



## ***Non-technical Summary***

The Standard Impact Statement Guidelines will provide information to proponents for the preparation of their Impact Statement, a series of documents describing the planning, implementation, and eventual decommissioning of a project required for a NIRB Review. Project-specific guidelines will be provided as necessary.

The next steps for the development and finalization of the Standard Impact Statement Guidelines are:

Activity	Anticipated Date
Regional community consultation	April 2023
NIRB distributes updated <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines for comment	Tentatively June 2023
NIRB distributes Finalized Standard IS Guidelines	Tentatively October 2023

Note: all dates are tentative and may be changed by the Board to reflect circumstances

## ***Key Topics for Discussion and Input***

Several themes were identified during the review of the December 6, 2018, comment submissions on the *Draft* Standard Impact Statement Guidelines, recent NIRB processes, and through similar work in other regions. The NIRB is requesting input on the following topics, as well as any additional feedback from parties:

Topic	Details
Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and Public Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inuit and community members need to be involved throughout all stages of project development.</li> <li>▪ Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit needs to inform all stages of the impact assessment.</li> </ul>

Topic	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Proponent shall share how it has followed all applicable Inuit protocols for the collection, protection, and use of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.</li> <li>▪ Inuit need to be involved in both the collection and interpretation of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and other Knowledge shared.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent must provide reasons for conclusions differing from community views.</li> </ul>
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sufficient information and analysis must be included (for example scientific information, consideration information, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, Indigenous Knowledge, and Community Knowledge).</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall identify and/or clarify any uncertainties in methods and conclusions.</li> <li>▪ Proponents are encouraged to use plain language as much as possible and consider plain language summaries for each chapter.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall engage with potentially impacted communities on what visuals would be most helpful (for example 3-D models, maps with pictures on them, or photos of the area).</li> </ul>
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An assessment of the socio-economic environment shall be done with the same level of effort and expertise as the biophysical environment.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall engage with Inuit and community members from potentially affected communities so that the factors that are most important to Inuit well-being are chosen as indicators.</li> <li>▪ A holistic understanding of health must be taken.</li> </ul>
Baseline (Biophysical and Socio-Economic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baseline includes historical background and current baseline conditions.</li> <li>▪ A description of how the existing environment is expected to change over the life of the project in response to climate change.</li> </ul>

Topic	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any time limits associated with the validity of data used must be clarified (for example, baseline data may not be valid after a certain time due to changes in sampling techniques).</li> </ul>
Impact Assessment (including Significance Analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The impact assessment must describe:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential impacts and effects on individual valued components considered;</li> <li>○ Potential impacts and changes to the valued components as they relate to or form systems (also referred to as collective impacts);</li> <li>○ Significance of the predicted impact and reasoning for that determination;</li> <li>○ Potential cumulative effects of the proposed project on the valued components and the systems identified;</li> <li>○ Potential for transboundary effects;</li> <li>○ Proposed mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, or offset predicted impacts; and</li> <li>○ Predicted residual impacts after mitigation measures are applied.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Proponents are expected to focus on assessing the impacts identified by communities as issues of concern, in addition to those with greater potential to cause residual impacts.</li> </ul>
Cumulative Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A cumulative effect refers to the accumulation or addition of changes to the socio-economic or biophysical environment caused by past, existing, and proposed human activities and/or natural processes.</li> <li>▪ Cumulative effects on valued biophysical and socio-economic components must include culture, health, and food security.</li> <li>▪ Input should be requested from all relevant parties (including governments, Designated Inuit Organizations, and potentially affected</li> </ul>

Topic	Details
	<p>communities) and be informed by community-based monitoring programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cumulative effects must consider that cumulative biophysical and socio-economic effects can also result from individually minor, but collectively significant, effects occurring over a period of time.</li> <li>▪ Proponents shall address how the assessment of alternatives considered cumulative effects.</li> </ul>
Significance Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessing the significance of potential impacts is the most important aspect of an Impact Statement and must involve potentially affected communities.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall include how it considered different parties' views in determining the significance of potential impacts.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall describe how Inuit Qaujimagatunangit, well-being, and the values of potentially impacted communities are reflected in the determination of significance.</li> </ul>
Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adding social acceptability and food security as a factor in sustainability.</li> <li>▪ Considering potential alternative economic activities that may be lost or reduced because of the Project.</li> </ul>
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Impact Statement shall include a discussion on global climate change.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent must assess how potential climate change could affect valued components.</li> <li>▪ Proponents shall demonstrate how climate change has been considered in the design and planning of the Project including the post-closure period.</li> <li>▪ Assessments shall address uncertainty and indicate how areas impacted by development are expected to change over time and under different climate change conditions/models.</li> </ul>
Phased Development and Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Proponent shall provide sufficient information regarding their plans for foreseeable future development related to the Project.</li> </ul>

