

## **CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **PURPOSE AND FUNCTION**

1. The purpose of the Audit Committee (the “Committee”) of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of FirstEnergy Corp. (the “Company”) is to assist the Board with its oversight of:

- (a) The integrity of the Company’s financial statements, and financial reporting and disclosure controls processes;
- (b) The Company’s adherence to legal, compliance, risk management and regulatory requirements, including oversight of the Company’s Ethics & Compliance Program;
- (c) The independent auditor’s qualifications, independence, and performance;
- (d) The performance of the Company’s internal audit function; and
- (e) The Company’s systems of internal controls over financial reporting with respect to the accuracy of financial records.

2. The Committee’s function is one of oversight, recognizing that the Company’s management is responsible for the preparation, presentation, and integrity of the Company’s financial statements, and the independent auditor is responsible for auditing those statements.

3. The Committee will encourage continuous improvement and foster adherence to the Company’s policies, procedures, and practices through, among other things, its oversight of the obligations set forth in this Charter.

4. In adopting this Charter, the Board acknowledges that the Committee members are not employees of the Company and are not providing any expert or special assurance as to the Company’s financial statements or any professional certification as to the independent auditor’s work or auditing standards. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to rely on the integrity and expertise of those persons and organizations within and outside the Company that provide information to the Committee and the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information provided to the Committee by such persons or organizations absent actual knowledge to the contrary. Nothing in this Charter is intended to expand applicable standards of liability under the statutory or regulatory requirements for the Directors of the Company or members of the Committee.

### **COMPOSITION**

1. **Number.** The Committee shall be comprised of not fewer than three members of the Board, as shall be determined from time to time by the Board.

2. **Appointment.** The Board shall at least annually appoint the members of the Committee and its Chair (the “Chair”) upon the recommendation of the Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee. All of the members or any individual member of the Committee may be removed from the Committee with or without cause by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board.

3. **Qualifications.**

- (a) Without the Board’s approval, no Committee member may serve on a total of more than three public company audit committees, including the Committee. Any Committee member who is approved to serve on more than three public company audit committees will be subject to the Board’s annual determination that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such member to effectively serve on the Committee. The Company shall disclose any such determination as required by the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) Listing Standards. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “public company” is a company having securities registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) under Section 12(b) or 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”) and subject to the reporting obligations of the Exchange Act.
- (b) Each member, including the Chair, shall qualify as independent, as such term is defined in the Corporate Governance Policies, the NYSE Listing Standards, and the rules and regulations of the SEC. Additionally, no member, other than in their capacity as a member of the Committee, the Board or any other Committee of the Board, may (i) accept directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fee from the Company or any subsidiary thereof or (ii) be an affiliated person of the Company or any subsidiary thereof, as set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Exchange Act.
- (c) The Board shall appoint at least one member to the Committee who, in the Board’s business judgment, has accounting or related financial management expertise, which member shall be an “Audit Committee Financial Expert” as such term may be defined from time to time by applicable SEC regulations.
- (d) All members of the Committee shall be financially literate, as required by NYSE listing standards and determined by the Board in its business judgment, or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Committee.

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES**

1. The members of the Committee will perform their duties in good faith, in a manner the Committee member reasonably believes to be in or not opposed to the best

interests of the Company, and with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances.

2. The Committee has the responsibility and authority to perform such duties and responsibilities enumerated in this Charter and as the Board may otherwise delegate to the Committee from time to time. The Committee has the authority to delegate any of its responsibilities to another committee or subcommittee, as the Committee may deem appropriate in its sole discretion, provided that such delegation, and any committee to which such responsibilities may be delegated, shall meet all applicable law, rules, regulations and NYSE listing standards.

3. In the course of its duties, the Committee shall have the authority, at the Company's expense, to retain, replace and terminate independent counsel and other advisers, as it deems necessary to carry out its duties (including without limitation to conduct an investigation), and to determine the appropriate compensation to such adviser(s).

4. The Committee may, at the Company's expense, conduct or authorize investigations into or studies of matters within the Committee's scope of responsibilities as described herein, and in connection therewith, is empowered to:

- (a) Appoint, cause the company to compensate, and oversee the work of any registered public accounting firm employed by the organization to assist in the investigation.
- (b) Retain, replace and terminate independent counsel and other advisers, as it deems necessary to carry out its duties in relation to such investigation.
- (c) Seek any information it requires from employees-all of whom are directed to cooperate with the committee's requests-or external parties.
- (d) Meet with company officers, external auditors, or outside counsel, as necessary.

