



Nunavut Economic Developers Association

Presentation on the Socio-Economic Impacts of Major Developments on Communities

Nunavut Economic Forum
Annual General Meeting

May 30 to June 1, 2006



NIRB

- The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) established July 09, 1996 as an institution of public government, under the NLCA is responsible for the environmental assessment of major project developments in Nunavut
- Their mandate is to use both traditional knowledge and western scientific methods in an ecosystem analysis to assess and monitor on a site specific and regional basis the environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts of the projects to determine if they should proceed, and if so, under what conditions.
- the integrity and protection of the ecosystem of the Nunavut Settlement Area promote the future and well-being of the residents of Nunavut is a primary focus.



NIRB - Functions & Objectives

Functions:

- To screen project proposals to determine whether or not a review is required;
- To gauge and define the extent of a proposed project on a region and/or community(ies);
- To review the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of project proposals;
- To determine, on the basis of its review, whether project proposals should proceed and under what terms and conditions; then report determination to the minister of INAC, and
- To monitor projects in accordance with the provisions of part 7 and article 12 of the NLCA

Objectives :

- To protect and promote the existing and future well being of the residents and communities of Nunavut ;
- To protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area; and
- To take into account the well being of Canadians outside of Nunavut



What is an EA?

Environmental Assessment is a systematic method of identifying potentially adverse environmental, social, cultural, economic and cumulative effects of a proposed project, such as:

- Air Quality
- Archaeology
- Fish
- Land
- Marine Areas
- Marine Mammals
- Traditional Land Use
- People
- Water Quality
- Wildlife

If adverse environmental and/or socio-economic effects are identified, proposal and project plans must be altered so that problems are avoided and minimized.



Communities

- Developments are reviewed at the regional level for creation of Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements as per the NLCA
- Municipalities are not included and often left out on their own regarding the review process.
- Developments can have a negative impact on communities if they do not participate in the research and impact review process.
- Negotiating terms and agreements to reduce or compensate for negative Socio-Economic impacts at the community level, may be possible.



Project cont'd

- Assist the effected hamlets to develop impact and mitigation documents.
 - Facilitate discussion for community representatives to negotiate an agreement in principle with involved mining companies prior to the final review stage of the NIRB process
- *action clearly identified by both communities and the NIRB process in recent Doris North Gold Mine review.



Community Economic Development planning must consider:

- What are the impacts from major projects on the community?
- What are the mitigation measures necessary to enable positive CED activities in the community?
- What are the possible combined cumulative effects from all regional projects?
- How will these cumulative effects affect CED development?
- Who has the responsibility to ensure that mitigation measures have been negotiated, implemented and monitored?

*serious issues that require consideration and action – and now - there are projects in the NIRB process today and opportunities to address these issues are being lost.



EDO Involvement

- Chris King, EDO for Cambridge Bay, wrote a paper on *“Factoring the Socio-Economic Impacts from Mining and Other Major Developments into Community Economic Development Planning,”* highlighting these concerns.
- Tara Fesyk, former EDO for Baker Lake, stated: *“The Hamlet of Baker Lake has requested that Cumberland Resources and the Kivalliq Inuit Association ‘negotiate socioeconomic and infrastructure dealings with the assistance and involvement of the Hamlet... IIBAs are beneficial and important, but do not cover all the issues related to socioeconomics. Additional agreements must be negotiated and signed to mitigate and resolve all of the community’s issues.”*



NEDA Project in 05/06

INAC has supported the NEDA project and provided funding for 2005/06 for:

- Establishment of office, and staffing activities,
- Contracting a consultant to develop process documents for the Advisor to use in working with the community EDOs.
- Travel to Baker Lake to work with the community EDO and Hamlet in reviewing the EIS prepared by Cumberland Resources for the Meadowbank Gold Mine



underway in 06/07

- NEDA Advisor hired in May - Geoff Rigby
- Travel to Vancouver to meet with the consultant, Chris King and attend the Canadian Institute of Mining conference, as well as a UBC mining workshop on "Mining and First Nations in Canada"
- Advisor is currently working with EDO, consultant and Hamlet Council in Pond Inlet on BaffinLand project; Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk on High Lake project and continues to assist Baker Lake with Meadowbank.



Socio-economic Monitoring Program

The collection of consistent, reliable socio-economic data is the key component:

- Baseline data required to benchmark the impacts of mines
- Follow up monitoring for adaptive management and mitigation of impacts
- Community planning for infrastructure, services and programs
- Territorial and regional planning and policy formation
- Inform project environmental review processes (ie NIRB)
- Allow comparison across communities through a core set of indicators



Monitoring Program Criteria

Coordinated data collection, management and storage will save all stakeholders time and resources, and reduce confusion from fragmented efforts.

Core indicators in all communities ensure the ability to compare and assess cumulative changes over time. Additional indicators can be added as and if needed.

An ideal community socio-economic monitoring program would satisfy the following criteria:

- Focus on the goals of community
- Function within current limitations in capacity and resources
- Built-in flexibility for monitoring to expand as capacity increases



Rationale

- Data collection at the community level in the past has been sporadic and sometimes of poor quality
- Territorial data is fragmented by department and has to be consolidated to be meaningful
- Difficult to use current data to address specific concerns in each community
- Improved community monitoring helps test impact predictions from Environmental Impact Statements and improve predictive skill and mitigation measures



Biophysical Monitoring

- The monitoring program's focus is on collecting information on socio-economic issues, not environmental issues
- environmental issues sometimes overlap into socio-economics.
- hunting can be important for food and economic issues, so data would be collected and categorized as "biophysical"
- while EAs are concerned with all populations of caribou regardless of human use, "biophysical" data only considers populations used by Inuit as important



The mining company

- Mining companies already through the EA process have offered to take on varying degrees of socio-economic monitoring
- Coordination with these initiatives to avoid the duplication of effort is critical
 - communities are sensitive to over-consultation
- Details of IIBA's are confidential between the signing parties.
- IIBAs require monitoring, but their focus is regional so may overlap with community monitoring
- Areas of overlap should be identified so information can be shared without disclosing terms of the IIBAs



What will we do now?

begin designing the elements of the monitoring program, including:

- Identify what is important to monitor
- Develop conceptual models and impact pathways
- Develop indicators
- Define a methodology for data collection and storage
- Define a methodology for calculating indicators from data
- Develop a process for analysis and synthesis of the information
- Develop methodologies for reporting the information



The End Result

- Finalize the process documents in a manner that will facilitate their use by other communities as resource development project opportunities arise.
- Produce a workbook for distribution to the community EDOs.
- Workshop session with the EDOs to practice their use will be included at the NEDA Annual General Conference in Jan/Feb 2007



Questions?

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