

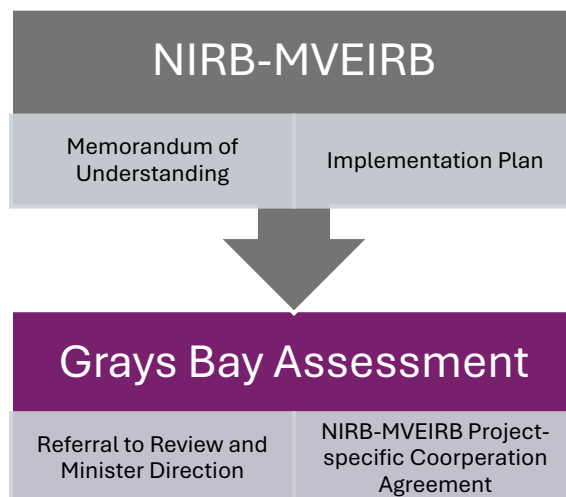
Grays Bay Road and Port Project Proposal

Understanding NIRB's Process and MVEIRB's Role in the Assessment

A. Document Summary and Key Takeaways

The purpose of this document is to describe the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) Review process using terminology and process steps familiar to participants in the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) environmental assessment process. It also provides clarity on MVEIRB's role and participation in the assessment of the Grays Bay Road and Port proposal. This resource has been jointly developed between NIRB and MVEIRB for parties with interests in the Mackenzie Valley to know what to expect from NIRB's process and understand how MVEIRB will be involved. In general:

- NIRB is leading the review, while MVEIRB is participating through a cooperative process to help consider potential transboundary effects and Mackenzie Valley interests. As this is a NIRB-led assessment, MVEIRB's role differs from its decision-making role under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.
- NIRB's process is very similar to MVEIRB's in intent, but there are some key differences in process steps and terminology.



B. Roles and Responsibilities of NIRB and MVEIRB

The environmental impact assessment for the *Grays Bay Road and Port Project* is being conducted through a Review process led by NIRB under its legislative authority (Part 5 of the Nunavut Agreement). As outlined in the [NIRB–MVEIRB Cooperation Plan](#), and as directed by the responsible Minister, MVEIRB is supporting NIRB's Review by contributing to the assessment of potential transboundary and transregional impacts in the Mackenzie Valley. This support is provided for under section 142 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and is intended to complement, not duplicate, NIRB's assessment, while respecting each Board's mandate, procedures, and decision-making responsibilities.

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MVEIRB's role is to participate in the examination of environmental effects of the project in the Mackenzie Valley of the NWT.

MVEIRB staff are collaborating with NIRB staff throughout the review on planning, coordination, and information sharing. MVEIRB will assist NIRB with planning, hosting, and reporting on engagement and assessment activities in the Mackenzie Valley that focus on Mackenzie Valley issues. At key stages, MVEIRB will prepare reports describing its analysis of transboundary impacts, including engagement results and recommended mitigation, monitoring, or follow-up measures. These reports will be provided to NIRB and form part of the information NIRB considers in its deliberations.

NIRB retains responsibility for conducting the review, maintaining the record of evidence, and issuing decisions, while MVEIRB's contributions are intended to ensure that potential impacts in the Mackenzie Valley are thoroughly, transparently, and meaningfully considered.

To accomplish this, MVEIRB:

- staff are working closely with NIRB staff
- will prepare information requests and technical review comments in conjunction with NIRB
- staff will collaborate with NIRB to host the Yellowknife Community Information Session, an in-person meeting to update the communities
- staff will attend NIRB meetings including the Technical Meeting, and Pre-hearing Conference/Community Roundtable
- will prepare a report to submit to NIRB prior to the Final Hearing, summarizing transboundary impacts in the Mackenzie Valley and proposed mitigation MVEIRB finds is necessary to avoid significant adverse impacts

C. General Process Similarities and Differences between NIRB and MVEIRB during Phase 2 of the Review/the Analysis Phase

This phase involves a detailed technical review to better understand the potential impacts of the project. It begins with the proponent submitting its findings (the Impact Statement), followed by various opportunities for communities, experts, and parties to ask questions about evidence, assumptions, analysis, and related matters. The goal is to ensure that the Boards and parties have the information they need going into the hearing.

