



MiningWatch Canada

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Thursday, December 22, 2011

Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Sent by e-mail to: john.duncan@parl.gc.ca

Re: Canadian Zinc Corporation, Prairie Creek Mine

Dear Minister Duncan:

MiningWatch Canada is a national coalition of 18 environmental, social justice, international development and Indigenous organizations. We work to promote more responsible mining practices to protect ecosystems and communities across Canada and internationally. For many years we have followed with concern the proposed Prairie Creek Mine, which is now practically within the expanded Nahanni National Park Reserve. We have been and remain very concerned about the proposed mine's potential impacts on the Nahanni River, downstream communities and the ecological integrity of the National Park.

We would like to add our voice of concern to those of the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, the Dehcho First Nations, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society who have already submitted comments to you and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on their *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision EA0809-002: Canadian Zinc Corporation Prairie Creek Mine* (the Report).

It is our understanding that the affected First Nations consented to the project and have signed agreements with Canada Zinc on the presumption that the strictest standards of protection of the environment would be applied.

We are therefore very disappointed that the Report has failed to include binding requirements of Canadian Zinc to meet the expectations of the First Nations and other interveners including your department. The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act clearly requires the board to send a project with the potential for significant adverse effects to a further environmental review or to impose measures to prevent significant adverse impacts. The Report gives every indication that significant adverse effects are indeed possible yet fails to meet either of the above obligations.

We join those referenced above in insisting that the Report be returned to the Board for further consideration and inclusion of binding requirements to mitigate, to the degree possible, this project's potential for significant adverse effects.

Regards,

Ramsey Hart

Co-Manager, Canada Program Coordinator

CC: Minister of the Environment Peter Kent, MVEIRB, Decho First Nations, Nahanni Butte Dene, CPAWS