# **NEMI Northern Energy & Mining Inc.**

## Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Position and Results of Operations

The following information, prepared as of February 13, 2009, should be read in conjunction with the unaudited consolidated financial statements of NEMI Northern Energy & Mining Inc. ("NEMI" or the "Company") for the three months ended December 31, 2008, as well as the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2008, and the related management's discussion and analysis (the "Annual MD&A"). All amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated.

### Forward-Looking Statements

Forward-looking statements look into the future and provide an opinion as to the effect of certain events and trends on the business. Forward-looking statements may include words such as "plans", "intends", "anticipates", "should", "estimates", "expects", "believes", "indicates", "suggests" and similar expressions.

This MD&A, and in particular the "Outlook" and "Peace River Coal LP" sections, contains forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and various estimates, factors and assumptions and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors.

It is important to note that:

- Unless otherwise indicated, forward-looking statements in this MD&A describe the Company's expectations as of February 13, 2009.
- Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these statements as the Company's actual results, performance or achievements may differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements if known or unknown risks, uncertainties or other factors affect the Company's business, or if the Company's estimates or assumptions prove inaccurate. Therefore, the Company cannot provide any assurance that forward-looking statements will materialize.
- The Company assumes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or any other reason.

The material assumptions that were applied in making the forward looking statements in this MD&A include the future business prospects of the Peace River Coal Limited Partnership.

For a description of material factors that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements in this MD&A, please see "Risks and Uncertainties".

#### General

NEMI is a mine development company focused on the exploration, development and production of metallurgical coal assets in northeast British Columbia.

On November 29, 2006, NEMI concluded an agreement with Hillsborough Resources Limited ("Hillsborough") and Anglo Coal Canada Limited ("Anglo"), indirectly a wholly-owned subsidiary of Anglo American plc, wherein the north-eastern British Columbia metallurgical coal assets of the Company, Hillsborough and Anglo were consolidated into a new entity, Peace River Coal Limited Partnership ("Peace River Coal LP" or "PRC"), owned as to 60% by Anglo, and 20% by each of NEMI and Hillsborough. The assets transferred to PRC by NEMI included the Trend mine and related facilities, and NEMI's 50% interest in the Belcourt Saxon Coal Limited Partnership ("Belcourt Saxon Coal LP").

NEMI's assets as at December 31, 2008 consist of its interest in Peace River Coal LP, and working capital.

### **Corporate Transactions**

NEMI has entered into a number of corporate transactions as detailed below.

In May 2006, NEMI and Western Canadian Coal Corp. ("Western") entered into a definitive agreement relating to a business combination whereby the Company would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Western (the "Western Transaction"). The agreement provided for the business combination to occur by way of a plan of arrangement to be approved at a special meeting of the Company's shareholders. Under the terms of the agreement, and subject to certain conditions, Western agreed to issue one Western common share for every 1.8 common shares of the Company. Under the agreement, Western would be entitled to a break fee of \$3.5 million in certain circumstances.

In July 2006, the Company announced that Western had advised that it was not prepared to complete this agreement on the basis of the existing exchange ratio, that the board of directors of NEMI had determined that an adjustment to the ratio was not in the best interests of the Company's shareholders, and that NEMI had accepted Western's position as a repudiation of the agreement. The Company repaid all amounts due under a trade support credit facility that Western had provided to the Company.

In July 2006, NEMI entered into a non-binding letter of intent with Hillsborough, Anglo, and Itochu Corporation ("Itochu"), whereby the north-eastern British Columbia metallurgical coal assets of the Company, Hillsborough and Anglo would be consolidated into a new entity. Shareholdings in the new entity would be subject to a fair market valuation of each company's metallurgical coal assets. In connection with this letter of intent, the Company entered into a loan agreement with Anglo providing for loans by Anglo to the Company of up to \$31.5 million.

On October 13, 2006, NEMI signed a formal asset transfer agreement with Anglo and Hillsborough whereby the Company, Anglo and Hillsborough agreed to combine their respective northeast British Columbia metallurgical coal assets and interests, including the Trend mine and the Company's interest in the Belcourt Saxon Coal LP, into a new limited partnership.

