



NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

Guide to Terminology and Definitions

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Authorization	Any approval, permit, license, lease, certificate, or other written communication that is required to allow a project or a component of a project to proceed.
Authorizing Agency (AA)	Any government agency, Designated Inuit Organization (DIO) or any other body that has the authority to issue a permit, lease, license or grant approval to a Proponent to conduct some physical work or physical activity in relation to a project proposal. These authorizations may trigger the NIRB screening process.
Best Environmental practices	The application of the most appropriate combination of measures, including the most economically feasible, the best available technology, and the best scientific information available, to all stages of the project for the goal of attaining sustainable development.
Board	The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), established as an institution of public government under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).
Bulk Storage of Fuel (Schedule 12-1[3])	Storage of fuel for resupply or resale but does not include individual residential or commercial users storing less than 80,000L
Cumulative Environmental Assessment (CEA)	The assessment of impacts on the biophysical and socio-economic environment that results from the incremental effects of a development when added to other past, present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Developments, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other developments. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.
Designated Inuit Organization (DIO)	The Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), or in respect of a function under the NLCA, any of the organizations that has been designated under NLCA, Section 39.1.3 as responsible for that function the Regional Inuit Association (RIA) (Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kivalliq Inuit Association and Qikiqtani Inuit Association).
Distribution List	A list compiled, on a project-by-project basis, to which information and correspondence is forwarded relating to any developments in the process of a specific project proposal application.
Document	Includes anything in printed form, and telecommunication or electronic transmission capable of being reduced to a printed format, and video or audiotapes.
Ecosystem	A community of living (biotic) organisms interacting with each other and with non-living (abiotic) support elements, such as solar energy, air, water and soil.
Ecosystemic	Relating to the complex of a natural community of living organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature.
Elder	Any member of the community recognized as such in accordance with local culture, customs and traditions or someone recognized for their experience in Inuit culture, customs and knowledge.

Environment	The components of the Earth including (a) land, water and air, including all layers of the atmosphere; (b) all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms; and (c) the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in (a) and (b). It also includes the complex web of inter-relationships between biotic and abiotic components which sustain all life on earth, including the social/health aspects of human group existence.
Environmental Effect	<p>Any positive or negative change in the biophysical and/or socio-economic environment caused by, or directly related to, a former, ongoing or proposed activity. There are 3 types of effects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct Effects - refer to changes in the environmental components that result from direct cause-effect consequences of interactions between the project activities and the environment. 2. Indirect Effects - result from cause-effect consequences of interactions between the environment and direct impacts. For example, the effect of pollution may not only be seen directly in the loss of local vegetation, but indirectly as a degradation of the health, culture and social structure of the local people. 3. Cumulative Effects - refer to the accumulation of changes to the environment caused by human activities (e.g. past, existing and proposed activities, including activities associated with the project under assessment). These changes occur over space and time and can be brought about by environmental effects that are additive or interactive. For example hunting, oil spills, and loss of habitat, commercial fishing pressure on prey species, can affect marine mammals in the Arctic.
Environmental Assessment (EA)	<p>Any of the following definitions could apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The identification, description, assessment, and mitigation of the direct and indirect effects on: human beings, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape; the interaction of these factors; and on material assets, and the cultural heritage. b) A process for identifying, predicting, evaluating, and mitigating the relevant effects of proposed projects and physical activities prior to major decisions and commitments being made. c) A tool to use in integrated planning of development proposals, policies and programs. d) An activity designed to identify, predict, interpret and communicate information about impacts and mitigation measures of a proposed activities on human health and the well being of the ecosystem
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	Termed “Impact Statement” under the NLCA, an EIS refers to a documented assessment of the environmental and socio-economic consequences and recommended mitigative actions of any project proposal expected to have significant environmental consequences, which is prepared by the Proponent.
Hearing	Includes a hearing on an application, the hearing of a motion, a pre-hearing conference, or a written hearing.

<p>Industrial Activity (Schedule 12-1[3])</p>	<p>Industrial activity: activities whose aim is the manufacture, assembly or processing of goods or commodities or the exploitation of natural resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This includes the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Land farms b. Manufacturing plant (steel, metal or chemical) c. Recycling Depot d. Hazardous waste or chemical storage or use e. Quarries – the initial development or the expansion of an existing quarry and the disestablishment thereof where the same was not included as part of the initial screening f. Explosives storage g. Tanneries h. Meat and fish production facilities (establishment or change in operation) i. Exploration, bulk sampling, mining and all associated mining activities 2. This excludes the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All institutional activities b. The following commercial activities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Building supply centre ii. Animal hospital iii. Custom workshop iv. Construction equipment yard v. Heavy equipment sales and rentals vi. Automotive commercial garage vii. Extraction from existing quarries viii. Home occupations – meaning any occupation, trade, profession, personal service, day care or craft carried on by an occupant of a residential building as a use secondary to the residential use of the building
<p>Information Request (IR)</p>	<p>A written request for information or particulars made by the Board, or from one party to another.</p>
<p>Intervener</p>	<p>Any interested party intending to participate in a Board hearing and to play a role regarding any issues raised by the application, either by questioning other Parties or by bringing forward their own evidence.</p>
<p>Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ)</p>	<p>Guiding principles of Inuit social values including: respecting other, relationships, and caring for people; development of skills through practice, effort and action; working together for a common cause; fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming, and inclusive; serving and providing for family and/or community; decision making through discussion and consensus; being innovative and resourceful; and respect and care for the land, animals and the environment.</p>

