, Mr. Cameron served as a director of Case Resources Inc., Big Bear Exploration Ltd., Transwest Energy Inc., Stampeder Exploration Ltd. and as director and Chairman of the Board of Novagas Clearinghouse Ltd. and Maximum Energy Trust. He was President and Chief Executive Officer of Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd., and Chairman of the Energy Council of Canada. Mr. Cameron received his Bachelor of Commerce Degree and his Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Cameron received the Order of Canada in 1995 in recognition of his contributions to the Canadian business community and his extensive philanthropic work.
<b>Kenneth N. (Ken) Cullen</b> <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup> <i>Alberta, Canada</i> Independent Director	February 16, 2011	Mr. Cullen was appointed a Director of Birchcliff in February 2011 and is a member of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Reserves Evaluation Committee. He has more than 30 years experience working with companies in the oil and gas industry as a partner at Deloitte & Touche LLP in the Assurance and Advisory (Audit) group prior to his retirement in 2006. Mr. Cullen currently serves as a director of each of Southern Pacific Resources Corp. and Parkbridge Lifestyle Communities Inc. Mr. Cullen received his Chartered Accountant Designation from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia.

Name, Province and Country of Residence	Director of Birchcliff Since	Present Position, Principal Occupations During the Past Five Years or More, Education Qualifications and Other Directorships
<b>Larry A. Shaw</b> <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup> <i>Alberta, Canada</i> Independent Director	January 18, 2005	Mr. Shaw is the Chairman of the Board of Birchcliff and is a member of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Reserves Evaluation Committee. He has more than 24 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is one of the Company's founders. Prior to joining Birchcliff, Mr. Shaw served as Chairman of the Board of Case Resources Inc., Big Bear Exploration Ltd. and Stampeder Exploration Ltd. He was President of Shaw Automotive Group Ltd. and Shaw G.M.C. Pontiac Buick Hummer Ltd. Mr. Shaw received his Honors Degree in Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario.
<b>Werner A. (Vern) Siemens</b> <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup> <i>Alberta, Canada</i> Independent Director	January 18, 2005	Mr. Siemens is a Director of Birchcliff and is a member of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Reserves Evaluation Committee. He has more than 24 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is one of the Company's founders. Prior to joining Birchcliff, Mr. Siemens served as a Director of Case Resources Ltd., Big Bear Exploration Ltd. and Stampeder Exploration Ltd. He was Vice President of Agra Industries Ltd. and President and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Label Beverages Ltd.
<b>A. Jeffery Tonken</b> <i>Alberta, Canada</i>	January 18, 2005	See Mr. Tonken's biography under "Executive Officers".

**Notes:**

- (1) Member of the Audit Committee
- (2) Member of the Compensation Committee
- (3) Member of the Reserves Evaluation Committee

The Corporation's Board has an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Reserves Evaluation Committee, each of which is comprised of the four independent directors, namely Mr. Cameron, Mr. Cullen, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Siemens. Because of the small size of the Board, the Corporation does not have separate corporate governance or executive committees.

**Executive Officers**

The following table sets forth the name, province and country of residence, position with the Corporation, and principal occupation during the past five years or more and education qualification of each of the executive officers of the Corporation.

Name, Province and Country of Residence	Current Position with Birchcliff	Principal Occupations During the Past Five Years or More and Educational Qualifications
<b>A. Jeffery Tonken</b> <i>Alberta, Canada</i>	President and Chief Executive Officer	<p>Mr. Tonken is the President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Birchcliff. He has more than 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is one of the company's founders. Prior to creating Birchcliff, Mr. Tonken founded and served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Case Resources Inc., Big Bear Exploration Ltd. and Stampeder Exploration Ltd. Mr. Tonken was previously a Partner of the law firm Howard Mackie (now Borden Ladner Gervais LLP). Mr. Tonken currently serves as a director of Daylight Energy Ltd. and as a Governor of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP). Mr. Tonken received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta and his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Wales.</p>
<b>Bruno P. Geremia</b> <i>Alberta, Canada</i>	Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer	<p>Mr. Geremia is Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and is a Chartered Accountant. He has more than 19 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is one of the company's founders. Prior to joining Birchcliff, Mr. Geremia served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of both Case Resources Inc. and Big Bear Exploration Ltd.; as Director, Commercial of Gulf Canada Resources; and as Manager, Special Projects of Stampeder Exploration Ltd. Mr. Geremia was previously a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte &amp; Touche LLP. Mr. Geremia received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Calgary.</p>
<b>Myles R. Bosman</b> <i>Alberta, Canada</i>	Vice-President, Exploration and Chief Operating Officer	<p>Mr. Bosman is Vice President, Exploration and Chief Operating Officer and is a Professional Geologist. He has more than 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is one of the company's founders. Prior to joining Birchcliff, Mr. Bosman served as Vice President, Exploration and Chief Operating Officer of Case Resources Inc.; Exploration Manager of Summit Resources Ltd.; and as an Exploration Geologist with both Numac Energy Inc. and Canadian Hunter Exploration. Mr. Bosman received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Calgary.</p>

