





*Guide 6*  
PARTICIPATING IN  
EMRIRB SCREENINGS  
EEYOU MARINE REGION IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

# Contents

THIS IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT.

The explanations and definitions are not legal definitions. In case of a discrepancy, the text of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement prevails.

To order copies of the EMRIRB Guides, kindly send a request by email: [info-irb@eeyoumarineregion.ca](mailto:info-irb@eeyoumarineregion.ca)

Note: The abbreviations 'EMRIRB' and 'the Board' are used interchangeably throughout this document in reference to the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board.

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## PROTECTING THE EYYOU MARINE REGION TOGETHER

### EMRIRB: Created to assess the impacts of proposed projects in the EMR

The Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board (EMRIRB) assesses the environmental and socio-economic impacts of proposed projects in the Eeyou Marine Region (EMR) and makes recommendations to Ministers as to whether, and under what terms and conditions, they should be allowed to proceed. Its mission is to protect the EMR ecosystem and safeguard the rights of those who use and reside in it. The EMRIRB works closely with Cree communities, Governments, and stakeholders to screen, review, and monitor proposed projects in the EMR.

The EMRIRB was established in 2013 under the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement (EMRLCA). The EMRLCA created three Institutions of Public Government to manage lands and resources in order to protect the EMR and its communities. The EMRIRB is one of these three institutions, along with the EMR Planning Commission and the EMR Wildlife Board.

All impact assessment in the Joint Zone of the EMR is done jointly with the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board, as is stated in the Agreement Relating to the Cree-Inuit Offshore Overlapping Interests Area (known as the Overlap Agreement).

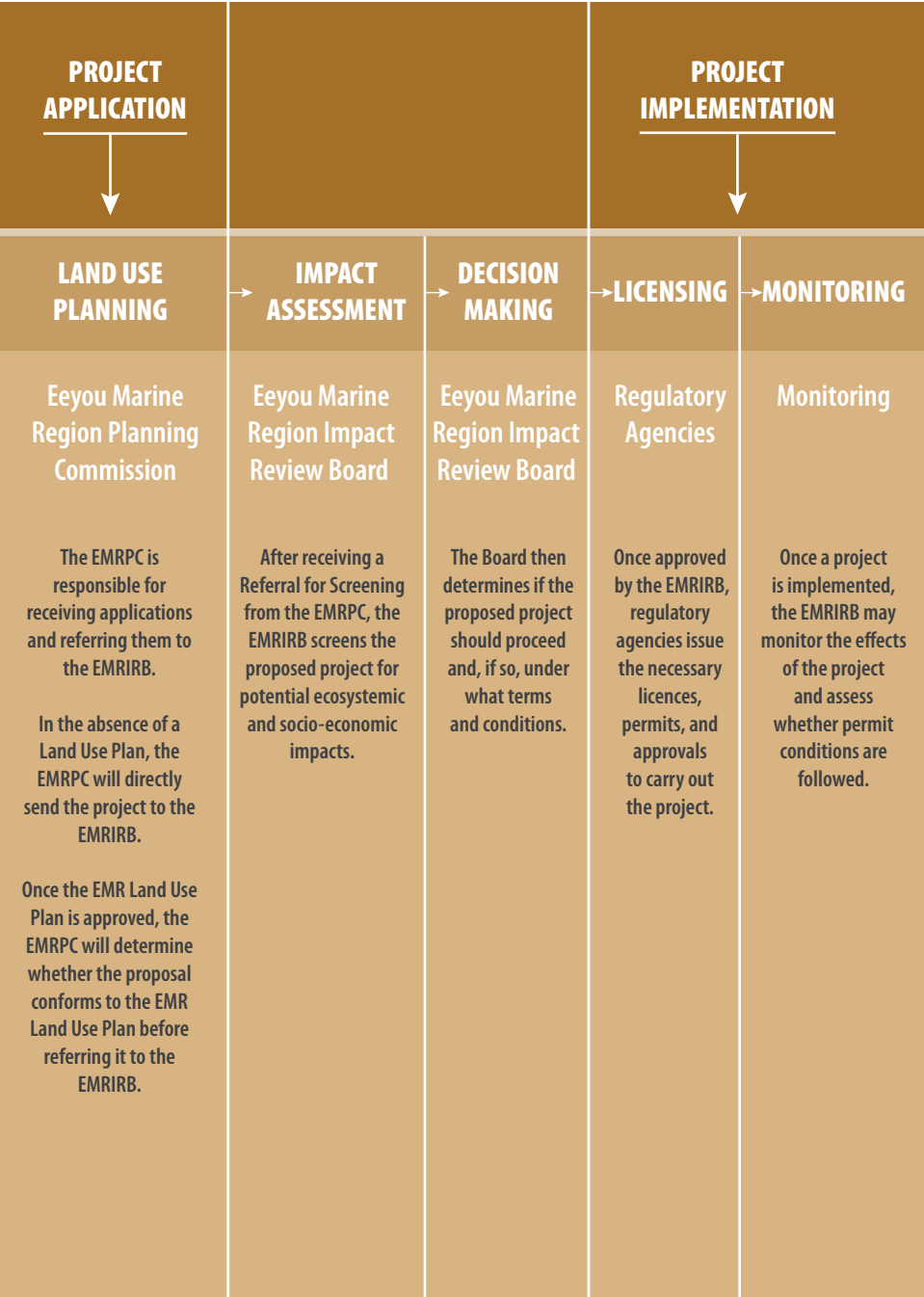
This guide will explain how to get involved in the EMRIRB screenings from start to finish. It will show you how your input can help protect the land, water, and wildlife and promote the health and wellbeing of your family and community for generations to come.



