Parks Canada

Public Hearing Presentation to the MVEIRB

Proposed Prairie Creek Mine,
Canadian Zinc Corporation

EA 0809-002

June 23, 24, 2011
Outline

• Introduction to Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada
• Analysis of the potential impacts of the winter access road
• Analysis of the potential impacts of the mine site
Dehcho First Nations Traditional Territory

- Consensus Team
- Interim Park Management Arrangement
Other Designations

- Canadian Heritage River
- World Heritage Site
Road Issues

- Spills
- Road construction
- Karst
- Vegetation
- Wildlife
- Conclusions
Spills

High probability

High consequences

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Spills

Mitigation proposed by Proponent:
• Barriers, speed limits, run away lanes etc.
• Spill response plan

What we don’t know:
• Where mitigations will be applied
• Whether some of the mitigations will be applied

Recommendation for learning and monitoring
Road Construction Unknowns

- Water use
- Aggregate use
- Permafrost, stability, avalanches
- Stream crossings
Karst

- Route alteration proposed to minimize impacts
- More detailed investigations will be needed to confirm this is the best route
- Recommendation for monitoring
Vegetation

- Invasive species, rare plants
- Proponent conducted surveys
- Recommend monitoring and incorporation of results into reclamation planning
Wildlife

- Limited data
- Additional surveys winter 2010/2011
Wildlife

- Proponent provided draft Wildlife Management Plan
- Some mitigations for wildlife along the road are missing, particularly with respect to locations
- Recommend traffic management procedures and monitoring
Road Conclusions

• Road designed at a conceptual level
• Project design and details of mitigations unknown for many aspects
• Unknowns create uncertainty about the potential impacts.
Mine site

- During mine operation
- Post-closure
Mine operations

Ecological integrity of Prairie Creek Aquatic Ecosystem

• In the park, physical processes that influence aquatic ecosystems will operate within the natural range of variation.

• Aquatic invertebrate and algal communities inside the park are characteristic of the natural region.
Mine operations

Mine Operations

Effluent Quality Criteria/Water licence limits

Prairie Creek Site Specific Water Quality Objectives
Mine operations

Recommendation to include monitoring site within the park and a decision response system with thresholds
Post closure

No plans for tailings that may not fit below ground create uncertainties about potential impacts on the Prairie Creek Aquatic Ecosystem.
Mine Site Conclusions

The existing information does not provide confidence that the proposed approach will mitigate any potentially significant impacts to Prairie Creek’s aquatic ecosystem.
Questions?