Environment & Conservation
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October 13, 2010

MVEIRB File Number: EA0809-002
Chuck Hubert
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. BOX 938
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BY EMAIL: chubert@reviewboard.ca

Re: Canadian Zinc Prairie Creek Mine Environmental Assessment – Follow-up to the technical sessions, October 6th – 8th, 2010

Dear Mr. Hubert:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) participated in the technical sessions held in Dettah, October 6th - 8th, 2010. INAC appreciates the efforts of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board staff to coordinate and facilitate this session, providing an opportunity for INAC to discuss its technical concerns directly with the developer. INAC also appreciates the developer’s efforts to address concerns as well as its commitments to provide additional technical information to reviewers.

During the technical sessions it was identified that Canadian Zinc had provided additional information regarding the effluent pipe immediately before the sessions. During the sessions Canadian Zinc provided additional information on effluent mixing and committed to providing further analysis of effluent mixing, including the analysis of additional parameters of concern, following the technical sessions.

INAC is currently conducting a preliminary review of the additional information on the effluent pipe and mixing provided prior to and during the technical sessions. INAC cannot complete a full review until Canadian Zinc completes the additional analyses and provides that information to reviewers. We commend the developer for its commitment to undertake and provide the results of this analysis within a short timeframe, as INAC believes that this additional information is necessary in order to assess the potential for significant adverse effects from the development.

During the technical sessions, the developer made several other commitments to provide additional technical information. The review of all the additional information yet to be provided will likely result in additional questions and/or requests for
clarification. INAC recommends that the Review Board hold another round of Information Requests, as we believe that this would be the most effective process for moving forward. A second round of Information Requests would provide a fair opportunity for all interested parties to review and provide feedback on the additional information provided, and may resolve outstanding concerns in advance of technical report submissions and the public hearing. An adequate review and question period, including several rounds of information requests before parties develop and formalize their technical reports, has been an effective component of previous Review Board environmental assessments. INAC notes that the current workplan for the Canadian Zinc Prairie Creek Mine environmental assessment includes a second round of information requests if necessary.

INAC looks forward to the Board’s decision on this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Krystal Thompson at 669-2595 or via email at krystal.thompson@ainc-inac.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Teresa Jougie
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment