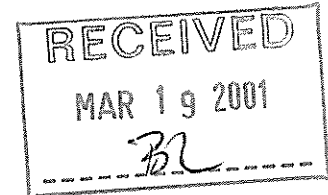




Environment Canada / Environnement Canada

Environment Canada
Prairie and Northern Region
#301 - 5204 - 50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2
Ph. (867) 669-4700



March 12, 2001

Our File: 4780 006

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

By Facsimile: (867) 920-4761

Re: Environmental Assessment Report Technical Comments - Prairie Creek Mine - Mineral Exploration Drilling Program and Cat Camp Fuel Cache Recovery Program (Land Use Application MV2000C0030; MVEIRB Files EA00-002 and EA00-002a)

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC) I have reviewed the above application documents and associated Information Requests (IRs) and responses. The following comments are offered for your consideration pursuant to Section 22 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

Mineral Exploration Drilling Program:

With respect to the exploration drilling and associated camp occupancy, EC has not identified any concerns with this activity that cannot be addressed with standard conditions in the land use permit. Further review will be necessary for the decline proposed for later in 2001.

Cat Camp Fuel Cache Recovery Program:

The main areas of concern with this program are potential spillage of diesel fuel, and the potential for sedimentation associated with road reconstruction.

The proponent proposes to remove fuel using rock trucks with new containment vessels fixed in the truck boxes, for subsequent transfer to the existing bulk fuel storage tanks at the Prairie Creek minesite. The proposed measures (including use of the spill contingency plan, and maintaining spill cleanup materials at appropriate locations) should provide mitigation against the potential for fuel spills. Following removal (to the minesite) of fuel, drums, trailers, culverts and the old fuel tanks, the site will be reclaimed for final abandonment. EC supports the proposed removal of contaminated materials from the Cat Camp fuel storage site for remediation at the minesite in an engineered (lined) land farm area.

Canadian Zinc proposes to effect repairs to road washouts during the low flow period in August to September. Local fill and culverts will be used in the course of repairs, and culverts will be removed following the completion of the fuel removal. Appropriate sediment control measures (such as diversion berms, silt curtains) must be adopted as necessary to prevent sediment entering any stream course. The road alignment must be stabilized during and after the

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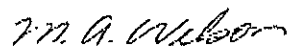


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program such that surface erosion does not occur.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4735 with any questions or comments regarding the foregoing.

Yours truly,



Anne Wilson
Water Pollution Specialist

cc: Steve Harbicht (Head, Assessment & Monitoring, EPB)