



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Northern Division
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Our file: 4780 006 040 050
Your file: EA0809-002

October 13, 2010

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Attention: Chuck Hubert

Via email: chubert@reviewboard.ca

Re: **EA0809-002 Information Requests on the Canadian Zinc Corp. Prairie Creek Mine Environmental Assessment – Round 1**

Environment Canada (EC) would like to thank the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) and Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) for the constructive meetings held last week to address technical issues and questions. EC has a number of outstanding questions and information requirements that we highlighted at the close of the meeting. While some of the materials promised by the company may address some of the gaps, EC feels that the best way to ensure a thorough review of the outstanding aspects is to facilitate a second round of Information Requests. Without the required information, preparation of EC's technical report will be hindered.

Canadian Zinc Corp. has undertaken to provide further information in the following areas, and these would warrant an IR:

Water Quality:

- the sewage effluent quality (and quantity) so that nutrient loading can be assessed;
- testing of existing samples for major ions to provide a better estimate of effluent quality for TDS;
- estimates of integrated effluent quality for all sources combined (process water, mine water, site runoff, and sewage effluent), with full parameters (metals, nutrients, major ions);
- a comprehensive parameter list for estimates of downstream concentrations.

Spill Contingency:

- the Spill Contingency section requires a linear risk assessment and sufficient detail that EC can properly evaluate the Company's ability to prevent and respond to spills;
- clarification on the acids spill response section with respect to risk and cleanup.

Other information gaps not necessarily warranting an IR:

- CZN has indicated that the Wildlife Monitoring Plan can be developed in further detail at the regulatory stage. EC has concerns with this, as we need the confidence in advance of the EA decision that effects can be detected and mitigated.
- Clarification was provided that the AEMP would be a proactive monitoring program, rather than triggered by exceedences; and that it would be compatible with other monitoring requirements. It would be useful to get this detailed as an amendment or addendum to the existing AEMP document.

Some additional information on the plume estimates and outfall configuration was provided at the Technical Sessions, and reviewers would benefit from seeing the final version of the plume report, as well as from having sufficient time to go through the information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 669-4735 or by email at anne.wilson@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Anne Wilson
Water Pollution Specialist
Environment Canada

cc: Carey Ogilvie, (Head, EA-North, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)
Prairie Creek Review Team (EC)