

Louie Azzolini

From: Richard Spotts [spotts@ncis.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2001 4:06 PM
To: minister@inac.gc.ca
Cc: eao1@mveirb.nt.ca
Subject: Please Oppose Land Use Permit MV2000C0030

March 15, 2001

Hon. Robert Nault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
10 Wellington Street, North Tower
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H4
Dear Minister Nault:

RE: Canadian Zinc Corporation Land Use Permit Application MV2000C0030

I am writing to express my opposition to the Canadian Zinc Corporation's land use permit application concerning the Prairie Creek mine in the Northwest Territories. The mine is immediately upstream from Nahanni National Park Reserve, and located in the South Nahanni watershed, an area of outstanding conservation value, which the Deh Cho First Nations wish to protect for its cultural and ecological values. The Park Reserve is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a designation which recognizes the area's globally significant wilderness values.

Minister Nault, there are some places where industrial development simply does not belong, and the South Nahanni watershed is one of those places. I urge you to deny the mineral exploration drilling program application, the proposal to re-establish 40 kilometers of road to remove the fuel cache, and any other applications which would further the effects of industrial development in the watershed. I also ask you to ensure the fuel cache is removed in the most environmentally responsible, safe and timely manner possible.

Further, in order to facilitate the protection of the area's outstanding wilderness values, I urge you to expedite negotiations with the Deh Cho First Nations for interim protection of the South Nahanni watershed through the Deh Cho Process.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts

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cc. Louie Azzolini, Environmental Assessment Officer,
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board,
Box 938, Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2N7