On October 13, 2006, the Company also voluntarily sought and obtained protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* ("CCAA") pursuant to an Order of the Supreme Court of British Columbia (the "Court"). The purpose of obtaining the Order was to afford the Company an opportunity to preserve the going concern value of its assets as it worked to complete the Anglo/Hillsborough transaction. Under the Order, the Company was authorized to obtain debtor-in-possession financing comprised of a \$20 million credit facility to be provided by Anglo (the "DIP Loan"). The DIP Loan was secured by a first-priority charge on the Company's assets.

On November 10, 2006, the Company signed an agreement with Anglo, Hillsborough and Western pursuant to which Western consented to the transfer of the Company's 50% interest in the Belcourt Saxon Coal LP to the new partnership. In addition, this agreement provided a mechanism to resolve the issue of whether a \$3.5 million break fee would be payable by NEMI in connection with the termination of the Western Transaction. NEMI and Western agreed that this issue would be resolved by an independent expert.

On November 29, 2006, the Company successfully closed the asset combination transaction with Anglo and Hillsborough. This transaction resulted in the creation of Peace River Coal LP which is owned 60% by Anglo, and 20% by each of NEMI and Hillsborough. On closing, the Company received a \$10 million cash payment. In addition, the Company received as consideration a free cash carry in PRC to December 31, 2007 to a maximum of \$18 million. The DIP Loan provided by Anglo during CCAA proceedings was assumed by PRC and all of NEMI's creditors, secured and unsecured, were paid in full, including Itochu and Anglo. Following the closing of this transaction, the Company filed with the Court a closing certificate which resulted in the Company's full emergence from CCAA protection.

In February 2007, NEMI and Western agreed to settle Western's claim for a \$3.5 million break fee arising from the failed Plan of Arrangement between the parties. NEMI paid \$1.275 million in settlement of the claim.

In May 2007, PRC provided to the partners its detailed operating and development program for 2007. Cash requirements for 2007 under this program and budget, including capital expenditures and working capital to fund operations through the pre-commercial operation phase, totalled \$53 million. The Company's share, amounting to \$10.6 million, was covered by the free cash carry received pursuant to the Transaction. Hillsborough elected not to participate in either the 2007 program and budget or its share of NEMI's carry, allowing its interest in the partnership to be diluted.

In October 2007, PRC provided to the partners a 2007 Supplemental Program and Budget for \$25 million (NEMI's share was \$5 million) and the 2008 Program and Budget for \$198 million (NEMI's share was \$39.6 million). NEMI elected to fully participate in the 2007 Supplemental Program and Budget (\$5 million) which was part of the free cash carry.

In November 2007, PRC presented the partners with the 2008 Program and Budget for \$198 million of expenditures. The 2008 Program and Budget did not include revenues generated by PRC operations. Under the terms of the limited partnership agreement, the partners are not obliged to fully participate in any program and budget that may be proposed by the Peace River Coal, but they are subject to dilution provisions should they not elect to participate fully. The Company elected to provide funding of \$5 million in respect of this budget, and accordingly, the Company's interest in Peace River Coal was diluted on a provisional basis to 12%. The final dilution calculation was to be done at year end and based on actual contributions. In the past, Peace River Coal had used revenues received to reduce the actual amount of contributions required to be funded by the Partners and NEMI expected that the final calculation of interests would result in NEMI having a greater interest in the Partnership than the provisional interest calculation.

However, at the end of October, 2008 Anglo Coal Canada Inc. and Peace River Coal acknowledged an error in the method that the cash calls had been made. As a result, NEMI's interest in the Partnership is approximately 12%. NEMI also received a rectifying distribution of \$16 million. NEMI is considering its legal rights regarding its entitlement to both interest on the amount of the rectifying distribution and other compensation as a result of the error in the cash call method used.