#### **ENGAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR**

1. The Committee shall be solely responsible for the appointment, compensation and retention of (subject to shareholder ratification, if such ratification is required), and the oversight of the work and pre-approval of all auditing and permitted non-auditing services provided by the independent auditor engaged (including resolution of disagreements between management and the auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company, or assisting in the conduct of an investigation, authorized by the Committee. The independent auditor shall audit the consolidated financial statements of the Company and the consolidated financial statements of selected subsidiaries for the fiscal year for which it is appointed and report directly to the Committee.

2. The Committee shall be responsible for determining that, in accordance with

legal and regulatory requirements promulgated from time to time by the SEC and NYSE, the independent auditor for the Company does not provide the following non-audit services to the Company or any of its subsidiaries, unless authorized by the Committee in accordance with such requirements:

- (a) Bookkeeping or other services related to the accounting records or financial statements of the Company or any of its subsidiaries;
- (b) Financial information systems design and implementation;
- (c) Appraisal or valuation services, fairness opinions, or contribution-in-kind reports;
- (d) Actuarial services;
- (e) Internal audit outsourcing services;
- (f) Management functions or human resources;
- (g) Broker or dealer, investment advisor or investment banking services;
- (h) Legal services and expert services unrelated to the audit; and
- (i) Any other services that the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board determines, by regulation, is impermissible; or any other service that the Committee determines is impermissible, poses a potential conflict, or should be prohibited.

3. The Chief Accounting Officer may additionally recommend the engagement of the Company's independent auditor for any of the following:

- (a) Audit-related services that are not part of the annual audit; or
- (b) Non-audit services, including tax services, if permitted under Sections 10A(h) and (i) of the Exchange Act, and the rules promulgated thereunder, and not otherwise excluded under paragraphs 2 (a)-(i) above.

4. The engagement of the Company's independent auditor for any of the services noted above shall be subject to the pre-approval of the Committee, or the Chair in lieu of the full Committee. Such services pre-approved by the Chair shall be submitted to the Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

5. In connection with the approval of non-audit services noted above, the Committee or the Chair, if acting in lieu of the full Committee, shall consider whether the independent auditor's performance of any non-audit services is compatible with the independent auditor's independence.

6. The Committee shall review and approve clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the Company's independent auditor(s).

7. At least annually, the Committee shall obtain, review and, to the extent necessary, discuss with the independent auditor a report by the independent auditor

describing:

- (a) the independent auditor's internal quality-control procedures;
- (b) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review or peer review of the independent auditor, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the independent auditor, and the steps taken to deal with those issues; and
- (c) all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company, in order to assess the auditor's independence.

8. After reviewing the foregoing report and after consideration of the independent auditor's work throughout the year (as noted in the "Oversight of the Independent Audit Function" below), the Committee shall evaluate the independent auditor's qualifications, terms of engagement, compensation, performance and independence, which shall include the review and evaluation of the lead partner of the independent auditor. In making its evaluation, the Committee shall take into account the opinions of management and internal auditors and such other information as it deems appropriate, including the advice of legal counsel. The Committee shall present its conclusions with respect to the independent auditor to the Board.

9. The Committee shall ensure the regular rotation of the lead audit partner and concurring partner of the independent auditor every five years and consider whether it would be appropriate to implement a regular rotation of registered public accounting firms to serve as an independent auditor.

### **OVERSIGHT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDIT FUNCTION**

With respect to oversight of the independent audit function, the Committee shall:

1. Review and approve the independent auditor's proposed audit plan, scope and approach, including coordination of audit effort with the Company's internal audit function.
2. Review the performance of the independent auditor(s) considering attributes including, but not limited to, the quality of service provided, their objectivity, professionalism and independence, providing regular and timely communication, appropriate staffing and expertise, and ensuring appropriate resources are available when needed.
3. Review and discuss reports by the independent auditor regarding all critical accounting policies and practices used by the Company and any significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of financial statements, including all alternative treatments of the Company's financial information within generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") that have been discussed with management officials, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and

treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor; and any other material written communication between the independent auditor and the Company's management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences.

4. Review and discuss the annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements with management and the independent auditor, including the Company's disclosures under the section entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in the Company's reports filed with the SEC.

