



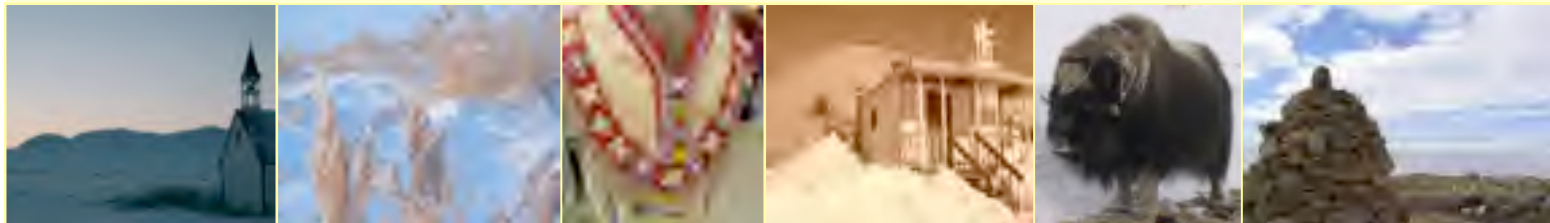
Nunavut Impact Review Board



**Nunavut
Mining
Symposium**

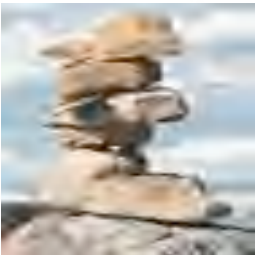
Iqaluit

April 15, 2010



Outline of Presentation

- NIRB's Responsibilities and Primary Objectives
- Value of public participation in EA
- NIRB's public participation objectives
- Public participation facilitated by NIRB
 - Screenings and Reviews
- Challenges and Opportunities





NIRB Responsibilities

- To screen and review project proposals (through impact assessment) for ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts
- To determine whether or not project proposals should proceed, and if so, under what terms and conditions
- To monitor projects that have been approved to proceed.



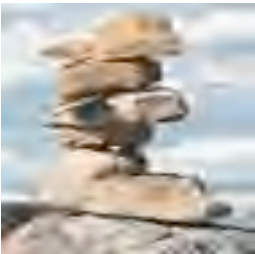
Primary Objectives

‘In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.’

NLCA 12.2.5

Why is public participation so important?

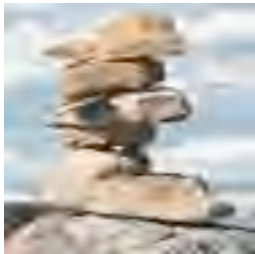
- Public participation is a cornerstone of environmental assessment in Canada.
- Participation of the public is what helps to make EA an effective planning tool
 - Provides EA processes with diversity of expertise, critical thought, credibility, resilience, and a more comprehensive understanding of the range of social and environmental concerns.
- Enables the views of everyone to be heard and influence the outcomes of the environmental decision-making process.
- Results in more balanced decisions which reflect the values and priorities of the public.
 - Primary objectives of NLCA



NIRB's Objectives

“Effective” Public Participation

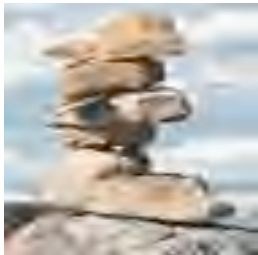
- Facilitate a process which is accessible to Nunavummiut and residents of Canada
- Encourage proponents to consult and engage with community members
- Provide opportunities for meaningful participation by the public at all levels of the process
- Accurately evaluate public concern
- Make objective, balanced decisions





NIRB's Objectives

- Facilitate a process which is accessible to Nunavummiut and residents of Canada
 - Public commenting periods
 - Adequate public notice
 - Community visits
 - Translated materials
 - Toll free phone number
 - Online public registry

