

Our File: EA1415-01

March 16, 2016

Chief Peter Marcellais
Nahæâ Dehé Dene Band
General Delivery
Nahanni Butte, NT
X0E 0N0

Dear Chief Marcellais,

RE: EA1415-01 - Prairie Creek All Season Road, Response to February 12, 2016 letter regarding information requests, DAR and DAR Addendum

Thank you for your letter of February 12, 2016¹ requesting clarification on adequacy requirements for the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) for the Prairie Creek All Season Access Road, the timing of Information Requests and upcoming process steps in the environmental assessment. In addition, your letter also requests that the Canadian Zinc Corporation (CanZinc) discuss the need, cost-effectiveness and viability of the all season road proposal with the Nahanni Butte community.

1. Participation in the EA of the Prairie Creek All Season Road

The participation of Nahæâ Dehé Dene Band (NDDB) in the environmental assessment (EA) of this project is important to the Review Board. The Review Board understands that the NDDB has limited resources for participation in this EA and notes that CanZinc supports the NDDB's request to defer Information Requests (IRs) until additional engagement has occurred². The Review Board is therefore willing to grant additional time to NDDB to review material on the public registry and engage further with the developer prior to submitting information requests on the DAR.

Please also note that you will have additional opportunities to ask questions to CanZinc about its project through written information requests, face-to-face technical meetings, and public hearings. Please advise Board staff on when you will be able to submit information requests and to what extent you plan to participate in the EA of the Prairie Creek All Season Road.

¹ http://reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA1415-01_NBDB_Chief_letter_to_MVRB_Feb12_2016.PDF

² See CanZinc's letter to the Review Board on our registry here: http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA1415-01_CanZinc_letter_to_MVEIRB_regarding_Feb12_letter_from_NDDB.PDF



2. Engagement activities by Canadian Zinc Corporation

The Review Board is aware that Canadian Zinc is continuing engagement activities on its proposed all season road with you and the community of Nahanni Butte. This engagement provides the opportunity for NDDB members to question the developer on its rationale for the all season road and cost estimates for the road during construction, operations and closure phases. We request that NDDB and CanZinc document this engagement and submit minutes or a report of these meetings to the Review Board for the public registry. This report should describe the specific subjects discussed, the positions of NDDB and CanZinc, and any resolution or commitments reached in the discussion. Please ensure the meeting report is signed by both parties.

3. Risk assessment

Your letter states that the DAR and its appendices lack sufficient information on the analysis of risks from avalanches and permafrost degradation from construction and operation of the all season road. The Review Board has hired an independent risk assessor to specifically address the issues described in your letter. Oboni-Riskope Associates will conduct an independent assessment of the risk of accidents, malfunctions and spills along the road as well as the risk of adverse impacts from the environment on the project (avalanches, permafrost instability) during construction and operation of this all season road proposal³.

As described in a letter to all parties⁴, Oboni-Riskope Associates will prepare a technical report containing its risk assessment for the Prairie Creek All Season Road Project, participate in the technical sessions and public hearings and prepare a final written summary of its views on any unmitigated risks that could result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In addition, the Review Board encourages NDDB to ask any questions it has about this topic to the developer.

4. Traditional knowledge assessment of the Prairie Creek Mine Operation (2009)

NDDB submitted a *Traditional Knowledge Assessment of the Prairie Creek Mine Operation (2009)* to the Review Board for the EA of the Prairie Creek mine and winter access road in 2009 (EA0809-002). In June of 2014, NDDB requested that this report be included in the EA for the Prairie Creek mine all season road project (EA1415-01)⁵.

Please advise the Review Board on how much of this traditional knowledge information from 2009 remains relevant to this Prairie Creek All Season Road application. Please also advise the Review Board on whether additional traditional knowledge information gathering is required for EA1415-01.

³ http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA1415-01_Third_Party_Risk_Assessor_SOW_and_CVs.PDF

⁴ http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA1415-01_Finalized_Oboni_Scope_of_Work_.PDF

⁵ http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA1415-01_NDDB_Letter_to_MVEIRB_re_TK_Study_June_2014.PDF



5. Next Steps in this EA

In order to plan the next steps in this EA, the Review Board requests responses to the questions posed in this letter:

1. Please describe when the NDDB will be submitting information requests.
2. Please provide a log of recent engagement activities that is signed by both parties and submit minutes or a report of these meetings to the Review Board for the public registry.
3. Please advise the Review Board on how much of the Traditional Knowledge information from 2009 remains relevant to this Prairie Creek All Season Road application, and on whether additional traditional knowledge information gathering is required for EA1415-01.

Based on the NDDB's responses to these questions, and CanZinc's timeline for responding to existing information requests and providing outstanding adequacy materials⁶, the Review Board can plan future steps in this EA and adjust the work plan accordingly.

If you have questions, please contact Environmental Assessment Officer Sachi De Souza at (867) 766-7054; sdesouza@reviewboard.ca.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Deneron

Chairperson

⁶ http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA1415-01_Notice_of_proceeding-Technical_session_timing_.PDF