5. Review any certification, report, opinion, or review rendered by an independent auditor in connection with the Company's financial statements, and any significant disputes between management and the independent auditor that arose in connection with the preparation of those financial statements.

6. Review and discuss with management, the internal audit function, and the independent auditor, prior to filing the Company's Reports on Forms 10-K or 10-Q, any major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentation, including the impact on the financial statements of significant events, transactions or changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles or estimates that potentially affect the quality of the financial reporting, major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies and the adequacy of disclosures about changes in internal control over financial reporting.

7. Review disclosures made to the Committee by the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer during their certification process for Reports on Forms 10-K and Forms 10-Q regarding any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein, and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.

8. Review and discuss with management, the Vice President, Internal Audit and the independent auditor, the matters the independent auditor is required to discuss with the Committee under auditing standards established by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC and other applicable authorities (as such standards and rules and regulations may be established and amended from time to time).

9. Review with the independent auditor any audit difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to requested information, and any significant disagreements with management and management's response to the same.

10. Based on its review and discussions with management, the Vice President, Internal Audit and the independent auditor, the Committee shall recommend to the Board whether the Company's financial statements should be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (or the annual report to shareholders if distributed prior to

the filing of the Form 10-K).

11. The Committee shall, at least annually, meet with the Company's independent auditor, without the presence of any member of management, in order to review the results of each independent audit of the Company, the report of the audit, any related management letter, management responses to recommendations made by the independent auditor in connection with the audit, all significant reports of the internal auditing department, and management's responses to those reports.

12. Discuss with management and the independent auditor any published reports or correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies that raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements, or the preparation thereof, or accounting policies.

13. Annually obtain from the independent auditor(s) assurance that the independent auditor has not detected and has not otherwise received information that an illegal act has or may have occurred.

14. Discuss with the independent auditor(s) material issues on which the national office of the independent auditors was consulted by the Company's audit team.

#### **OVERSIGHT OF THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXTERNAL REPORTING**

In connection with the preparation and public reporting of the Company's financial statements, the Committee shall:

1. Review with management and the independent auditor significant accounting and reporting issues, including complex or unusual transactions, highly judgmental areas, and recent professional and regulatory pronouncements, as well as legal or regulatory matters that could reasonably be expected to have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements, in order to understand their impact on the financial statements.

2. Review with management and the independent auditors the results of the audit, including any difficulties encountered and any critical audit matters (CAM) addressed in the audit of the Company's financial statements and the relevant financial statement accounts and disclosures that related to each CAM.

3. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor all off-balance sheet arrangements and the effect of regulatory and accounting developments on the Company's financial statements.

4. Review the annual financial statements, and consider whether they are complete, consistent with information known to Committee members, and reflect appropriate accounting principles.

5. Review other sections of the Company's annual Report on Form 10-K and other securities filings that bear on the financial information reported therein for accuracy and completeness of the information disclosed therein.

6. The Committee shall review and discuss with management the Company's financial information and earnings guidance provided to financial analysts and rating agencies, including the use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-GAAP information.

7. Review with management and the independent auditor(s) all matters required to be communicated to the Committee under generally accepted auditing standards.

8. Review interim financial reports with management and the independent auditors before filing with the SEC or other securities regulator and consider whether they are complete and consistent with the information known to committee members.

9. Prepare the Audit Committee Report required by SEC rules to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.

10. Oversee the process for identifying and managing applicable regulatory reporting and disclosure obligations regarding cybersecurity risks, policies, processes and controls, as well as any required disclosure of material cybersecurity incidents. From time to time, for coordination purposes, the Committee will carry out its cybersecurity oversight responsibilities under this Charter by holding joint meetings with the Operations and Safety Oversight Committee.

11. Report annually to the shareholders, describing the Committee's composition, responsibilities and how they were discharged, and any other information required by applicable rules, including disclosure of approved non-audit services.

### **OVERSIGHT OF THE COMPANY'S INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

In connection with the Company's internal controls over financial reporting, the Committee shall:

1. Consider the effectiveness of the Company's (i) internal controls over financial reporting system, including information technology security and controls; and (ii) disclosure controls and procedures.

2. Understand the scope of the internal audit functions and the independent auditor's review of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting, and obtain reports on significant findings and related recommendations, together with management's responses thereto.

