



Submit as Exhibit VIII.A.7.b. for the Applicant, an independent audit report of all financial activities and interests including, but not limited to, the disclosure of all contributions, donations, loans or any other financial transactions to or from a gaming entity or operator in the past five (5) years.

As noted in guidance issued by the Board, "[i]f the audited financial statements submitted by the Applicant [in Exhibit VIII.A.7.a.] include a specific disclosure of all financial activities and interests, including, but not limited to, donations, loans or other financial transactions to or from a gaming operator in the past

five years, then a separate independent audit report explicitly for [Exhibit VIII.A.7.b.] is not required." As described in Exhibit VIII.A.7.a., Montreign Operating Company, LLC does not have audited or unaudited annual financial statements as it is a newly formed entity, and has had no financial activities or interests in the past five (5) years. Further, the audited annual financial statements of Montreign's parent company, Empire, which are submitted on a consolidated basis, include specific disclosures of all financial activities and interests of Empire in the past five years, including, but not limited to, contributions, donations, loans and other financial transactions to or from a gaming entity or operator.\(^1\) Accordingly, pursuant to the Board's guidance, a separate independent audit report for Exhibit VIII.A.7.b. is not required.





¹ As the term "all contributions, donations, loans or any other financial transactions" potentially could be interpreted to require significant detail regarding a large number of financial transactions (such as, an individual credit card transaction with an individual customer), it is assumed that the type of information being requested is limited to only those material loans and financial transactions that are disclosed in Empire's audited financial statements under US GAAP, or required by the rules of the SEC. Further, to the extent this question refers to political contributions or charitable donations, those transactions are reflected in Empire's audited financial statements. Each individual contribution or donation, however, is not specifically referenced in the audited financial statements. If further information concerning each individual contribution and donation is required, please advise Nanette L. Horner and this information will be made available.