Name, Province and Country of Residence	Current Position with Birchcliff	Principal Occupations During the Past Five Years or More and Educational Qualifications
<b>Karen A. Pagano</b> <i>Alberta, Canada</i>	Vice-President, Engineering	Ms. Pagano is Vice President, Engineering and is a Professional Engineer with more than 22 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. She previously served as Vice President, Operations and as a Senior Exploitation Engineer with Birchcliff. Prior to joining Birchcliff in 2005, she was Manager of Operations of Koch Exploration; a Senior Production Engineer with Upton Resources Inc.; and a Senior Drilling and Completions Engineer with Alberta Energy Company. Ms. Pagano received her Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree, with distinction, from the University of Saskatchewan.
<b>David M. Humphreys</b> <i>Alberta, Canada</i>	Vice-President, Operations	Mr. Humphreys is Vice President, Operations and has more than 24 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. Prior to joining Birchcliff in 2009, he served as Vice President, Operations of Highpine Oil & Gas Ltd., White Fire Energy Ltd., and Virtus Energy Ltd.; Production Manager of both Husky Oil Operations Ltd. and Ionic Energy; and as a Senior Production Engineer with Northrock Resources Ltd. Mr. Humphreys received his Hydrocarbon Engineering Technology diploma from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.
<b>James W. Surbey</b> <i>Alberta, Canada</i>	Vice-President, Corporate Development	Mr. Surbey is Vice President, Corporate Development and is an engineer and a lawyer. He has more than 33 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is one of the company's founders. Prior to joining Birchcliff he served as Vice President, Corporate Development of Case Resources Inc.; Senior Vice President, Corporate Development of Big Bear Exploration Ltd.; and Vice President, Corporate Development of Stampeder Exploration Ltd. Mr. Surbey was previously a Senior Partner of the law firm Howard Mackie (now Borden Ladner Gervais LLP). Mr. Surbey received his Bachelor of Engineering degree and Bachelor of Laws degree from McGill University.

### Shareholdings of Directors and Executive Officers

At December 31, 2010, the directors and executive officers of the Corporation, as a group, beneficially owned, or exercised control or direction over, directly or indirectly, 4,949,188 Common Shares representing approximately 4% of the 125,129,234 Common Shares issued and outstanding at that date. The directors and executive officers of the Corporation and their families, as a group, beneficially owned, or exercised control or direction over, directly or indirectly, 6,584,976 Common Shares representing approximately 5.26% of the 125,129,234 Common Shares issued and outstanding at that date. The directors and executive officers, as a group, also held options to purchase 3,150,634 Common Shares and performance warrants to purchase 2,939,732 Common Shares.

The fully diluted holdings of directors and executive officers, as a group, were 11,039,554 Common Shares or approximately 8.8% of the 137,316,486 Common Shares that were outstanding on a fully diluted basis at December 31, 2010.

### **Cease Trade Orders, Bankruptcies, Penalties or Sanctions**

None of the directors or executive officers of the Corporation has been a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of any company that, at the date of this Annual Information Form or within 10 years before the date of this Annual Information Form: (a) was subject to a cease trade order, an order similar to a cease trade order or an order that denied the relevant company access to an exemption under securities laws that was in effect for a period of more than 30 days (an “**Order**”) that was issued while the director or executive officer was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer; or (b) was subject to an Order that was issued after the director or executive officer ceased to be a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer and which resulted from an event that occurred while that person was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer.