3. Review periodically with the Vice President, Internal Audit the adequacy of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting and corporate compliance structures, including computerized information system controls and security, to reasonably determine, at a minimum, that: (i) components of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting and corporate compliance structures are regularly evaluated; (ii) such evaluations are performed by qualified personnel; and (iii) such evaluations have reasonable scope and depth of coverage and are conducted with sufficient frequency. The Committee shall discuss with the independent auditors any

significant matters regarding internal controls over financial reporting that have come to their attention during the conduct of the audit.

4. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor(s), management's report on internal controls over financial reporting and the independent auditor's attestation of the Company's internal control over financial reporting prior to the filing of the Company's Report on Form 10-K.

#### **OVERSIGHT OF THE COMPANY'S INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION**

In connection with the Company's internal audit function, the Committee shall:

1. At least annually, review and approve the Company's internal audit charter or equivalent governance document.

2. Review and approve the annual internal audit plan and all significant changes to the plan, as well as evaluate and review the internal audit function's performance relative to its plan.

3. Review with the Vice President, Internal Audit the internal audit budget, resource plan, activities, responsibilities, objectivity and organizational structure of the internal audit function, and provide support to ensure the internal audit function has the appropriate access to the resources necessary to reasonably assure that it can carry out its obligations in accordance with all applicable standards.

4. The Vice President, Internal Audit functionally reports to the Committee and administratively to the Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer. At least annually, the Committee shall assess this reporting relationship in accordance with the Institute of Internal Auditors International Professional Practices Framework Standards and associated Practice Advisories. The Committee shall be consulted prior to the appointment or removal of the Vice President, Internal Audit.

5. Interact directly with the Vice President, Internal Audit, including in executive sessions and between Committee meetings as appropriate.

6. Periodically review directors', officers', and management's Company-funded expenses.

7. At least annually, provide input to the Company on the performance of the Vice President, Internal Audit for consideration in the annual performance evaluation, along with input relating to his/her respective compensation package and any adjustments thereto. The Committee shall be briefed annually on the results of the final evaluation along with the compensation package for the Vice President, Internal Audit.

#### **OVERSIGHT OF THE COMPANY'S ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM**

In connection with the Company's ethics and compliance program (the "E&C Program"), the Committee shall:

1. Review the effectiveness of the E&C Program's management of concerns and associated investigations and subsequent corrective actions, including a review of statistics related to investigations of potential ethics and compliance violations and matters related to compliance risk.
2. Review the process for communicating the Code of Conduct to Company personnel and the Board of Directors, and for monitoring compliance therewith.
3. Review the findings of any ethics and compliance examinations by regulatory agencies, and any independent and/or internal auditor observations regarding the same.
4. At least annually or more frequently as circumstances may require:
  - (a) Receive reports from the Company's Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer, or Chief Legal Officer where appropriate, in open or executive session, regarding the management and effectiveness of E&C Program in assuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations, Company ethics and compliance policies and the Code of Conduct;
  - (b) Review, and recommend to the full Board, the Company's Code of Conduct and any significant revisions proposed thereto, which shall be approved by the full Board, to determine that it is adequately designed to mitigate against violations of applicable laws, regulations and corporate policies;
  - (c) Review and approve the E&C Program charter;
  - (d) Receive reports from the Company's Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer regarding the adequacy of the Ethics and Compliance recordkeeping and reporting systems in order to ensure the Company's adherence to its E&C Program requirements; and
  - (e) Review the Company's compliance with the requirements of the Deferred Prosecution Agreement with the Department of Justice dated July 21, 2021.
5. Periodically review the Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the Company's Code of Conduct any other such policies implemented from time to time, such as the Company's Conflict of Interest Policy, Related Party Transactions Policy and Insider Trading Policy, designed to deter, prevent and detect compliance violations, as well as methods for disseminating information and training regarding the foregoing policies.
6. Receive reports from the Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer, or Chief Legal Officer if appropriate, regarding any alleged violation of the E&C Program by any member of the Board of Directors or Executive Council and any potential material violations of law.
7. In the event the Committee becomes aware of any material violation of the E&C Program, other internal controls over financial reporting programs, or of any other legal and regulatory requirements, including (but not limited to) those that may result in a

significant deficiency or material weakness or determination, it shall:

- (a) Reasonably determine that appropriate corrective actions have been taken in response thereto, and that such actions are sufficient under the circumstances;
- (b) Review any management override (which shall include waivers permitted by policies or procedures), and take the steps necessary to reasonably determine that such action or override will not occur in the future without Board approval; and
- (c) Review the process for reporting violations and deficiencies to reasonably assure that the Vice President, Internal Audit and the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer are informed of such violations and deficiencies.

