

August 23, 2022

## Public Review of Guideline for Major Projects to go directly to Environmental Assessment

### Re: Request for comment on the draft Guideline

The Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Review Board) invites you to comment and make recommendations on the draft *Guideline for Major Projects to go Directly to Environmental Assessment*<sup>1</sup> (the draft Guideline).

The draft Guideline describes an optional pathway for developers of major projects to go directly into environmental assessment and outlines the information developers must provide for the Review Board to consider the request. The draft Guideline is directed to developers, but other individuals and organizations are invited to review and provide feedback on the document.

### Review Opportunities

All interested parties are invited to comment using the [Online Review System](#). The deadline for comments is **November 30, 2022**. Review Board staff are available to meet with reviewers and support them in their review of the draft guideline upon request. Review Board staff will also host a workshop for all interested parties to review the content of the guideline and support the review of the document. Details of the workshop will be provided closer to the date.

### Changes from previous draft

The draft Guideline has evolved from the previously released draft and incorporates comments and feedback from a workshop and other review opportunities for interested parties.

The development of this guideline began with a concept workshop in June 2018, where a broad group of people representing Indigenous governments and communities, territorial government, federal government, and industry gathered to discuss the content and purpose of the guideline. After releasing a draft of the guideline in early 2019, Review Board staff held meetings (by request) with any interested groups in January and February 2019. In March,

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<sup>1</sup> formerly called the EA Initiation Guideline

2019, Review Board held two in person workshops, one in Yellowknife and one in Fort Simpson, on the guideline. These meetings and in person workshops gave participants and groups the opportunity to ask questions about and comment on the draft. The Review period for this draft ended on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, when comments on the online review system were due. The Board received over 400 comments from 14 groups.

Based on the feedback received, the Review Board has made several changes to the draft Guideline:

1. The guideline now clearly describes the optional direct pathway to referral, and the information developers need to provide to request referral by the Review Board.
2. There is an increased emphasis on relationship building through early engagement and collaborative project planning.
3. The content of the guideline focuses on objectives and desired outcomes, rather than listing detailed requirements that may not apply to some projects.

## **Contact Information**

For questions or more information on this draft Guideline, please contact Catherine Fairbairn (867-766-7054, [cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca](mailto:cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca)).