#### Peace River Coal LP

The Peace River Coal LP ("PRC") was formed on November 29, 2006 and all of the north-eastern British Columbia metallurgical coal assets of NEMI, Hillsborough and Anglo were combined under one entity. PRC holds substantial metallurgical coal interests both in production start-up and under exploration and development in northeast British Columbia, including the Trend mine, the Roman and Horizon properties, and a 50% interest in the Belcourt Saxon properties. Peace River Coal Inc., indirectly a wholly-owned subsidiary of Anglo American plc, is the general partner and operational manager of PRC, and PRC's production is being marketed by Anglo Coal Marketing Limited.

The Trend mine commenced commercial production as of January 1, 2008.

The coal preparation plant that had been modified in late 2006, including the addition of a fines wash circuit, was commissioned in January 2007. The acquisition and deployment of a leased aluminum train set was completed in June, improving the efficiency with which coal can be transported to the Ridley Terminal port facilities at Prince Rupert. With improvements made over the first six months of 2007, plant operations have enabled targeted throughput capabilities to be achieved. However, the ramp-up of raw coal production has progressed more slowly than planned due to issues related primarily to equipment and labour availability and PRC is working to address these matters. Labour availability is an issue for the overall northeast British Columbia region, which needs to be addressed over the longer term.

Significant risk factors affecting the development of PRC's properties include the determination of coal resource to support mine operations; the successful execution of mine plans; the long term strength of metallurgical coal markets; and the ability to secure permits should commercial production from properties be demonstrated to be feasible. It is expected that the capital requirements to develop the various properties now held within PRC over the

coming years will be significant. Accordingly, the Company's investment in PRC is subject to financing and dilution risk.

Under the terms of the limited partnership agreement, the partners are not obliged to fund any cash calls that may be made by the partnership, but they are subject to dilution provisions should they elect not to contribute. Significant risk factors affecting the development of PRC's properties include the determination of coal resource to support mine operations; the successful execution of mine plans; the long term strength of metallurgical coal markets; and the ability to secure permits should commercial production from properties be demonstrated to be feasible.

In May 2007, PRC provided to the partners its detailed operating and development plans for the full 2007 year, including exploration and development work planned for its other coal properties, as well as its strategic plan for the ensuing five years. These plans include a significant capital expenditure requirement in respect of the Trend mine development and working capital needs, including capital improvements to the rail load-out, power line and haul road as well as continued mine development. Significant exploration and development activities are planned for 2007 with respect to the Roman and Horizon properties, with the objective of enabling the commencement of production from these properties in 2009. Cash requirements for PRC for 2007, including capital expenditures and working capital required to fund operations through the pre-commercial production phase, total \$53 million. NEMI's 20% share of this amount, being \$10.6 million, was funded through its free cash carry.

In November 2007, the partners of PRC approved a 2007 Supplemental Program and Budget for additional expenditures amounting to \$25 million. The Company's pro rata share of this cash call was \$5 million. The Company elected to contribute its pro rata share which amount was funded by the Company's free cash carry.

The partners of PRC have also approved PRC's 2008 Program and Budget for expenditures amounting to \$198 million, the Company's pro rata share of which is \$39.6 million. Under the terms of the limited partnership agreement, the partners are not obliged to fully participate in any program and budget that may be proposed by the partnership, but they are subject to dilution provisions should they not elect to participate fully. The Company has elected to provide funding of \$5 million in respect of this budget, and accordingly, it is expected that the Company's interest in PRC will be diluted, on a provisional basisto approximately 12% (the "Provisional Interest"). The Provisional Interest is subject to a final interest calculation for the year. At year end, the Partners' interest in the PRC will be recalculated and based on adjustments made to reflect the actual contributions to the project made in the aggregate and by the individual Partners. The amount and timing of revenues received by the PRC will affect the respective interests of the Partners by reducing the total amount of contribution required. NEMI expects that the amount and timing of revenues received by the PRC from the sale of coal will reduce the amount required to fund the 2008 Program and Budget amount and therefore limit the dilution of NEMI's interest.

On December 24, 2007, the partners of Peace River Coal LP were presented with a cash call to fund \$14.1 million of the 2008 Program and Budget for expenditures, with the Company's pro rata share being \$1.7 million. Despite funding the \$1.7 million cash call, the Company has taken the position that any cash calls until December 31, 2007 could be covered by the free cash carry.

