

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

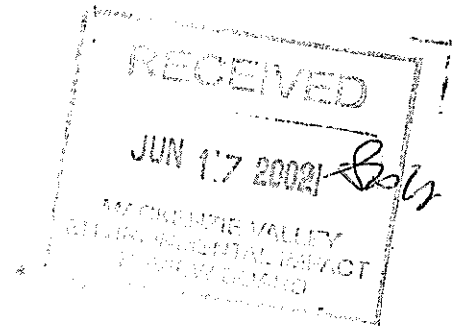


Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JUN 17 2002

Mr. Todd Burlingame
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2L9



Dear Mr. Burlingame:

The purpose for this letter is to convey the Responsible Ministers' (Environment Canada (EC), Fisheries and Oceans, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Government of the Northwest Territories) decision with regard to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (the Board) Report on the Environmental Assessment (EA Report) of the Canadian Zinc Corporation Cat Camp Fuel Cache Retrieval and Clean-up.

The Responsible Ministers have agreed to return the EA Report to the Board for further consideration. This decision was made in light of the new information outlined below, and pursuant to paragraph 130(1)(b)(i) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

On June 19, 2001, an "Inspector's Direction" was issued to INAC by EC to take steps to prevent the deposit of petroleum hydrocarbons from the Cat Camp fuel cache into the surrounding environment. As INAC has administration and control of the site and fuel, it complied with the order by incinerating the fuel in March 2002.

The Responsible Ministers submit that it is no longer possible for Canadian Zinc Corporation to carry out its development as originally proposed since there is no longer any fuel to be retrieved. It is respectfully suggested that in light of the new information provided, the Board reconsider its recommendation accordingly.

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Departmental officials are available to meet with the Board to further elaborate on these matters should this be considered necessary. Please contact Mr. David Livingstone, Director, Renewable Resources and Environment, Northwest Territories Region, at (867) 669-2647 to arrange such a meeting.

I wish to thank the Board for its efforts to date with regard to this development, and trust that this matter will be resolved without undue delay to the satisfaction of all concerned with preventing further environmental degradation at this site.

Yours sincerely,



Robert D. Nault, PC, MP

c.c.: Mr. Bob Bailey
Ms. Anne Wilson
Mr. Ron Allen