Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada P.O. Box 348 Fort Simpson, NT X0E 0N0

February 11, 2010

Chuck Hubert
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102 – 50th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Re: Prairie Creek Mine - MVEIRB EA08090-002

Dear Mr. Hubert,

On June 18, 2009, Bill C-38 received Royal Assent and was brought into force as Chapter 17 of the Statutes of Canada 2009 as 'An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act to enlarge Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada'. As a result of this legislation, Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada was expanded by over six times to over 30,000 km² and the Canada National Parks Act was amended. The attached map shows the new boundary. The changes to the Canada National Parks Act have the following implications for the proposed full mine operation of the Prairie Creek Mine (EA 08090-002):

- A portion of the winter road (approximately 84 km of the route proposed in the project description) and the Tetsla Transfer station will now be within Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada.
- Parks Canada is the responsible for issuing land use permits and water licences for the portion of the winter road in Nahanni and the Tetsla Transfer station under s. 41.1 of the *Canada National Parks Act.* Parks Canada will be a Responsible Minister for this environmental assessment.
- The mine site and the rest of the winter road will remain outside the national park and under the same regulatory authorities as before.

In Parks Canada's opinion, the terms of reference for this project still appropriately scope the issues to be assessed, provided that the proponent uses the new park boundaries in the developer's assessment report.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Katherine Cumming (204-984-1929; <u>katherine.cumming@pc.gc.ca</u>).

Sincerely,

Chuck Blyth Superintendent, Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada



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