



Nunavut Planning Commission Final Hearing

Iqaluit, NU

March 2017





NIRB Mandate and Expertise

- The Nunavut Impact Review Board is established in Articles 10 and 12 of the Nunavut Agreement
- Part of integrated resource management process envisioned by the Nunavut Agreement
- NIRB's impact assessment process may only commence following NPC's land use conformity process
- NIRB's mandate: conduct pre-development impact assessment, gauge project-specific ecosystem and socioeconomic impacts, and monitor the effects of approved projects





NIRB Mandate and Expertise

- NIRB supports development of a Nunavut wide plan
 - Land use planning issues remain unaddressed in significant areas of Nunavut that do not have a Land Use Plan in place, and
 - Outdated plans also leave issues outstanding and beyond NIRB's mandate to address through a project-specific impact assessment
- The NIRB continues to provide notice to parties and the NPC where issues raised would be more appropriately addressed through regional land use planning.
- The feedback provided in this submission is developed from the NIRB's experience in this regard specifically:
 - Issues identified through many project-specific impact assessments in areas with and without approved land use plans, as well as
 - Items related more directly to the June 2016 draft of the Nunavut Land Use Plan.



2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan - General Comments

- NIRB has encountered challenges with clearly defining project-specific impacts where:
 - The acceptability of the project type and land uses are unclear,
 - No authoritative definition of important land use areas, and
 - Unduly strains capacity of all agencies involved in impact assessment process to handle issues that should be determined prior to the initiation of an environmental assessment.
 - Broader issues remain unclear such as acceptability of uranium, nuclear power, transportation corridors, oil and gas development, and development in caribou calving grounds and should be applied regional or territorial-wide.
- Therefore the NIRB is supportive of the NPC's efforts to establish a Nunavut-wide land use plan as well as to further revise such a plan following approval, to ensure it remains current and effective.



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2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan - Consistency with Policy Context

- Clarity required where management strategies have changed significantly between the previously approved regional plans and the current 2016 DNLUP

(Reference issued NIRB Final Written Submission
Sections 3.4 –*Polar Bear Denning*, 3.5-*Ice Floe Edges*
and 3.11- *paleontological resources below*)



2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan - Quality of Planning Process

- No issues remain outstanding from previous submissions.



2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan - Incorporation of Input in Planning

- NIRB has identified challenges related to co-management of Heritage Rivers and watersheds, where rivers are completing the nomination process or co-managed by transboundary jurisdictions.



(Reference 3.6 – *transboundary* (Great Bear Lake), 3.7-*heritage rivers*, and 3.12 *incorporating community comments*)



2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan - Overall Balance of Issues

- Where developments that may limit the explicate value or viability of another resource, positive conformity determinations should provide additional direction on operational restrictions or development limitations to ensure that the impact assessment is properly informed and focused.

(Reference issue 3.7 – *Heritage Rivers*, 3.8-*mineral potential*, 3.9-*strategic environmental assessment*, and 3.11 – *paleontological resources*)

- [illegible]



2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan - Other

- NIRB's ability to have confidence in impact predictions for caribou has been limited by
 - lack of clear information on caribou population health
 - lack of designated protection for important caribou habitats, and
 - no clear an appropriate limitations or accepted best-management practices for development on these areas
- clear guidance is need through land use planning to address the broader issues of conservation and measures for protection of caribou habitat and development for various project types on a regional scale





2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan – NIRB Recommendations

- 20 Recommendations on issues found within the Draft Nunavut wide Land Use Plan
- Some issues are not as easily demonstrated for the commission through direct review of the Land Use Plan, therefore:
 - The NIRB has focussed its presentation on the demonstration of these issues so that the commission may better understand why they are important to the NIRB and parties to consider in their decisions, and
 - Would ask that the Commission consider the specific recommendations as detailed in the NIRB's final written submission during its deliberations.



THANK YOU

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