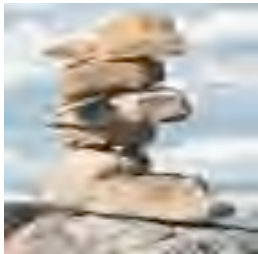
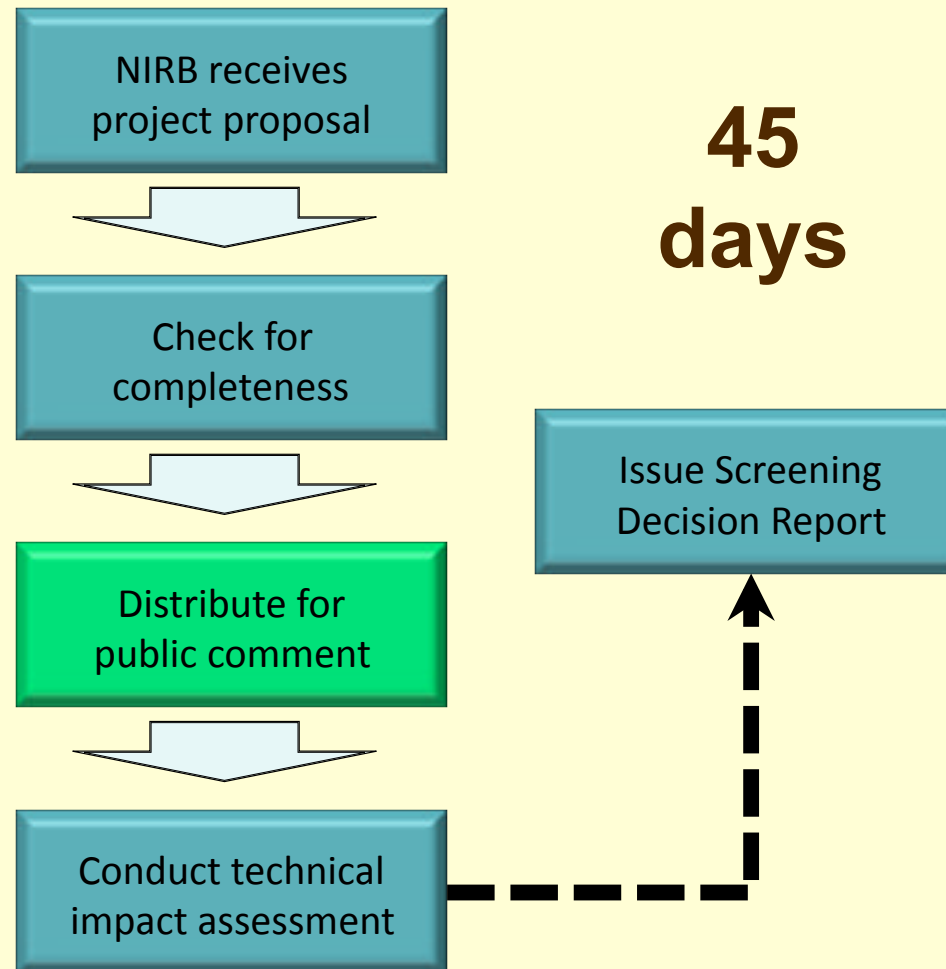


NIRB's Objectives

- Provide opportunities for meaningful participation by the public at all levels of the process
 - Screenings
 - Reviews
 - Monitoring

