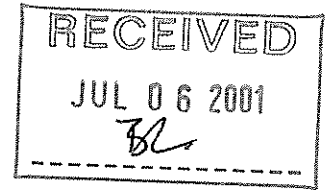


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Date: July 6, 2001
To: Vern Christensen
Fax: 920-4761
Pages: 3, including cover
Comments:



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Your file / Votre référence

July 6, 2001

Our file / Notre référence

Mr. Vern Christensen
Executive Director,
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board (Board)
P.O. Box 938
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Christensen:

Representatives of the responsible federal departments participating in the current environmental assessment reviews for the Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) projects met on June 27, 2001. While the various departments represented at the meeting may decide to communicate directly with the Board on issues specific to their mandates and jurisdictions, the group asked that I alert the Board to some of the general concerns raised, which include the following:

- Current timelines proposed by the Board for technical assessment of documents are unreasonable, compromising the quality of reviews. For example, our Water Resources Division has informed me that it requires a minimum of four weeks from receipt of the last document required to complete a technical review.
- The need to consider previous environmental reports (MVRMA section 127) for related developments. For example, while there is an extensive history concerning past applications and environmental assessments for mining activity around the Prairie Creek site, it does not appear that the Board obtained and reviewed these reports prior to reaching its decision on the Cat Camp Fuel Cache Recovery Program proposal.
- With regard to CZN's applications (underground decline, phase II drilling, metallurgical pilot plant), representatives expressed concern regarding the Board's decision to carry out two separate EA's when both these developments share common elements such as infrastructure, fuel storage, camp facilities etc. The representatives are of the view that the Board should consider a single EA process that addresses all the common and directly related elements of these projects.
- The group is concerned that premature closure of the public registry prevents the Board from seeking clarification of issues raised through technical reviews. This matter has been previously brought forward to the Board as a concern. Closing the public registry before the Board has had an opportunity to analyze the technical comments appears to limit the Board's ability to seek further clarification from the proponent or expert advisors on any deficiencies.

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- 2 -

- There is strong support for facilitating an iterative, collaborative process for information exchange to support the Board in its deliberations. The group noted that opportunities should be developed at the early stages of an EA and where deemed appropriate during an EA, to resolve matters and to bring all interested parties together to share information, build consensus, and to work together toward a final EA.

The individual departments may be writing to you directly to further elaborate on their concerns. I'd be pleased to meet with you to discuss the above in more detail and to organize a meeting of the parties should you feel it would be appropriate and useful.

Yours sincerely,



David Livingstone
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment.

cc. Chuck Blyth, NNPR
Dave Tyysen, DFO
Brett Hudson, RWED, GNWT
Anne Wilson, EC