



**NIRB File No.: 17XN011**

March 5, 2018

To: Grays Bay Road and Port Screening Distribution List  
Kitikmeot Distribution List

Re: **Draft Scope and Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Government of Nunavut's "Grays Bay Road and Port" Project Proposal**

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Dear Parties:

On January 29, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) distributed correspondence noting receipt of the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs' determination that the Grays Bay Road and Port project proposed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Government of Nunavut shall be subject to review by the NIRB pursuant to section 94(1)(a)(iv) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). With the release of the correspondence, the NIRB commenced the review of the Grays Bay Road and Port Project proposal and released the *Draft Scope List* (English) for information only.

The objective of this correspondence is to provide the *Draft Scope List* (translated), the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines* (English), and the Summary of the *Draft EIS Guidelines* (translated) for review and public comment. The Summary of the *Draft EIS Guidelines*, which includes the *Draft Scope List*, has been translated into Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French to provide the public with an opportunity to provide comments and to ensure that the information requirements for the EIS reflect the Proponent's proposed Project. The Summary of the *Draft EIS Guidelines* will be used during the public scoping and guideline consultation sessions throughout the Kitikmeot Region and in the Northwest Territories to solicit comments on the *Draft EIS Guidelines*.

All information pertaining to the NIRB's Review of this project proposal including the correspondence from the responsible Ministers can be accessed online from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Grays Bay Road and Port
- NIRB File No.: 17XN011
- Application No.: 125069

## DRAFT SCOPE LIST

The requirements of the NIRB's Review process are defined by the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and the *NuPPAA*. As per s. 99(1)(a) and (b) of the *NuPPAA*, the first step in the Review process requires that the Board determine the **scope of the project** proposal, as well as the **scope of the assessment**.

The **scope of the project** shall be defined in relation to the project proposal received by the NIRB from the Proponent, and must include any work or activity identified in the project proposal, as well as any other work or activity that the Board considers sufficiently related to the project. The Board may also exclude any work or activity from the scope that it considers insufficiently related to the project. If the NIRB determines that an inclusion or exclusion to scope of the project should be made, the Board may only do so following consultation with the proponent and after considering any comments the Proponent may provide. Should the Board make an inclusion to the scope of the project, it must not proceed with its review until the Nunavut Planning Commission and responsible Ministers have had opportunity to again exercise their powers and perform their duties or functions in relation to the entire project.

The **scope of the assessment** determines the expectations of the process based on significant issues related to the proposed project, defining the components of the biophysical and/or socio-economic environment that could be impacted by the Project and for which there is public concern. This scope confirms which valued ecosystemic and socio-economic components must be considered to determine the potential for impacts associated with the project proposal through all planned project stages of the development, and which the Proponent will be required to examine within its Environmental Impact Statement.

Based on the proposed Grays Bay Road and Port project description as referred to the NIRB for screening on January 20, 2017, the direction received from the responsible Ministers, and the requirements of the *Nunavut Agreement* and the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has developed the enclosed *Draft Scope List* translated into Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French (**Appendix A**).

By copy of this letter, the NIRB requests that responsible authorities, parties with jurisdictional responsibility for aspects of the proposed Project and other interested parties review the enclosed *Draft Scope List*. The NIRB is soliciting input regarding whether the listing and description of project components and activities as outlined in the *Draft Scope List* of the Project is accurate or whether there are any specific inclusions or exclusions that should be considered. The Board also invites interested parties to comment on the *Draft Scope List* of the NIRB's Review, with the objective of ensuring all pertinent points will be addressed through the Board's assessment. Comments are requested to be provided to the Board for consideration on or before **May 4, 2018**.

## EIS GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION

Section 12.5.2 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 101(1) of the *NuPPAA* directs the NIRB to issue Guidelines to the Proponent in respect of the preparation of a statement of the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of the project (*an Environmental Impact Statement [EIS]*). An EIS is a detailed document prepared by the Proponent in accordance with the EIS Guidelines issued by

the NIRB, which identifies, predicts, evaluates, and communicates information about the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of a project proposal. An EIS also provides for the identification and development of mitigation measures – those provisions or measures, which are designed to control, reduce, or eliminate potentially adverse impacts of an activity or the project.

The NIRB will draw on information obtained during the scoping of this Project in the development of the EIS Guidelines, and will also offer opportunity for public comment (*both* written and oral) into their development. At the completion of this iterative process, the NIRB will issue the EIS Guidelines to the Proponent for its preparation of an EIS for the Project.