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The steps for both Boards typically include:

- time to review large technical documents
- written questions about the information provided, to seek clarification or request additional information
- in-person meetings with communities and with technical experts (including Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit and Traditional Knowledge holders)

For easy reference, the table below compares how terms are used in the two processes.

NIRB Term	Equivalent MVEIRB Term
Proponent	Developer
Impact Statement	Developer’s Assessment Report
Conformity Check	Conformity Check
Phase 2 (of the Review)	Analysis Phase
Technical Review Period	Combined Community Sessions, information Requests, Technical Sessions
Information Request	Party comments on conformity
Technical Review Comments	Information Requests
Process Map	Workplan
Community Meetings	Community Meetings
Technical Meeting	Technical Sessions
Pre-hearing conference and Community Roundtable	Community Sessions
	Pre-hearing conference

The table on the following pages describes NIRB’s process steps and compares it to MVEIRB’s.

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<u>NIRB Process Step</u>	<u>Description of NIRB step</u>	<u>Comparison to MVEIRB Process</u>	<u>How will MVEIRB participate in NIRB process</u>
Phase 2 of the Review	This includes receiving the Impact Statement from the proponent, the technical review period, the technical meeting and the pre-hearing conference and community roundtable.	MVEIRB calls this the Analysis Phase. The intent is the same: to gather all the information necessary to fully understand the effects of the project.	MVEIRB staff working closely with NIRB staff, at the direction of both boards, throughout this phase.
Conformity Check	An internal presence/absence check to see if the Impact Statement provides the requirements of the Guidelines. NIRB only posts the document once it has made a positive conformity decision.	MVEIRB also completes an equivalent conformity check. MVEIRB posts the document when it is received, while the conformity check is underway.	NIRB shared the Impact Statement with MVEIRB during NIRBs conformity check.
Technical Review Period: Information Requests	After NIRBs positive conformity decision, parties are provided time to read the document and submit information requests if information is not complete (i.e. missing reference material or parts of an analysis).	In MVEIRBs process, the term <i>information request</i> is generally used at a later stage. MVEIRB may ask parties for input on conformity or provide an opportunity to identify early information gaps.	MVEIRB will draft information requests, in collaboration with NIRB.
Technical Review Period: Community Meetings	NIRB typically holds community meetings to inform communities about the project, the topics discussed in the impact statement, and upcoming process steps. The proponent is not typically present.	MVEIRB also often holds project update meetings shortly after receiving the Developer's Assessment Report early in its analysis phase. The proponent is present and active at these meetings.	MVEIRB and NIRB will collaborate on hosting a Yellowknife community meeting.
Technical Review Period: Technical Review Comments	Parties develop and submit <i>Technical Review Comments</i> seeking clarification or additional detail, and commenting on whether they agree	In MVEIRB's process, similar requests are referred to as <i>information requests</i> , and parties submit them directly to the proponent or other	MVEIRB will draft Technical Review Comments, in collaboration with NIRB.

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	with the proponent's conclusions. NIRB compiles comments, adds their own, and forwards them to the developer. The developer provides written responses to the comments.	parties using an online tool. In some cases, MVEIRB also holds a second round of information requests following community and technical sessions.	
Technical Meeting	This is an in-person meeting of regulators and interested parties with presence of community representatives. It happens just before the pre-hearing conference and community round-table.	MVEIRB holds technical sessions where the developer and parties meet in person with experts on traditional knowledge and western science to discuss the details of issues such as water, caribou, etc.	MVEIRB staff will be present at this meeting.
Pre-hearing Conference and Community Roundtable	NIRBs Pre-hearing Conference includes a Community Round-table. These meetings take place together in a single location over several days and involve representatives from each community. NIRB supports appointed community representatives to attend by covering the cost of travel and per-diems.	In MVEIRB's process, there are separate community sessions and pre-hearing conference. The community sessions happen in potentially affected communities and focus on Traditional Knowledge and community-identified impacts. MVEIRB's pre-hearing conference is typically at the start of the next phase (the hearing phase) and focuses primarily on hearing logistics.	MVEIRB staff will be present at this meeting.
Pre-hearing Conference Report	NIRB issues a Pre-hearing Conference (PHC) Report from the Board, in which NIRB summarizes what it heard during the technical meetings, community roundtable, and parties' responses to pre-hearing conference and community round-table and identifies outstanding issues.	MVEIRB does not have the same procedural step, although it does release reports following any community and technical sessions and many of the logistical details are provided online and at the pre-hearing conference.	For this project NIRB will include a section in the PHC decision related to work completed and expectations of work between NIRB and MVEIRB through the remainder of the process and within the questions noted above.