In April and May of 2008, the partners of PRC approved Supplemental Programs and Budgets for Phase One and Two of the Trend Transition Project, respectively. The total amount budgeted for these phases are \$51 million of which NEMI's share is \$6.1 million based on its Provisional Interest. NEMI has elected to fund its full share of these Supplemental Programs and Budgets Project, respectively. During the calendar year ended December 31, 2008, the partners of Peace River Coal LP were presented with, and paid, cash calls totaling \$298 million, with the Company funding \$17.1 million.

The partners of PRC have also approved PRC's 2009 Program and Budget for gross expenditures amounting to \$225 million, the Company's pro rata share of which is \$27 million.

### **Proposed transaction**

On October 21, 2008, the Company and Aviva Corporation ("Aviva") announced that they have entered into a merger implementation agreement ("Agreement") to combine the businesses of the two companies to create a new growth-oriented international coal and energy group (the "Merger")

Both the Company and Aviva had agreed to standard exclusivity obligations for 6 months from the date of the Agreement and payment of a \$1 million break fee to the other party in the event they are unable to complete the transactions under certain circumstances.

The transaction has been cancelled by Aviva due to a material adverse change caused by the Company's interest in PRC being diluted to 12% and the Company paid the break fee.

### Results of Operations

The Company recorded income of \$2,061,094 (\$0.03 per share) for the first quarter ended December 31, 2008 as compared to income of \$\$4,712,548 (\$0.08 per share) reported in the same quarter of 2007.

The 2008 loss included a \$1 million break fee and \$358,000 in professional fees relating to the transaction with Aviva Corporation that was cancelled and \$420,911 in interest expense on the convertible debentures. The 2007 income was attributed to the Company's free cash carry of its requirement to fund 20% of the 2007 Supplemental Program and Budget of \$25 million, which resulted in a gain of \$5 million.

The Company's interest in PRC is being accounted for using the equity method. As of February 13, 2009, PRC has not finalized its financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008. Consequently, the results for the period ended December 31, 2008 include \$120,000 as NEMI's estimated share of the loss of PRC based upon preliminary numbers of PRC available as of that date.

Expenses for the quarter increased to \$620,331 from \$228,778 with the increase due primarily to the \$358,000 in professional fees associated with the Aviva transaction.

Interest expense and bank charges increased to \$423,000 from \$1,226 in 2007. The 2008 expense was higher as a consequence of the Company issuing \$12.7 million in convertible debentures in March and April 2008.

Administrative expense was offset by \$93,062 (2007 - \$109,709) in interest income earned on the Company's surplus cash balance.

# Capital Expenditures and Investments

Investing activity during the three months ended December 31, 2008 was comprised of \$5,306,834 (2007-\$2,240,126) in funds contributed to PRC and \$18,862,003(2007-\$nil) in distributions received from PRC..

### Summary of Quarterly Results (unaudited)

Three months ended	Dec. 31, 2008	Sept 30, 2008	June 30, 2008	Mar. 31, 2008	Dec. 31, 2007	Sept 30, 2007	June 30, 2007	Mar. 31, 2007
Total revenues	\$nil							
Net earnings (loss)	\$(2,061,094)	\$(167,597)	\$193,617	(\$1,675,050)	\$4,712,548	\$7,536,820	(\$1,012,376)	(\$412,850)
Income (loss )per share (Basic and diluted)	(\$0.03)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$0.03)	\$0.08	\$0.14	(\$0.02)	(\$0.01)
Deferred	\$nil							

Three months ended	Dec. 31, 2008	Sept 30, 2008	June 30, 2008	Mar. 31, 2008	Dec. 31, 2007	Sept 30, 2007	June 30, 2007	Mar. 31, 2007
expendi-								
tures								
Total assets	\$67,369,056	\$69,624,440	\$69,450,187	\$66,747,535	\$58,095,590	\$53,402,438	\$46,119,381	\$46,815,200