**THE CREES OWN 80% OF THE OFFSHORE LAND MASS IN THE EASTERN HALF OF JAMES BAY AND LOWER HUDSON BAY AND HAVE ACCESS, HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING RIGHTS TO THE REMAINING 20%. ADDITIONALLY, THE CREES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AGREE TO THE REGULATION OF LAND USE, HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE EMR.**

- ✓ **READ ABOUT PROPOSED PROJECTS ON THE EMRIRB'S WEBSITE OR PUBLIC REGISTRY**
- ✓ **FILL OUT A COMMENT FORM ON THE PUBLIC REGISTRY**
- ✓ **ALTERNATIVELY, SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS VIA E-MAIL, PHONE, OR FAX**

FROM PROJECT APPLICATION TO IMPLEMENTATION



The EMRIRB is the institution with the mandate, competence, and credibility to assess, in close collaboration with Cree communities, governments, and stakeholders, the environmental and social impacts of proposed projects in the Eeyou Marine Region.

THE EYYOU MARINE REGION IMPACT REVIEW BOARD'S MISSION

As outlined in Chapter 18 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement, the primary objectives of the EMRIRB are at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents in the Eeyou Marine Region and of the coastal Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee. The EMRIRB is also directed to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the EMR ecosystem through the impact assessment process, as well as to consider the well-being of all residents of Canada outside the EMR.

WHAT IS IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

An impact assessment is a tool used to identify the environmental, social, and economic impacts of a proposed project, allowing for informed decision-making when new development projects are proposed. In the EMR, all projects requiring Government permits or authorizations—including academic, tourism, and development projects—are assessed by the EMRIRB to determine whether they should be allowed to proceed, and if so, under what terms and conditions.

EMRIRB assessments consider the potential eco-systemic impacts (e.g., on the land, air, water, fish, and wildlife) and socio-economic impacts (e.g., on the health and well-being of people and communities) of proposed projects to determine their impact potential. The purpose of this process is to identify ways to reduce negative impacts and to shape projects to benefit the communities of the EMR.