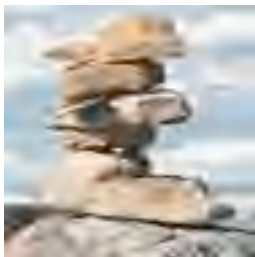


NIRB Screenings

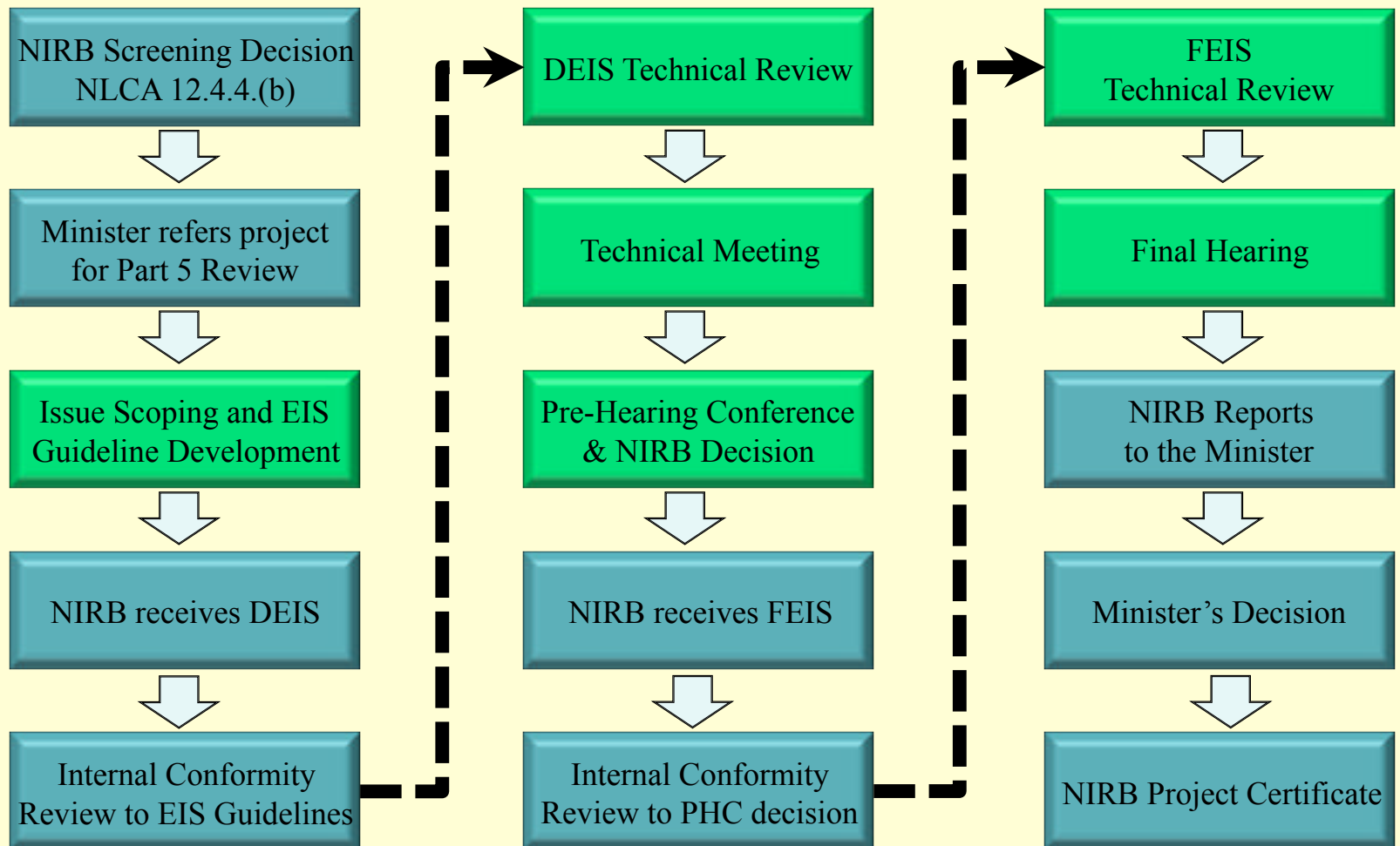


NIRB Screenings

- During the Part 4 screening process, the Proponent is required to provide information regarding its consultation efforts with potentially-affected communities
- These requirements are described on the NIRB Part 1 Form and/or Project-specific information requirement (PSIR)
- NIRB has developed *Guide 6b: A Proponent's Guide to Conducting Public Consultation for the NIRB Environmental Assessment Process*



NIRB Reviews



NIRB Reviews

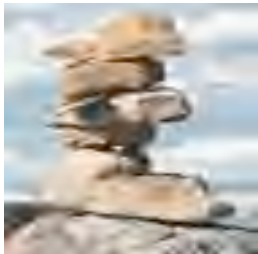
- The NIRB review process involves public hearings, with which the NIRB has an obligation to:
‘Take all necessary steps, by way of notice, dissemination of information, and scheduling and location of hearings to provide and promote public awareness of and participation at hearings.’

NLCA 12.2.27



NIRB Reviews

- Each NIRB review involves developing a public participation program whose focus is to encourage the public to participate in the review process
- Public participation programs may consist of:
 - Dissemination of information
 - Establishment of Participant Funding programs
 - Information sessions in potentially-affected communities
 - Arrangements for community members to attend a community roundtable and public hearings

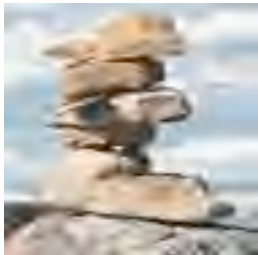


NIRB Reviews

- During the NIRB review process a Proponent is required to, at a minimum, meet the following requirements:

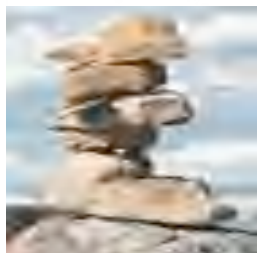
‘Pre-project consultations with locally affected persons must meet or exceed usual consultation practices in Canada. When at all possible, information about the project must be distributed and comments collected with a view to resolving any differences...All comments from the public must be summarized, documented, and presented in the EIS.’

NIRB’s 10 Minimum EIS Requirements



Challenges and Opportunities

- Geographical and technological constraints
- Short (45 day) timeline for NIRB Screenings
- High volume of applications to consider
- There is concern that communities are being 'over-consulted' by proponents and regulators
- High turnover and limited capacity in community organizations
- Difficult to communicate very technical issues





Challenges and Opportunities

- Ongoing initiatives to improve public participation include:
 - Revision of NIRB Guides 1 - 8, NIRB Forms and Comment Forms
 - Creation of a Manager of Communications position
 - Re-launch of NIRB's website
 - Education of the public on technical issues
 - Coordination with other agencies

Summary

NIRB remains committed to promoting effective public participation to ensure the continued delivery of high quality environmental impact assessment