Section 12.5.2 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 101(3) of the *NuPPAA* contain a list of information to be included within an EIS and grants the NIRB authority to add, “any other type of information relating to a matter within the Board’s jurisdiction that the Board considers relevant in the circumstances.”

The NIRB has prepared the attached *Draft* Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (*Draft* EIS Guidelines) for the Grays Bay Road and Port project based on the requirements of the *Nunavut Agreement* and the *NuPPAA* (see **Appendix B**). In addition, the NIRB has prepared a Summary of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines translated into all languages (see **Appendix C**) to support consultations and provide background to participants who wish to provide comments on the *Draft* EIS Guidelines at this early point in the process.

As with the *Draft* Scope List, the NIRB requests that responsible authorities, parties with jurisdictional responsibility for aspects of the proposed Project and other interested parties review the enclosed *Draft* EIS Guidelines, along with the Summary of the *Draft* EIS Guidelines, and provide comments and/or suggested revisions to the Board for consideration on or before **May 4, 2018**.

#### PUBLIC SCOPING SESSIONS

The NIRB’s Review process requires the development of a public participation and awareness program intended to initiate engagement with the public early in the assessment and to facilitate meaningful consultation throughout the Review with those communities, groups, and individuals potentially affected by the Grays Bay Road and Port proposal. The NIRB has scheduled public scoping and guideline consultation sessions throughout the Kitikmeot Region and in the Northwest Territories to consult with the public and interested parties in person regarding the scope of the Project and the scope of the assessment, with a focus on confirming which Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) and Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs) should be used as the basis for the assessment (see schedule below). In addition, the NIRB will be soliciting oral comments on the *Draft* EIS Guidelines to ensure that those aspects of the guidelines which are likely to be (or that have been identified) as “core issues” by Indigenous participants are sufficiently detailed.

COMMUNITY	DATE
<b>Kitikmeot Region, Nunavut</b>	
Gjoa Haven	March 19-20, 2018
Kugaaruk	March 21-22, 2018
Taloyoak	March 23-24, 2018
Cambridge Bay	March 26-27, 2018
Kugluktuk	March 28-29, 2018
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	
Yellowknife	April 9-10, 2018
Inuvik	April 12-13, 2018

The public sessions will be designed to enable potentially impacted communities to participate directly in the NIRB's process, and will attempt to meet the following objectives:

- Inform the public of the proposed Grays Bay Road and Port Project under Review;
- Explain the steps of the NIRB's Review process, including how members of the public can become involved and effectively participate;
- Work with members of the public to identify VECs and VSECs that should be considered in the NIRB's Review of the Project;
- Work with members of the public to collect oral comments; and
- Work with members of the public to identify information requirements and issues of particular relevance to the community and the public potentially affected by the Project.

#### NEXT STEPS

The next steps in the NIRB's Review of the proposed Grays Bay Road and Port Project have been outlined as follows for the information of parties:

- Community Tour in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories in order to solicit oral comments, March 19-29 and April 9-13, 2018.
- Submission of written comments on the *Draft* Scope List by interested parties on or before **Friday May 4, 2018**.
- Submission of comments on the *Draft* EIS Guidelines by interested parties on or before **Friday May 4, 2018**
- After considering all comments and making decisions regarding their suitability, the NIRB will issue the *Final* Scope List and the *Revised Draft* EIS Guidelines for information only on or before **Friday, May 19, 2018**.
- The NIRB will issue the *Revised Draft* EIS Guidelines for public comment and parties will be given **30 days** for submission of additional comments.

The NIRB requests that all interested parties submit their comment submissions to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) on or before **Friday May 4, 2018**.

If you have any questions regarding the NIRB's Review of the Grays Bay Road and Port, please contact the Keith Morrison at [kmorrison@nirb.ca](mailto:kmorrison@nirb.ca) or by phone at (867) 983-4617.

Sincerely,



Kelli Gillard  
A/Director, Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Paul Emingak, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Jim Stevens, Government of Nunavut  
Erica Bonhomme, Nunami Stantec

Attachments: Appendix A: *Draft* Scope List for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project Proposal (English, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French)  
Appendix B: *Draft* Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project Proposal (English)  
Appendix C: Summary of *Draft* Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project Proposal (English, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and French)

Enclosure (1): Process Map for NIRB's Review of the Grays Bay Road and Port project proposal