8. Review periodically with the Company's counsel, matters related to the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, including, but not limited to, those which may have a material impact on the financial statements or the Company's compliance policies.

9. Periodically review the effectiveness of the Company's procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and the confidential, anonymous submission by the Company's employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing or other ethics and compliance matters.

10. Review with the Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer, the E&C Program budget, resource plan, activities, and organizational structure, and provide support to ensure the E&C Program has the appropriate access to the resources necessary to reasonably assure that it can carry out its obligations in accordance with all applicable standards.

11. The Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer functionally reports to the Committee and administratively to the Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer. The Committee shall be consulted prior to the appointment or removal of the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer.

12. At least annually, the Committee will provide input to the Company on the performance of the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer for consideration in the annual performance evaluation, along with input relating to his/her respective compensation package and any adjustments thereto. The Committee shall be briefed annually on the results of the final evaluation along with the compensation package the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

With respect to oversight of risk management, the Committee shall:

1. Oversee the process for identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring enterprise risks, including major financial risks, as well as strategic and operational risks, and assure such risks are appropriately communicated with the Board and its

Committees, respectively. For clarity, the Committee is not responsible for the specific oversight of risks assigned to other Board committees.

2. Oversee those risks related to the specific responsibilities of the Committee as enumerated in this Charter and as determined by the Board from time to time, including without limitation risks related to financial statements, payment processes and the financial reporting process and controls. Specifically, the Committee shall oversee management's programs to monitor and manage cybersecurity risk as it relates to the Committee's responsibilities herein, including without limitation, those cybersecurity risks related to financial statements, internal controls and financial disclosures.

3. The Committee will also discuss with management about the steps taken to monitor, control and mitigate such exposures.

4. Together, with the Board, annually discuss and review with the Company's Chief Risk Officer the Company's risk assessment and risk management governance, guidelines, policies and procedures. The Chief Risk Officer is expected to engage with the Committee should a risk be emergent and will regularly update the Committee on the changes to the Company's risk profile.

5. Periodically review, with management and the Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee, the Company's political affairs and related activities their findings regarding the propriety and legality of the Company's election activity and spending.

## **REPORTING TO THE BOARD**

To discharge its reporting responsibilities to the Board, the Committee shall:

1. Regularly report to the Board about Committee activities, issues, and related recommendations.

2. Provide an open avenue of communication between the internal audit function, the independent auditors, and the Board.

3. Review any other reports the Company or the Board issues that relate to Committee responsibilities.

4. Communicate to the Board any material issues concerning the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the Company's independent auditors or the performance of the internal audit function.

5. Communicate to the Board any material findings regarding the E&C Program or failures to adhere thereto.

## **MEETINGS**

1. The Committee shall meet as frequently as it may determine necessary to carry

out its responsibilities as set forth herein but not less than four times per year. The Chair should, in consultation with the other members of the Committee, the Company's independent auditors and the appropriate officers of the Company, be responsible for calling meetings of the Committee, establishing the agenda therefor and supervising the conduct thereof. Any Committee member may submit items to be included in the agenda. Meetings and actions of the Committee will be governed by the same rules applicable to the Board.

2. Meeting agendas and materials should be distributed to the Committee members in advance of the meeting. Following each meeting, a report of the Committee's activities and recommendations should be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

3. The Committee shall ensure that accurate minutes of each meeting be kept and filed with the minutes of the Company.

4. On a regular basis, the Committee shall meet separately with each of management, Vice President, Internal Audit, Chief Risk Officer, Chief Legal Officer and the independent auditor, to discuss matters that any of the foregoing, and/or the Committee, believes should be discussed privately.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

1. The Committee may cause on-going educational programs related to appropriate financial and accounting practices to be made available to Committee members.

2. The Committee shall conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Committee and report to the Board on such evaluation. Such evaluation shall be overseen by the Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee of the Board.

3. Annually, the Committee shall review this Charter to confirm whether any amendments are necessary or advisable to comply with applicable law or regulation, and recommend to the Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee, and to the Board, any such required or desired changes.

#### **AMENDMENT**

This Charter and any provision contained herein may be amended or repealed by the Board.

Revised: September 24, 2024