Except as disclosed below, none of the directors or executive officers of the Corporation or a shareholder holding a sufficient number of securities of Corporation to affect materially the control of the Corporation: (a) is, as at the date of this Annual Information Form, or within the 10 years before the date of this Annual Information Form, a director or executive officer of any company that, while that person was acting in that capacity, or within a year of that person ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets; or (b) has, within the 10 years before the date of the Annual Information Form, become bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency, or became subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors, or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold the assets of the director, executive officer or shareholder.

Mr. Surbey resigned from his role as a director of AC Energy Inc. in May 2003 and within a year of his resignation, a secured lender enforced its security and appointed a receiver of that corporation. Mr. Surbey resigned from his role as a director of Fair Sky Resources Ltd. in December 2007 and within a year of his resignation, a secured lender enforced its security and appointed a receiver of that corporation.

None of the directors or executive officers of the Corporation or a shareholder holding a sufficient number of securities of the Corporation to affect materially the control of the Corporation has been subject to: (a) any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory authority or has entered into a settlement agreement with a securities regulatory authority; or (b) any other penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable investor in making an investment decision.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Director and executive officers of the Corporation are investors in or directors of other oil and gas companies or entities that may provide financing to, or make equity investments in competitors of the Corporation, which may give rise to conflicts of interest. In accordance with the ABCA, directors and executive officers of the Corporation are required to disclose the nature and extent of any interest that they have in a material contract or material transaction, and in the case of a director, such director will refrain from voting on any matter in respect of such contract or transaction, unless otherwise provided by the ABCA.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee is comprised of Mr. Cameron, Mr. Cullen, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Siemens. Each of the members of the Audit Committee is “independent” within the meaning of NI 52-110. Mr. Shaw is Chairman of the Audit Committee. Mr. Cullen is Chartered Accountant and a former Partner of Deloitte

and Touche LLP and the other three members of the Audit Committee have had long and successful business careers, have been the chief executive officer or chief operating officer of a substantial business enterprise and have been a director and member of the Audit Committee for several oil and natural gas exploration and production companies in the past. As a result, they are all “financially literate” in that they have an ability to read and understand financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Corporation’s financial statements. Details of the relevant education and experience of each of the members of the Audit Committee are set under the heading “*Directors and Officers – Directors*”.

The Audit Committee meets with the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporation’s auditors and reviews the Corporation’s annual and interim financial statements prior to their presentation to the full Board for approval. The Audit Committee also reviews the Corporation’s systems of internal controls and reviews any proposed engagement of the Corporation’s auditors to provide non-audit services to the Corporation.

The Audit Committee also meets with the Corporation’s auditors separately from management and management members of the board to both plan and review the audit process.

The Charter adopted by the Audit Committee of the Corporation is attached hereto as Schedule A.

#### **Audit Fees**

Audit fees were for professional services rendered by the auditors for the audit of the annual financial statements of Birchcliff Energy Ltd.

The only fees billed to the Corporation by the auditors for audit services in each of the last two fiscal years were: \$114,639 in 2010 of which \$22,260 was for the 2010 audit and \$92,379 was for the 2009 audit; and \$130,380 in 2009 of which \$42,400 was for the 2009 audit and \$87,980 was for the 2008 audit. The Corporation expects to receive further billings in respect of the 2010 audit in 2011.

#### **Audit Related Fees**

Audit related fees were for assurance and related services not reported under the heading audit fees above.

In 2010, the auditors billed the Corporation \$39,734 related to the review of the Corporation’s quarterly financial statements. In 2009, the auditors billed the Corporation \$37,842 related to the review of the Corporation’s quarterly financial statements.

In 2010, the auditors billed the Corporation an aggregate of \$51,643 in respect of their services provided in connection with their review of Birchcliff’s accounting policies under International Financial Reporting Standards. In 2009, the auditors billed the Corporation an aggregate of \$47,965 in respect of their services provided in connection with an equity financing including their attendances at due diligence meetings and a CEO/CFO certification assistance project.

#### **Tax Fees**

The auditors did not provide any service to the Corporation in respect of property tax reviews in 2010 and 2009.

#### **All Other Fees**

There were no fees paid to the auditors that would be considered “Other Fees” in 2010 or 2009. Fees to be disclosed under this category would be for products and services other than those described under the heading audit fees, audit related fees and tax fees above.