## Aashukan Declaration

In 2017, 16 Indigenous representatives from around the world participated in Aashukan, a two-day Indigenous exchange in Waskaganish. Organized as part of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference in Montreal, its purpose was to find ways to balance development with the protection of Indigenous lands and culture. It produced the following declaration:

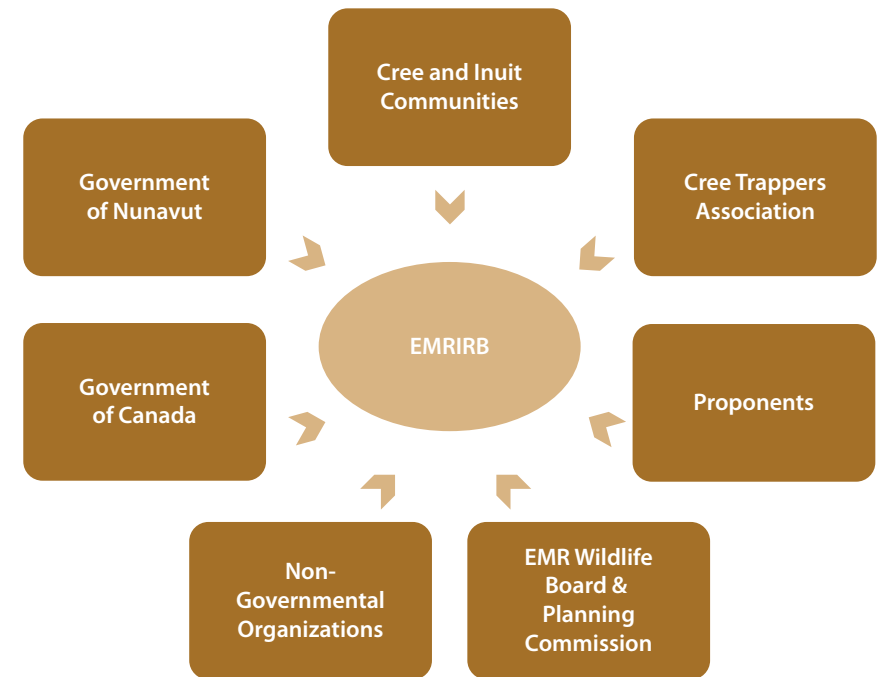
1. Indigenous People's Rights are the foundation upon which all discussions must be initiated.
2. Relationships must have integrity and be based on humility, respect, reciprocity, community empowerment, sharing, mutual learning, and sustained and long-term engagement. Our timelines are based on our values, processes, and social organization, and should be respected.
3. Processes must achieve clear communication, transparent decision making, be inclusive and be founded on the world-view of the Indigenous Peoples that are impacted.
4. Outcomes must be multifaceted and oriented towards mutual benefits, and commitments towards the prevention of harm, and the enhancement of the well-being of Indigenous Peoples based on their own definitions and criteria.

The EMRIRB strives to respect this declaration when it undertakes the impact assessment of project proposals in the EMR.

**"IN DESIGNING ITS BY-LAWS  
AND RULES OF PROCEDURE  
FOR THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC  
HEARINGS, THE EMRIRB  
SHALL GIVE DUE REGARD AND  
WEIGHT TO THE TRADITION OF  
CREE ORAL COMMUNICATION  
AND DECISION-MAKING..."**  
—EMRLCA S. 18.2.27

## EMRIRB GATHERS INPUT FROM ALL

The EMRIRB gathers input from all relevant parties in the impact assessment process, including Proponents, Government, the EMR Wildlife Board and EMR Planning Commission, Regulatory Agencies, regional associations, community organizations, and the public.



The EMRIRB makes a special effort to gather input from the Crees and the Inuit and give due weight to their knowledge of wildlife and the environment. The use of Traditional Knowledge is a guiding principle for the EMRIRB, as Crees and Inuit are the traditional and current users of the EMR's wildlife and other resources and have therefore developed particular knowledge and understanding of the region. For thousands of years, they have lived in their ancestral territories, while developing and innovating knowledge of the land, water, animal behaviour, climate, and local weather patterns, as well as other ecological, cultural, and political processes that ensured a sustainable relationship with the land.