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D. Phase 2 Process Steps for the Grays Bay Review

Phase 2 process steps for the Gray's Bay Assessment and flow of information, meetings, and general timelines are provided by the NIRB, and will be developed with MVEIRB to specify further details at each step. NIRB direction will describe the work of that step, provide strategic questions to guide parties work, and support transparency on roles and responsibilities for MVEIRB.



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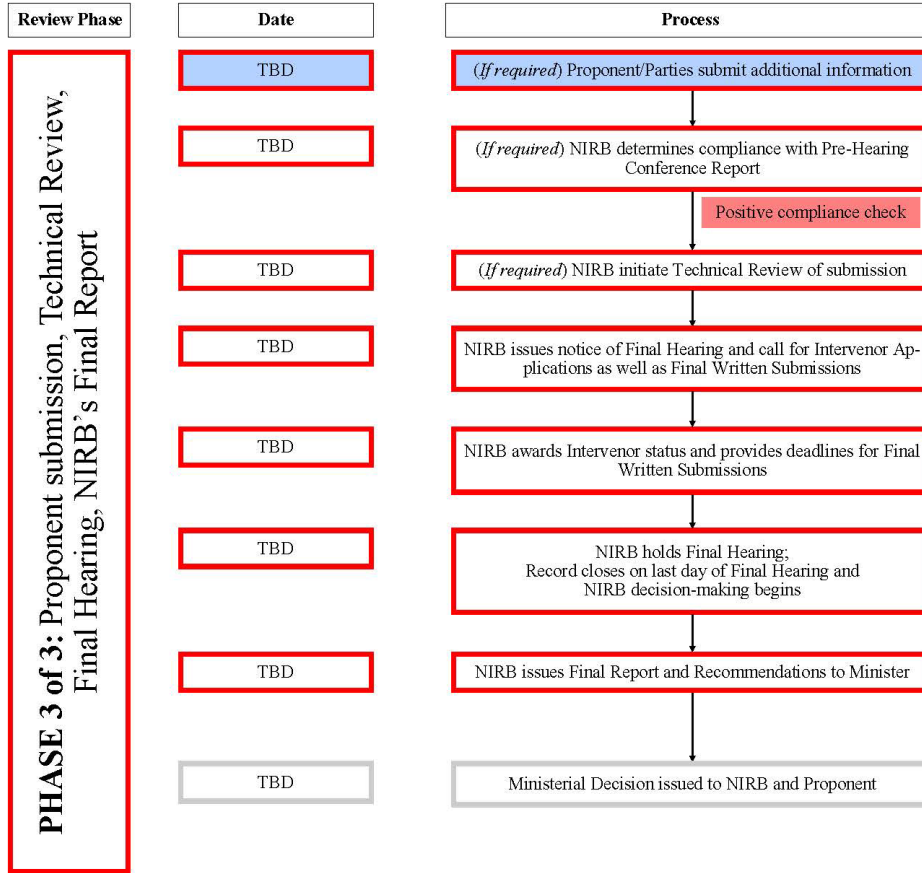
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Date: May 6, 2026



Process Map (Rev 2) for the NIRB's Review of West Kitikmeot Resources Corp.'s
Grays Bay Road and Port Project Proposal (24XN038)

Disclaimer: Timelines may change based on project-specific circumstances and subject to the NIRB's discretion and Proponent and Parties Ability to Maintain Submission Times



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