## **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND REGULATORY ACTIONS**

There are no material legal proceedings that the Corporation is or was a party to, or that any of its property is or was the subject of, during the most recently completed financial year or that the Corporation knows to be contemplated.

There are no (i) penalties or sanctions imposed against the Corporation by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory body during the most recently completed financial year; (ii) any other penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body against the Corporation that would be considered important to a reasonable investor in making an investment decision; or (iii) any settlement agreements the Corporation entered into before a court relating to securities legislation or with a securities regulatory authority during the most recently completed financial year.

## **INTERESTS OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS**

Within the three most recently completed financial years or during the current financial year, no director or executive officer of the Corporation; any person or company who beneficially owns, or controls or directs, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the Common Shares; or any associate or affiliate of such person or company had any material interest, directly or indirectly, in any transaction that has materially affected or is reasonably expected to materially affect the Corporation.

## **TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR**

Olympia Trust Company, located at 2300, 125 - 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2G 0P6, is the transfer agent and registrar of the Corporation.

## **MATERIAL CONTRACTS**

The Corporation has not entered into any material contracts during the most recently completed financial year other than those entered into in the ordinary course of business.

## **INTERESTS OF EXPERTS**

The Corporation's auditors are Deloitte & Touche LLP, Chartered Accountants. Deloitte & Touche LLP is independent in accordance with the Rules of Professional Conduct as outlined by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta.

AJM prepared reserves estimates referred to in the Corporation's annual filings in respect of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010. As at the date hereof, the principals of AJM, as a group, beneficially own, directly or indirectly, less than 1% of the securities of the Corporation.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information about the Corporation can be found on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Corporation's website at [www.birchcliffenergy.com](http://www.birchcliffenergy.com).

Additional information including directors' and officers' remuneration and indebtedness, principal holders of Common Shares, and securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans is contained in the Information Circular of the Corporation dated March 29, 2011 and will be contained in the materials relating to the Annual and Special Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 19, 2011.

Additional financial information relating to the Corporation is provided in the Corporation's Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2010 and the related Management's Discussion and Analysis.



**SCHEDULE A**  
**to the Annual Information Form of Birchcliff Energy Ltd.**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

**1) Purpose**

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in overseeing:

- (a) the preparation of the financial statements of the Corporation and the conduct of any audit thereof;
- (b) the Corporation's compliance with applicable financial reporting requirements;
- (c) the independence and performance of the Auditor; and
- (d) the Corporation's compliance with the Corporation's policies and guidelines.

**2) Definitions**

For the purposes of this Charter:

- (a) "**Auditor**" means the auditor appointed to prepare an Audit Report in respect of the annual financial statements of the Corporation;
- (b) "**Board**" means the Board of Directors of the Corporation;
- (c) "**Chairperson**" means Chairperson of the Audit Committee;
- (d) "**Committee**" means the Audit Committee of the Board; and
- (e) "**Corporation**" means Birchcliff Energy Ltd.

**3) Election and Composition**

- (a) The Board shall appoint annually from among its members a Committee to be known as the "Audit Committee";
- (b) The Audit Committee shall be comprised of at least three Directors, of whom a majority shall not be officers or employees of the Corporation or an affiliate of the Corporation. All committee members shall be "independent" (as such term is used in Multilateral Instrument 52-110 – *Audit Committees*). All members of the Committee shall comply with the financial literacy requirements of Multilateral Instrument 52-110 - *Audit Committees*;
- (c) The Audit Committee shall select from its members a Chairperson of the Committee; and
- (d) Any member of the Committee may be removed or replaced at any time by the Board and shall automatically cease to be a member of the Committee upon ceasing to be a Director of the Corporation.

