

Upon receipt of an application requiring screening, the NIRB's administrative procedures require a preliminary completeness check to be conducted by the Board's Technical Services department. It is through this process that the NIRB determines whether its minimum information requirements have been satisfied², and verifies the status of the land tenure³ and the authorizations required for the project proposal in question. While it is essential that the NIRB determine which authorizing agencies it will be required to ultimately report its screening recommendations to, if the Board is not in receipt of all permit/licence applications associated with required authorizations it does not necessarily delay screening the project proposal. At all times the NIRB's minimum information requirements include a positive conformity determination from NPC (if required), a formal indication from an authorizing agency that the application is being considered (i.e. a referral for screening), and completed NIRB Forms or equivalent.

For the INAC application (N2011C0012) associated with this particular screening, the NIRB was aware that an authorization from INAC would be required as this had been identified by the Proponent in its completed NIRB Part 1 Form and verified by NIRB technical staff through the process outlined above. Upon distributing notice of screening to the public, it is NIRB's practice to carbon-copy the potential authorizing agencies in the "cc" line at the bottom of the letter, which was also done for this screening. Once the Board has reached a decision for this file it will report its recommendations to all of the authorizing agencies that have been identified, including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The NIRB appreciates the continued participation of INAC's Environment division in the Board's assessment processes. If you have any questions or require additional clarification regarding the NIRB's procedures or best practices, please contact the undersigned directly.

Sincerely,



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cc: Margaux Brisco, INAC
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Enclosed: INAC Comment Submission to NIRB Re 11EN018 (May 6, 2011)

² Generally this includes submission of completed NIRB forms and associated translated materials

³ Internal GIS assessment and NIRB Project Location Report completed by Manager, Information Services