



## **ISSUES SCOPING**

for the environmental assessment of

# **Canadian Zinc Corporation, Prairie Creek Mine - EA0809-002 [2008]**

Fort Simpson

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Fort Simpson Recreation Centre

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### **AGENDA**

6:00pm: *Opening Prayer* - Outline and Purpose of Scoping Session

6:15pm: Development Description by Canadian Zinc Corporation (questions welcome)

7:00pm: Overview of Potential Environmental Impacts by Canadian Zinc Corporation  
(questions welcome)

7:30pm: Refreshment Break

7:45pm: Submissions and Comments from Interested Parties

9:00pm: Closing Remarks and Next Steps

*Closing Prayer*

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### **Using Note Cards:**

To better understand your concerns, we will write what you say onto a note card, which will be placed on the wall for all of us to see.

If you have a concern, you can also write it on a note card and place it on the wall whenever you like or give it directly to Review Board staff. If you wish, you can leave your note card anonymous. This is a good way to gather ideas, and we will take these note cards back with us for our records.

The session will be taped and meeting minutes put on the public record. The meeting minutes will not identify individuals or organizations unless you specifically request it.



### What is an “issues scoping session”?

Environmental assessments are when the Mackenzie Valley Review Board examines whether and how a proposed development will impact on the physical, social, economic or cultural environment.

Scoping is one of the first steps in an environmental assessment. During issues scoping sessions, interested groups and members of the public are asked to share their views about what issues and outstanding questions they feel the Review Board should learn more about during the rest of the environmental assessment.

By knowing early on what the most important issues are, the Review Board can develop a focused Terms of Reference and a workplan that allows everyone to dedicate their limited resources and time to the most important issues during the environmental assessment.

During this meeting, the Review Board staff would like to hear what issues interested parties and the public feel the Review Board needs to focus on during this environmental assessment. It is an opportunity to have everyone in the room together and have them interact with one another in a meaningful way. It is also a good opportunity to better understand the proposed development.

❖ During the scoping session, it might not be possible to answer all of your questions right away. This is a special session to bring up questions that you think the Review Board should ask the developer during the rest of the environmental assessment process. The answers may come later in the Developer’s Assessment Report, the report which describes the development and its possible impacts in more detail.

### What will happen in this scoping session today?

The Review Board would like to know what you think is important to focus on when examining Canadian Zinc Corporation’s proposed Prairie Creek Mine for potential impacts. You can bring up anything that you think is relevant, such as:

- ❖ fish and aquatic life
- ❖ water
- ❖ wildlife
- ❖ community wellness
- ❖ regional socio-economics
- ❖ information from studies done in the area
- ❖ traditional knowledge
- ❖ cumulative effects

So that everyone is familiar with the environmental assessment process of the Mackenzie Valley, Review Board staff will begin with an overview to this system. Once that is completed, the developer will describe, in detail, their development project. They will describe what already exists at the site, what they proposed to do, how they will do that



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and what the potential impacts are. The rest of the time is for interested parties to ask questions that clarify what the developer proposes, and provide comments about what they think needs to be considered during the environmental assessment.

To assist the developer and interested parties during the scoping phase, the Review Board issued four scoping questions to focus on. Those scoping questions ask:

1. What biophysical, socio-economic and cultural issues should be considered during the environmental assessment and why?
2. What physical works and activities should be considered during this environmental assessment (in other words, what is the scope of the proposed development)?
3. What are appropriate time periods and distances from the development for consideration of potential impacts?
4. What evidence from previous studies, management plans, or environmental assessments should be moved onto the public record for this environmental assessment, and why?

We welcome your comments and opinions on these four scoping questions during the issues scoping session or in writing afterward. **The Review Board will be accepting written submissions until Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

### What has happened so far?

On August 8, 2008, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) referred Canadian Zinc Corporation's Prairie Creek Mine to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on its own and on behalf of the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, on the basis there might be significant adverse impacts on the environment. The environmental assessment is for four new permit applications involved in the referral; three Land Use Permits and one Water License.

Canadian Zinc Corporation intends to operate an underground lead-zinc mine just outside the Nahanni National Park Reserve in the South Nahanni Watershed. The Prairie Creek Mine will produce approximately 120,000 tonnes of concentrate every year. The proposed operation also includes two transfer facilities; one at Fort Liard Highway and the other near the Tetcela River on the Prairie Creek winter road. These facilities will temporarily hold mining concentrate in the winter months waiting to be trucked along the Liard Highway to Fort Nelson.

So far, the Review Board has set up the administration features of environmental assessment, like the distribution list and a public registry at [mveirb.nt.ca](http://mveirb.nt.ca). The Review Board has also collected all the application materials and comments made during the preliminary screening by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, and issued a set of scoping instructions and questions for the environmental assessment.



### What happens after the scoping sessions?

Scoping sessions are more about finding out what issues exist, rather than getting answers. After issues scoping, the Review Board may write a Terms of Reference, which specifies what information the developer must provide in their Developer's Assessment Report. The Review Board will issue a Draft Terms of Reference and allow interested parties to provide comments prior to finalizing it. A workplan accompanies each Terms of Reference, to clarify the environmental assessment process and estimate how long each step will take. These two documents will consider the issues brought up during issues scoping sessions.

The issues brought up in these issues scoping sessions will be addressed in the Developer's Assessment Report. This is the developer's response to the issues identified in the Terms of Reference, such as an accurate overview of the development, predictions of potential impacts and their significance, and commitments to specific mitigation measures.

If the Review Board determines that the proposed development is raising a lot of public concern about significant environmental impacts, it may decide to hold a Scoping Hearing before making any decision on how to proceed.

### Where can I find more information?

If you want to know more about Canadian Zinc Corporation's Prairie Creek Mine or about the environmental assessment process, the Review Board keeps a record, called a *public registry*, which contains all of the documents that have been shared about the project. Most of the documents are available at [mveirb.nt.ca](http://mveirb.nt.ca), and click on **Public Registry**.

You can also contact the Environmental Assessment Officer coordinating this file:

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Environmental Assessment Officer

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