Cree and Inuit knowledge of wildlife and the environment, as well as concerns and ideas on social and economic impacts, are critical to the success of the impact assessment process. To conduct a comprehensive impact assessment that respects the needs of Indigenous groups, this knowledge is indispensable. In the EMR, Cree and Inuit knowledge are essential due to the lack of ecological baseline data and because this knowledge can help us link ecological and social impacts.

## THE EMRIRB NEEDS YOUR INPUT AT EVERY STAGE

### KEY STEPS OF THE EMRIRB SCREENING PROCESS

#### STEP 1

##### PROPONENT SUBMITS PROJCT PROPOSAL TO EMRPC

Project proposals are first submitted to the EMR Planning Commission on the Public Registry to undergo pre-screening. The Planning Commission checks whether the proposal conforms to the approved EMR Land Use Plans and determines if it requires an EMRIRB screening. If so, they forward it to the EMRIRB.

#### STEP 2

##### EMRIRB RECEIVES A PROPOSAL FROM THE EMRPC AND CHECKS IT FOR COMPLETENESS

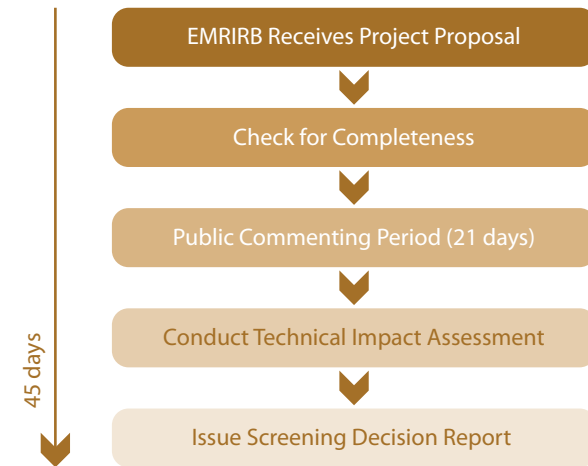
Our staff carefully review the proposal for completeness and request any additional information from the Proponent. Once the EMRIRB has a complete proposal, all information related to the project is made public on the Public Registry and the screening process officially begins. An EMRIRB screening lasts 45 days, 21 days of which are open for public commenting.

#### STEP 3:

##### EMRIRB ISSUES NOTICE AND GATHERS YOUR INPUT

When a project undergoes screening, the EMRIRB gathers written and oral input from the public in order to make a recommendation to the responsible Minister as to whether the project be approved with terms and conditions, proceed to a more extensive EMRIRB review, or be rejected entirely.

### 45-DAY SCREENING TIMELINE



### An EMRIRB screening is your first opportunity to speak out about a proposed project

Every EMRIRB screening has a public commenting period of 21 days. When a screening begins, a public notice is issued to an e-mail distribution list of all EMR communities, government officials, and other interested parties, along with a comment form. You can ask to be added to the list by emailing us at [info-irb@emrird.ca](mailto:info-irb@emrird.ca) with details on what kind of projects you wish to be informed about. Alternatively, you can check our Registry for active project proposals. You may also see flyers in your community which indicate that a project is currently open for public commenting, or you may hear about it through an EMRIRB announcement made on the radio.

USING THE COMMENT FORM BELOW, PROVIDE YOUR INPUT TO THE EMRIRB WHEN A PROJECT IS UNDERGOING SCREENING. YOU MAY ALSO SEE FLYERS SUCH AS THE ONE SHOWN ON THE RIGHT.