Minister	Unless otherwise specified, means the federal or territorial Minister having the jurisdictional responsibility for authorizing a project to proceed; however, the Government of Canada and Territorial Government may, within their respective jurisdictions, designate a single Minister to be responsible for NIRB and to perform all functions assigned to the Minister.
Mitigation	The actions taken including design, construction, schedule, and restorative measures, to control, reduce or eliminate a potential adverse environmental effects of a proposed activity or project.
Monitoring	The systematic observation or tracking of an activity to determine whether it is proceeding or functioning as expected. Through monitoring, the accuracy of environmental impact predictions is assessed. A number of different monitoring activities are identified below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effects monitoring is the process of measuring and interpreting changes to environmental and socio-economic parameters to identify relevant project effects, and may involve assessing the accuracy of impact predictions contained in the project impact statements; 2. Compliance monitoring is the process of determining whether and to what extent the land or resource use in question is carried out according to regulatory requirements, including terms and conditions contained in NIRB project certificates.
Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA)	Please refer to Article 3 in the NLCA and the map attached in Guide 1 – The Nunavut Impact Review Board.
Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)	The land claims agreement signed on May 25, 1993, between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Queen in Right of Canada, based on and reflecting the following objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to provide for certainty and clarity of rights to ownership and use of lands and resources, and of rights for Inuit to participate in decision-making concerning the use, management and conservation of land, water and resources, including the offshore; b) to provide Inuit with wildlife harvesting rights and rights to participate in decision making concerning wildlife harvesting; c) to provide Inuit with financial compensation and means of participating in economic opportunities; and d) to encourage self-reliance and the cultural and social well-being of Inuit.
Party	The applicant or Proponent involved in the review process, and includes any DIO's, Interveners, or the Public.
Precautionary Principle	If there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental and/or socio-economic degradation.

Project Certificate	Refers to a certificate of approval issued by NIRB pursuant to Sections 12.5.12 and 12.6.17 of the NLCA. Such a certificate authorizes a project, or a component of a project to proceed and contains specific terms and conditions which must be implemented.
Project Description	Refers to one of the required elements of a project proposal that all aspects of the planning, designing, construction, operation, ongoing restoration activities, decommissioning, and post-decommissioning phases of a project proposal.
Project Proposal	This definition in the NLCA applies to any physical work that a Proponent proposes to construct, operate, modify, decommission, abandon or otherwise carry out, or a physical activity that a Proponent proposes to undertake or otherwise carry out, such work or activity being within the NSA.
Proponent	In respect of a project proposal, means the person, body or government authority that proposes the project.
Public	Any potentially affected person in potentially affected communities, which includes individual members of an affected community, as well as organized community interest groups.
Public Registry	The place where records are kept, which are accessible to the public. NIRB maintains hardcopies of records in the Cambridge Bay, NU office, and also electronic records on an ftp site (http://ftp.nirb.ca/)
Reasonably Forseeable Future Developments	Those future projects or activities which are currently under regulatory review or will be submitted for regulatory review in the near future, as determined by the existence of a proposed project description, letter of intent, or any regulatory application filed with an Authorizing Agency.
Regulation	Includes an order, regulation, order in council, order prescribing regulations, rule, rule of court, form, tariff of costs or fees, letters patent, commission, warrant proclamation, by-law, resolution or other instrument issued, made or established in the execution of a power conferred by or under the authority of a statute, or by or under the authority of the Governor in Council or Commissioner-in-Executive Council.
Screening	An evaluation of a project proposal conducted to determine if a review is required and, if so, what type of review is required (Part 5 or Part 6).

Scoping	A process that begins early in the environmental assessment, involving all affected Parties that pinpoints significant issues warranting study and analysis. An activity which aims to identify those components of the biophysical and social environment which may be impacted by the project and for which there is public and/ or professional concern. These components will then become the focus of the ensuing investigations.
Significant	Significance is a consideration of the context of the project and the intensity of adverse effects, by giving particular regard to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the environmental sensitivity of the geographic area likely to be affected by the project; b. the historical, cultural and archeological significance of the geographic area likely to be affected by the project; c. the extent of the effects of the project, including the geographical area that will be affected, the size of the affected human populations, and the size of the affected wildlife populations and related habitat; d. the extent of the effects of the project on other regional human populations and wildlife populations, including the extent of the effects on Inuit Harvesting activities; e. the magnitude and complexity of adverse effects; f. the probability of adverse effects occurring; g. the frequency and duration of adverse effects; h. the reversibility or irreversibility of adverse effects; i. the potential for cumulative adverse effects given past, present and future relevant events; and j. any other factors NIRB considers relevant to assessing significance.
Socio-Economic Effects	Refers to any of a variety of social and economic effects, including impacts upon the local economy, health, demographics, traditional way of life, cultural well-being, social life, archaeological resources, existing services and infrastructure, and local and regional government organizations.
Standing	Refers to a party's right to make a legal claim or seek judicial enforcement of a duty or right.
Sustainable Development	Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
Traditional Knowledge (TK)	Cumulative body of knowledge, practice and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission. Specific Inuit Traditional Knowledge is referred to as Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.
Transboundary Impacts	Environmental effects / impacts which occur across provincial, territorial, or international boundaries.
Translation	Written communication transcribed from one language to another. Translation may include Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, other Inuit dialects, Canadian official languages, or any other languages deemed relevant for the purposes of the Board.

Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)	Those aspects of the environment considered to be of vital importance to a particular region or community, including: a) Resources that are either legally, politically, publicly or professionally recognized as important, such as parks, land selections, and historical sites. b) Resources that have ecological importance. c) Resources that have social importance.
Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs)	Those aspects of the socio-economic environment considered to be of vital importance to a particular region or community, including components relating to the local economy, health, demographics, traditional way of life, cultural well-being, social life, archaeological resources, existing services and infrastructure, and community and local government organizations.