**4) Meetings**

- (a) The Audit Committee shall meet at least four times annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate;
- (b) The Chairperson of the Committee or any member may at any time convene a meeting of the Committee, and the Chairperson or any member of the Committee shall convene a meeting at the request of the Auditor;

- (c) Notice of meetings shall be delivered, mailed, faxed or sent by any other form of transmitted or recorded message to each member not less than forty-eight hours before the meeting is to take place;
- (d) Notice of any meeting or any irregularity in any meeting or the notice thereof may be waived by any member;
- (e) A quorum for meetings of the Audit Committee shall be a majority of members of the Committee who are not officers or employees of the Corporation or an affiliate of the Corporation;
- (f) Meetings may be held at any time without formal notice if all the members are present, or if a quorum is present and those members who are absent signify their consent to the meeting being held in their absence. Any resolution passed or action taken at such a meeting shall be valid and effectual as if it had been passed or taken at a meeting duly called and constituted; and
- (g) Questions arising at any meeting of the Committee shall be decided by the majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

## **5) Responsibilities**

- (a) The Committee shall recommend to the Board:
  - (i) the person or firm to be nominated as Auditor for the purposes of preparing or issuing an Auditor's report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation; and
  - (ii) the compensation of the Auditor.
- (b) The Committee shall be directly responsible for overseeing the work of the Auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an Auditor's Report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Corporation, including the resolution of disagreements between management and the Auditor regarding financial reporting.
- (c) When there is to be a change in Auditor, the Committee shall review the issues related to the change and shall approve the information to be included in the required notice to securities regulators of such change.
- (d) The Committee shall pre-approve all non-audit services to be provided to the Corporation or its subsidiary entities by the Corporation's Auditor. The Committee may delegate this function to one of its independent members, who shall report to the Committee on any such approvals.
- (e) The Committee shall review and report to the Board on the Corporation's interim and annual financial statements, and all related management discussions and analysis, before those materials are filed with the regulators and published. If authorized by the Board, the Committee may approve the interim financial statements and the related management discussion and analysis, before those materials are filed with regulators and published. The Committee's review process should include, but not be limited to:
  - (i) reviewing changes in accounting principles, or in their application, which may have a material impact on a current or future year's financial statements;
  - (ii) reviewing significant accruals, reserves or other estimates such as any ceiling test calculation;
  - (iii) reviewing the accounting treatment of unusual or non-recurring transactions;
  - (iv) reviewing disclosure of commitments and contingencies;
  - (v) reviewing adjustments suggested by the Auditor, whether or not included in the financial statements;

- (vi) reviewing unresolved differences between management and the Auditors; and
  - (vii) obtain explanations of significant variances with comparative reporting periods.
- (f) The Committee shall review the annual and interim earnings press releases and any press releases or other documents for public disclosure containing information extracted from financial statements that have not previously been reviewed by the Committee, before the Corporation publicly discloses this information.
  - (g) The Committee shall ensure that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Corporation's financial statements, other than the public disclosure referred to in subsection 5(e), and shall periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures.
  - (h) The Committee shall oversee management's reporting on internal controls and shall advise the Board of any material failures to of the internal controls.
  - (i) The Committee shall establish procedures:
    - (i) for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters and;
    - (ii) for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of
    - (iii) the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

Until the Committee determines otherwise, the Committee adopts the Whistleblower Policy attached hereto as Exhibit A. Prior to adopting any changes to the Whistleblower Policy the Committee shall advise the Directors of the proposed changes.

- (j) The Committee shall review and approve the employment by the Corporation of any current or former partner or employee of the Auditor.
- (k) The Committee shall review the corporate systems that identify and manage principal business risks.
- (l) The Committee shall review and, if necessary, update this Charter periodically, at least annually, as conditions dictate.

## **6) Authority**

- (a) The Committee is authorized in carrying out its duties to:
  - (i) engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties;
  - (ii) set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the Committee; and
  - (iii) communicate directly with the Auditors.
- (b) Prior to exercising the authority in subsection 6(a) (i) or (ii), the Committee shall notify the Board of its proposed action and also consult with the Chief Financial Officer with respect to the engagement of any independent counsel or other advisors.
- (c) The Board may refer to the Committee such matters and questions relating to the financial position of the Corporation and its affiliates as the Board from time to time sees fit.
- (d) The members of the Committee have the right for the purpose of performing their duties of inspecting any of the books and records of the Corporation and its affiliates.

- (e) The Committee may require the Auditor, any Director, officer or employee of the Corporation to appear before it to discuss the accounts and records and/or financial position of the Corporation.
- (f) The Auditor shall be given notice of every meeting of the Committee and shall have the right to attend and be heard thereat. The Auditor shall report directly to the Audit Committee.
- (g) Members of the Committee may rely upon the accuracy of any statement or report prepared by the Auditor or upon any other statement or report including any appraisal report prepared by a qualified person and shall not be responsible or held liable for any loss or damage in respect of any action taken on the basis of such statement or report.