#### COMMENT FORM FOR EMRIRB SCREENINGS

The Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board (EMRIRB) has the mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of the Eeyou Marine Region. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, the EMRIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Project Proposal Title: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |
| Proponent: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                 |
| Location: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                 |
| Comments Due By: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | EMRIRB #: _____ |
| <b>Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> no concerns<br><input type="checkbox"/> water quality<br><input type="checkbox"/> terrain<br><input type="checkbox"/> air quality<br><input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat<br><input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat<br><input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat<br><input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat<br><input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area<br><input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cree and/or Inuit harvesting activities<br><input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation<br><input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area<br><input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area<br><input type="checkbox"/> human health issues<br><input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |                 |
| Please describe the concerns indicated above: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 |
| <b>What do you value in the proposed project area? How do you use or interact with the area?</b><br><i>Values may include specific wildlife species/populations, environmental elements (land, air, water), aesthetics, social/cultural values (trapping, way of life), etc.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                 |
| <b>How might those values be affected or impacted by the proposed project, and why?</b><br><i>Explain how you think these values would be affected if the project goes ahead. How would this be different from the way it is now?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |



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 EYYOU MARINE REGION IMPACT REVIEW BOARD  
 COMMISSION DE LA RÉGION MARINE D'EYYOU  
 CHARGÉE DE L'EXAMEN DES RÉPERCUSSIONS  
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The Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future well-being of the residents of the Eeyou Marine Region and the coastal Cree communities. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, the EMRIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

### PROJECT TITLE

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Do you have any concerns or comments about this project?
- Do you have any suggestions or recommendations about this project?

To view the full project application and to submit comments visit: <https://emrpublicregistry.ca>

## How can I submit comments?

### THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE EMRIRB:

- Fill out a comment form on the Public Registry
- Send an email to [info-irb@emrrib.ca](mailto:info-irb@emrrib.ca) with your comments
- Call the EMRIRB at: 819-895-2202

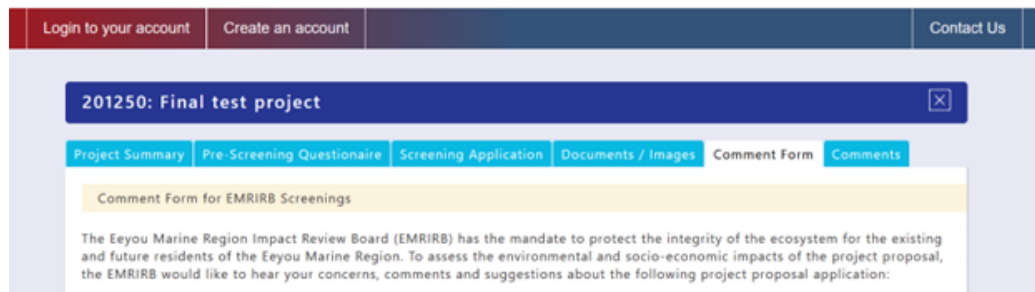
You can submit comments directly through the Public Registry, or indirectly by e-mail, phone, or fax. Comments can be submitted in English, French, Cree, or Inuktitut. Our staff reviews all comments as they come in, requesting additional information from proponents as necessary and giving them the opportunity to respond. All comments made during an assessment are posted to the Registry and can be viewed by the public.

### ONLINE COMMENTING

To submit comments directly through the Public Registry, go to <https://emrpublicregistry.ca>. You do not need to create an account. All you need to do is find the project you are interested in, click the “Comment Form” tab, and fill out that form. At the end of the form, it will ask you to provide an email address. Before submitting the form, it will send a code to verify your email address. You will need to type this code into the form to submit it.



### Eeyou Marine Region Public Registry



When the EMRIRB screens a project proposal to determine if it requires a full review, it must also determine if the project will cause significant public concern. This is determined in part by feedback received during the screening process. An EMRIRB screening looks at the possible impacts of a project on the environment—including the land, wildlife, water, air, and the people.

In order for your comments to be most useful to the EMRIRB, you will need to outline all the eco-systemic and socio-economic values you deem important and explain how these values may be affected by a proposed project. You may also indicate support for or against the project, request additional information, or recommend terms and conditions.

