



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service
Nova Coast Plaza, 5019-52 Street
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P7

June 10, 2009

Alistair MacDonald, Environmental Review Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Alistair:

Re: Notification pursuant to the requirements of subsection 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)

Thank you for your notification letter of May 5, 2009 informing Environment Canada (EC) that the proposed Prairie Creek Mine submitted by Canadian Zinc Corporation (MVEIRB file: EA0809-002) may potentially impact the following Species at Risk: Woodland Caribou (Northern Mountain Population), Peregrine Falcon, Wolverine, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl, Wood Bison, and Grizzly Bear.

EC is the competent minister under SARA for Woodland Caribou, Peregrine Falcon (*anatum* subspecies), Rusty Blackbird, and Wood Bison. Wolverine, Short-eared Owl, and Grizzly Bear have been assessed by COSEWIC as Special Concern and are under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. As such, EC has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of these species in Canada. However, expertise and day-to-day management responsibility for these species in the Northwest Territories is within the jurisdiction of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). Thus, for this particular project, the GNWT is best suited to provide specific advice and information on whether the species is within the range of the project activities, the potential adverse effects of this project to these species and their habitat, and, if required, to suggest mitigation and monitoring measures. EC's role with respect to this particular project and any adverse effects on these species will be to provide advice and information on SARA, and general comments on the assessment.

EC also notes that the proposed Prairie Creek Mine overlaps with the ranges of the Horned Grebe (Western population), Common Nighthawk, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. These species have been assessed by COSEWIC as 'at risk' and are under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. EC recommends that the environmental assessment should consider whether these species could be encountered or affected by the project and any potential adverse effects of the project to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence should be identified.

Expertise and responsibility for Horned Grebe, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Common Nighthawk are within the jurisdiction of EC. If these species could be encountered or affected by the project, EC's role with respect to this particular project and these species will be to provide advice and information on potential adverse effects to these birds and their habitat, and suggest mitigation and monitoring measures.

Species status reports and other information on specific Species at Risk can be found on the Species at Risk registry at www.sararegistry.gc.ca as well as the booklet "Species at Risk in the Northwest Territories" available at the GNWT website at www.enr.gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myra Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Myra Robertson, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, CWS

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E-mail: myra.robertson@ec.gc.ca

cc: Vanessa Charlwood (A/Western Arctic Section Head, Northern Conservation Section, CWS, EC)
Anne Wilson (Water Pollution Specialist, EPOD, EC)
Chandra Venables (Wildlife Environmental Assessment Specialist, GNWT)