The loss for the quarter ended December 31, 2008 included a \$1 million break fee payment and \$358,000 in transaction costs associated with the cancelled Aviva transaction. The loss for the quarter ended March 31, 2008 was primarily due to the Company's share of the loss of PRC of \$1.38 million, respectively. The net earnings for the quarter ended December 31, 2007 includes a \$5,000,000 gain on the Company receiving a free cash carry in funding its portion of the PRC 2007 Supplemental Program and Budget of \$25 million. This gain was partially offset by an equity loss of \$167,000 in relation to the Company's interest in PRC. The net earnings for the quarter ended September 30, 2007 included a gain on asset transfer of \$8,457,225 offset by an equity loss of \$762,000 in relation to the Company's interest in PRC.

### Financing Activities

The Company issued \$12.7 million in unsecured convertible debentures on March 12 and April 1, 2008 for net proceeds of \$11.8 million. The Debentures are unsecured and bear interest at a rate of 8% per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears, on June 30th and December 31st each year commencing June 30th, 2008. The Debentures mature on March 12, 2013 and are convertible into common shares of the Company at any time up until maturity at a conversion price of \$0.90 per share. After March 12, 2010, the Company has the right, under certain circumstances, to redeem the debentures in whole or in part. In addition, the Company has the right to repay the principal amount of the Debentures in common shares at a price equal to 95% of the weighted average trading price of the Company's shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange for the 20 trading day period ending 5 trading days prior to the date fixed for redemption or at maturity.

In October 2006, in order to afford the Company an opportunity to preserve the going concern value of its assets as it worked to complete the Anglo/Hillsborough transaction, the Company voluntarily sought and obtained protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* ("CCAA") and was authorized to obtain debtor-in-possession financing comprised of a \$20 million credit facility to be provided by Anglo, with such facility to be secured by a first-priority charge on the Company's assets.

During the period ended December 31, 2006, the Company received \$17.9 million in loans from Anglo, including \$12.9 million under the terms of its DIP loan financing. On closing of the Anglo/Hillsborough transaction, all of the loan indebtedness of the Company, including accrued interest, was repaid or assumed directly by PRC.

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

The closing of the convertible debenture issue and the receipt of funds distributed by PRC has left NEMI in a strong financial position with \$22.1 million in cash at December 31, 2008 and working capital of \$22 million with the debentures not due until March 2013. The Company's aggregate operating, investing and financing activities during the three months ended December 31, 2008 resulted in a net cash inflow of \$11 million.

### - Contractual Obligations

As at December 31, 2008, the Company's contractual obligations included:

### Payments Due by Period

(thousands of dollars)	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3 - 5 years	After 5 years
Lease agreement for office premises	\$281	\$56	\$114	\$111	\$nil
Lease agreement for office (1)	\$604	\$237	\$367	\$nil	\$nil
Total Contractual Obligations	\$885	\$293	\$481	\$111	\$0

<sup>(1)</sup> NEMI has sublet this office space at cost to Peace River Coal LP.

#### Transactions with Related Parties

During the three months ended December 31, 2007, consulting fees of \$19,500 (2007 - \$65,000) were charged in respect of services rendered by companies with common directors or officers. In addition, legal fees totalling \$NIL (2007 - \$4,551) were charged by a legal firm in which a director was a member.

Transactions with related parties are recorded at the exchange amount, being the price agreed between the parties.

### Critical Accounting Estimates

The Company's consolidated financial statements are impacted by the significant accounting policies used, and the estimates and assumptions made, by management during their preparation. The Company's accounting policies are described in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements. The accounting estimates considered to be significant to the Company include the review of the carrying value of the Company's investment in PRC and the computation of stock-based compensation expense.

Management will review the carrying value attributed to its investment in PRC on at least an annual basis. No write-down was taken during the year. There is a risk however that this investment could be written down in a future period.