## How are your comments considered in an assessment?

Any information you share will be given full and fair consideration by the EMRIRB. This means it will be added to, and compared with, all other views and information received during the assessment. We use a variety of tools to consider the relevance, weight, and significance of information provided. This information can influence where the assessment is focused, as well as the outcome of the determination.



Eeyou Marine Region office in Waskaganish

## STEP 4

### TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

For every screening, our staff take all comments received and complete a full technical assessment of the project proposal. Our staff then prepare a briefing package for the Board.

## STEP 5

### BOARD MEMBERS MAKE DECISION

Board members review the briefing package, including public comments and staff recommendations, and vote accordingly.

#### THEY DECIDE ON ONE OF FOUR OPTIONS:

**Option 1:** Approve the project with terms and conditions

**Option 2:** Additional review required

**Option 3:** Send back to the proponent for clarification

**Option 4:** Modify or abandon the project

## STEP 6

### EMRIRB ISSUES REPORT TO THE MINISTER

Once the Board has made a decision, the EMRIRB issues a Screening Decision Report to the Minister, the Proponent, and the distribution list. The report contains a summary of your comments and concerns.

## STEP 7

### MINISTER MAKES FINAL DECISION

The Minister reviews the Screening Decision Report and decides if they agree with the EMRIRB's decision. The Minister can accept, reject, or vary the EMRIRB's decision subject to the conditions of the EMRLCA.

## TOOLS TO GET INVOLVED

### Using the EMRIRB's Guides

The EMRIRB has created informational booklets describing each stage of its impact assessment process in detail, as well as a glossary of terms and definitions. You can find them on our website at [www.emrird.ca/resources](http://www.emrird.ca/resources), or e-mail us to receive a hard copy.

Guide 1— INTRODUCTION TO THE  
IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

Guide 2— PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION  
AND SCREENING PROCESS

Guide 3— REVIEW PROCESS

Guide 4— PROJECT MONITORING

Guide 5— TERMINOLOGY AND  
DEFINITIONS GLOSSARY

Guide 6— PARTICIPATING IN  
EMRIRB SCREENINGS  
(Available in English and Cree)

Guide 7— GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT  
AGENCIES

Guides are all available at:  
[www.emrird.ca/resources](http://www.emrird.ca/resources)

Proponents should also review the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement, especially Chapter 18, found on the EMR website.



## Using the EMRIRB's Online Public Registry

All of the EMRIRB's documents, meeting reports, and decisions are public. You are encouraged to visit our website at <https://www.emrirb.ca> as well as our online Public Registry at <https://emrpublicregistry.ca> to access up-to-date information on all project proposals received by the EMRIRB, searchable by type, area, number, or assessment status.

## Get on the Distribution List

The EMRIRB maintains a regional distribution list of organizations and people that automatically receive information about proposed projects. You can ask to be added to the list. Email us at [info-irb@emrurb.ca](mailto:info-irb@emrurb.ca) with details on what kind of projects you wish to be informed about and you will be added to our list.

### Dedicated Staff

The EMRIRB has a full-time professional staff located in Waskaganish. The staff work for the Board but are also working for you. You are encouraged to contact our staff at any time if you have questions or need information about a proposed project—they are there to help you and pass on your questions, concerns, and opinions to the Board members. A useful resource is also your local EMR-CTA Officer, who can point you in the right direction to find more information regarding the EMRIRB.

## CONTACT THE EMRIRB

## EEYOU MARINE REGION IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

PO Box 580

6 Chief Isaiah Salt Road

Waskaganish Qc J0M 1R0

Telephone: 819.895.2202

Fax: 819.895.2474

E-mail: [info-irb@eeyoumarineregion.ca](mailto:info-irb@eeyoumarineregion.ca)

Website: <https://www.emrirb.ca>

Public Registry: <https://emrpublicregistry.ca>

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Cree Communications

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## NOTES

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