



April 3, 2024

To: Nunavut Wide Distribution List

Sent via email

RE: Nunavut Impact Review Board Revised Draft Standard Impact Statement Guidelines for Comment

Dear Parties:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is releasing the 2024 *Revised Draft* Standard Impact Statement Guidelines for focused public comment. By way of this correspondence, the NIRB is inviting interested parties to provide focused comments on the 2024 *Revised Draft* Standard Impact Statement Guidelines by **June 3, 2024**.

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is developing Standard Impact Statement Guidelines 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 Impact Statement Guidelines will provide information to guide Proponents when preparing their impact statement documentation as required during the NIRB's assessment of project proposals under the *Nunavut Agreement* and *NuPPAA*. The Standard Impact Statement 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.

In the developing the *Revised Draft* Standard Impact Statement Guidelines, the NIRB consulted with parties both within and outside of Nunavut, including proponents and consultants, Designated Inuit Organizations (DIOs), government and other intervenors, and select communities within Nunavut. The NIRB further engaged with ERM Consulting to undertake a jurisdictional review and conduct interviews with relevant parties to develop sections specific to cumulative impacts and climate change.

The Standard Impact Statement Guidelines are intended to be an evergreen document that is periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the evolving information requirements of a comprehensive impact assessment. With consideration to feedback received, the NIRB focused edits on clear and consistent use of terminology and requirements. As significant revisions have been made to some sections of the *Revised Draft* Standard Impact Statement Guidelines to reflect

the feedback received as well as project specific processes, the NIRB is requesting feedback specific to the following sections on the adequacy and clarity of direction:

- Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Public Engagement (Sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.2)
- Socio-economic impact assessment (Sections 4.5.2)
- Baseline development (Section 4.4.4)
- Impact assessment of individual valued components as well as collective impacts (Section 4.4.5)
- Climate change (Section 4.4.5.3)
- Cumulative impacts (Section 4.4.5.4)
- Transboundary Impacts and Impacts to Indigenous Groups Asserting s. 35 Rights (Section 4.4.5.5)
- Significance determination (Section 4.4.5.7)

The time and effort taken, and knowledge shared to inform the development of Standard Impact Statement Guidelines is much appreciated. The NIRB would further like to thank the consultants from ERM for their work in developing and reviewing sections for the *Revised Draft* Standard Impact Statement Guidelines, including their previous work planning, facilitating, and following up on earlier in-person consultations.

Please submit all comments regarding the *Revised Draft* 2024 Standard Impact Statement Guidelines to the NIRB by **June 3, 2024**, though regular mail, fax, or email:

Attn: Robbin R.R. Sinclair, Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360, 29 Mitik St.
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
Fax: 1-867-983-2594 Email: info@nirb.ca

The NIRB looks forward to working with all interested parties to consider the comments, revisions, and recommendations received, with a view to finalizing and implementing the Standard Impact Statement Guidelines. All comments received will be posted online to the NIRB's Public Registry. The following format is recommended for written comment submissions to enable the NIRB to effectively address and respond to comments, revisions, or recommendations provided by interested parties on the draft documents:

Comment Number:	Each specific comment, revision, or recommendation should be numbered to allow for effective cross-referencing of the submission.
Subject:	Identify the general subject or topic associated with the comment, revision, or recommendation.
Reference:	Provide a clear reference to the applicable document, section, and/or page number where the text associated with comment, revision or recommendation may be found.
Priority:	Identify the relative importance of the comment, revision, or recommendation to you/your organization/agency.
Background/Rationale:	Provide background information and any rationale supporting the comment, revision, or recommendation.
Recommendation to Address Issues:	If possible, provide recommendations regarding the best means of addressing the issue(s) identified, including, but not limited to, providing suggested changes to the text of the draft, identifying additions or deletions required, and discussing whether the NIRB should address the issue(s) outside the current draft document.

All information related to the NIRB's development of Standard Impact Statement Guidelines can be accessed from the NIRB's website at www.nirb.ca/rules-of-procedure.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's process for developing Standard Impact Statement Guidelines, please contact Heather Rasmussen, Senior Policy Advisor, at (867) 983-4606 or hrasmussen@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Robbin R.R. Sinclair
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosed: *Revised Draft Impact Statement Guidelines*