The Company uses the fair-value method of accounting for stock-based compensation related to incentive stock options granted, modified or settled. Under this method, compensation cost attributable to all incentive stock options granted is measured at fair value at the grant date and expensed over the vesting period with a corresponding increase to contributed surplus. In determining the fair value, the Company makes estimates of the expected volatility of the stock as well as an estimated discount rate. Changes to these estimates could result in the fair value of the stock-based compensation being less than or greater than the amount recorded.

### Adoption of new accounting standards

On October 1, 2007, the Company adopted three new accounting standards issued by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA"); Section 1535, "Capital Disclosures" and Sections 3862 and 3863, "Financial Instruments – Disclosures" and "Financial Instruments – Presentation":

### - Capital Disclosures

The Company has adopted the provisions of Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA") Handbook Section 3862, "Financial Instruments – Disclosures", describes the required disclosures to evaluate the significance of financial instruments for the entity's financial position and performance as well as the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments to which the entity is exposed and how the entity manages those risks.

#### - Financial Instruments – Disclosures

The Company has adopted the provisions of CICA Handbook Section 3862, "Financial Instruments – Disclosures", which describes the required disclosures to evaluate the significance of financial instruments for the entity's financial position and performance as well as the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments to which the entity is exposed and how the entity manages those risks.

### - Financial Instruments – Presentation

The Company has adopted the provisions of CICA Handbook Section 3863, "Financial Instruments – Presentation", which establishes standards for presentation of financial instruments and non-financial derivatives. It details the presentation of standards described in Section 3861, "Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Presentation".

## **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

The Company has not entered into any material off-balance sheet arrangements such as guarantee contracts, contingent interests in assets transferred to unconsolidated entities, derivative financial obligations, or with respect to any obligations under a variable interest equity arrangement.

#### Financial Instruments

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable. It is management's opinion that the Company is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of the financial instruments approximate their amortized cost value due to their short-term nature.

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and highly liquid investments held in the form of bankers' acceptances. These investments are stated at cost plus accrued value, which approximates market value. Investments of cash are of sufficient quality and diversity to ensure a high probability of liquidity at the accrued value, at such times as needed to meet financial obligations. Furthermore, the investment terms are less than three months at the time of acquisition.

#### **Outstanding Share Data**

### Authorized Capital:

Unlimited number of Class A no par value voting common shares

Unlimited number of Class B no par value non-voting common shares

Unlimited number of Class C no par value non-voting common shares

Unlimited number of Class D no par value non-voting, non-cumulative redeemable and retractable preferred shares

#### Issued and outstanding:

57,869,745 common shares as at February 13, 2009

### Fully diluted:

72,441,967 common shares as at February 13, 2009

Outstanding options, warrants, and convertible securities as at February 13, 2009:

Type of Security	Number	Exercise Price	Expiry date
Stock options	1,250,000	\$0.90	April 1, 2013
Warrants	100,000	\$0.90	March 12, 2010
Convertible debentures	13,222,222	\$0.90	March 12, 2013
Total dilution	14,572,222		

### Risks and Uncertainties

The Company is involved in coal mining operations to the extent of its partnership interest in Peace River Coal LP. The exploration for and development of coal deposits are highly speculative activities and are subject to significant risks. The Company's ability to realize its investments in exploration projects is dependent upon a number of factors, including its ability to continue to raise the financing necessary to complete the exploration and development of those projects and the existence of economically recoverable reserves within its projects. The Company's operations are subject to a number of risk factors as detailed in the Annual MD&A.

### Internal Control over Financial Reporting

As at the date of this report, management is not aware of any change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Outlook

As at December 31, 2008, NEMI has working capital of \$22 million and convertible debentures which are not due until March 2013. Management of NEMI intends to investigate and evaluate other business opportunities.

NEMI also owns a 12% partnership interest in Peace River Coal LP, which now owns the Trend mine as well as a number of other coal properties in northeast British Columbia. PRC is being managed and operated by Anglo American plc, which, with its extensive experience in coal mining and marketing, will play a key role in further developing British Columbia's northeast coalfields. PRC achieved commercial production on January 1, 2008.

### Other Information

Additional information related to the Company, including its Annual Information Form, is available for viewing on SEDAR at <a href="www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.