



October 12, 2022

Nunavut-wide Distribution

Sent via email

Re: Notice of Consultation and Process for Finalizing the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Rules of Procedure and Standard IS Guidelines

Dear Sirs and Madams:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) would like to invite parties to **Save the Date** for in-person consultation sessions to support the finalization of the Board's Standard Impact Statement (IS) Guidelines. This correspondence also provides parties with updated guidance regarding the Board's approach and next steps for the Board's finalization of the Standard IS Guidelines and the Rules of Procedure (ROP).

Background to the Board's Process for Developing the Standard IS Guidelines and the Rules of Procedure (ROP)

On December 6, 2018, the NIRB released the *Draft* Rules of Procedure (ROP) and the *Draft* Standard Impact Statement (IS) Guidelines for comment. The NIRB sincerely appreciates the substantial time and effort that parties invested in developing their comment submissions. In viewing the comment submissions received, several themes emerged that warranted follow up and revisions to these documents. In addition, multiple parties requested that the NIRB follow up by conducting directed engagement sessions to allow for more in-depth discussions about issues identified by reviewers and provided in summary form in their comments. The following updated procedural guidance outlines the next steps that the Board is proposing to address the requests as the Board moves forward to finalizing these important documents.

The *Draft* Rules of Procedure and *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines, as well as comments submitted, can be accessed from the NIRB's website at www.nirb.ca/rules-of-procedure.

Consultations to Discuss and Inform Revisions to the Standard IS Guidelines

The *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines have been developed as authorized under Article 12, Section 12.2.23(h) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 26(1)(e) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*. The Standard IS Guidelines will provide information to guide Proponents in the preparation of their impact statement documentation as required during the NIRB's assessment of project proposals under Article 12 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and Part 3 of the *NuPPAA*. Once finalized, the Standard IS Guidelines will provide greater certainty for proponents wishing to develop project descriptions with sufficient information to support an assessment by the NIRB. The Standard IS Guidelines will provide the general requirements applicable to the assessment of all projects, which will be supplemented by any focused, project-specific guidelines the Board considers necessary to guide the assessment of a given project.

Since 2018 when the NIRB introduced the first consultation draft of the Standard IS Guidelines, the Board has solicited and incorporated feedback from commenting parties and updates to IS best practices within Nunavut and across Canada to prepare an updated revision to the Standard IS Guidelines. The Board will be conducting consultation sessions to review these substantive changes to the 2018 consultation draft of the 2018 Standard IS Guidelines, and to inform further revisions to the Standard IS Guidelines in Vancouver during the AME Roundup 2023 (January 23-26, 2023), as follows:

In-Person Consultation Sessions for the Standard IS Guidelines in Vancouver			
Tuesday, January 24, 2023		Wednesday, January 25, 2023	
9:00 am – 12:00 pm MT	Proponents and Consultants	9:00 am – 12:00 pm MT	Government and other Intervenors
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm MT	Designated Inuit Organizations	1:30 pm – 4:30 pm MT	All parties

In addition to these consultation sessions, the NIRB will be undertaking targeted consultation in each of the three (3) regions to support the finalization of the Standard IS Guidelines. The NIRB will issue detailed correspondence on the Board's approach to addressing key themes identified during the 2019 comment period prior to the in-person and directed consultation sessions.

Activity	Anticipated Date ¹
NIRB distributes detailed information for the in-person consultation in Vancouver in 2023	November 2022
In-person consultation on the IS Guidelines	January 24-25, 2023
Regional community consultation	Tentatively February 2023
NIRB distributes updated revised <i>Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines for comment	Tentatively June 2023
NIRB distributes Finalized Standard IS Guidelines	Tentatively October 2023
¹ Note: all dates are tentative and may be change by the Board to reflect circumstances	

Consultations Associated with the 2022 Revision to the ROP

The 2018 *Draft ROP* were developed as authorized under Article 12, Section 12.2.23 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 26 of the *NuPPAA* and will apply to NIRB proceedings, including Public Hearings.

As identified in the summary of comments provided to the NIRB in respect of the 2018 *Draft ROP*, as a result of the comments provided by parties in 2019, the Board has made more than 200 revisions to the 2018 *Draft ROP* to produce an updated 2022 *Revised Draft ROP*. In addition, the Board has made revisions and additions to the 2018 *Draft ROP* to reflect the Board's recent experience with modifications to the Board's processes to accommodate public health and safety requirements, such as incorporating the use of remote access technology during the pandemic. As indicated below, the Board will be releasing the updated 2022 *Revised Draft ROP* to solicit additional comment, with the intention of finalizing and implementing the revised ROP in 2023.

Activity	Anticipated Date ¹
NIRB distributes 2022 <i>Revised Draft ROP</i> for comments	November 2022
NIRB receives written feedback on the 2022 <i>Revised Draft ROP</i>	February, 2023
In-person consultation on the 2022 <i>Revised Draft ROP</i>	Tentatively April, 2023
NIRB issues finalized ROP	Tentatively October, 2023
¹ Note: all dates are tentative and may be change by the Board to reflect circumstances	

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact Heather Rasmussen, Senior Policy Advisor directly at (867) 983-1939 or h.rasmussen@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Karen D. Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board