**7) Records**

- (a) The Audit Committee shall keep such records as it may deem necessary of its proceedings and shall report regularly its activities and recommendations to the Board of Directors as appropriate.

**EXHIBIT A**  
**to the Audit Committee Charter of Birchcliff Energy Ltd.**

**WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY**

*Scope of the Whistleblower Policy*

The Audit Committee (the “**Audit Committee**”) of the Board of Directors of Birchcliff Energy Ltd. (the “**Corporation**”) is responsible under Canadian securities laws for the integrity of the financial reporting of the Corporation and for the system of internal controls, the audit process and monitoring compliance with the financial reporting laws applicable to the Corporation and to all other corporations, trusts, partnerships or other entities which may be established by the Corporation (the “**Other Entities**”). The integrity of the financial information of the Corporation is of paramount importance to the Committee and to the Board of Directors.

Multilateral Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees* (“**MI 52-110**”) has outlined certain aspects of audit committee responsibility and the Audit Committee understands the importance of the responsibilities described in MI 52-110 and intends to be in compliance with such responsibilities. One such responsibility relates to the implementation of procedures for addressing complaints regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

This document outlines the procedure which the Committee is establishing for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation and the Other Entities of any concerns which individuals may have regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

Individuals are encouraged to submit all good faith concerns and complaints in respect of the accuracy and integrity of the Corporation’s accounting, auditing and financial reporting, without fear of retaliation of any kind. If an individual has any concerns about accounting, audit, internal controls or financial reporting matters which he or she considers to be questionable, incorrect, misleading or fraudulent, the individual is urged to come forward as contemplated by this Policy with any such information, complaints or concerns, without regard to the instructions or objections of the person or persons responsible for the subject matter of the relevant complaint or concern.

The designated contact to receive completed reports from employees is Mr. Larry Shaw, the Chairperson of the Audit Committee (the “**Designated Contact**”).

*Procedure for Reporting Concerns*

The reporting individual should describe his or her concern in writing and should include sufficient information to allow the Audit Committee to understand and review the written concern. If the reporting individual wishes to remain anonymous, the written communication should clearly indicate this wish for anonymity. All concerns should be forwarded to Larry Shaw, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, at the address noted below, in a sealed envelope labeled as follows:

**“PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL - To be opened by the addressee only”**

Larry Shaw, Chairman of the Audit Committee  
c/o of Birchcliff Energy Ltd.  
Suite 500, 630 – 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0J9

If the reporting individual wishes to discuss the matter with the Audit Committee, this request should be indicated in the submission. In order to facilitate such a discussion, the reporting individual should include a telephone number at which he or she can be contacted.

### *Anonymous Submissions*

If the reporting individual wishes to remain anonymous, the individual may indicate this request for anonymity on the submission and should remove any items that may inadvertently disclose his or her identity.

### *Handling of Concerns Raised:*

Promptly following the receipt of any complaints submitted to it, the Audit Committee will investigate each complaint and take corrective actions it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

### *Authority of Audit Committee*

The Audit Committee has the authority to:

- (a) conduct any investigation which it considers appropriate, and has direct access to the external auditor of the Corporation, as well as officers and employees of the Corporation and Other Entities, as applicable; and
- (b) retain, at the Corporation's expense, special legal, accounting or such other advisors, consultants or experts it deems necessary in the performance of its duties.

In conducting any investigation, the Audit Committee shall use reasonable efforts to protect the anonymity of the reporting individual to the extent so requested.

### *Records*

The Audit Committee will retain as part of its records, any complaints or concerns for a period of no less than seven years. The Audit Committee will keep written record of such reports or inquiries and make quarterly reports to the Board on any ongoing investigation which will include steps taken to satisfactorily address each complaint.

### *Employee Protection*

All employees are assured that no retaliation of any kind is permitted against the applicable individual for complaints or concerns made in good faith. No employee will be adversely affected because the employee refuses to carry out a directive which, in fact, constitutes corporate fraud, or is a violation of a federal or provincial law.

### *Questions about this Policy*

Questions regarding the policy may be directed to Larry Shaw, Chairperson of the Audit Committee and Designated Contact. He can be reached for this purpose by telephone at (403) 206-3330.