

April 14th, 2003

Hon. Minister Robert Nault
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Minister's Office
10 Wellington St., North Tower
Hull PQ K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Nault

Re: **Canadian Zinc Ltd. Prairie Creek Decline Drilling and Pilot Plant
Transmittal of Environmental Assessment Reasons for Decision**

The Review Board is pleased to submit the attached Reasons for Decision document, following its reconsideration of the above proposed development.

As you may recall, this development was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) on April 11th, 2001. The Review Board conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA), and submitted its Report of Environmental Assessment to yourself, as the federal Minister, on February 6th, 2002. On September 3rd, 2002, you returned the Report of Environmental Assessment to the Review Board for further consideration pursuant to subparagraph 130(1)(b)(i) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. December 24th, 2002, after re-considering the Report of EA, the MVEIRB issued an information request to Canadian Zinc. The company responded on January 31st, 2003, with new information which was circulated to parties. Comments were received from First Nations, government, and non-governmental organizations.

Following review of the original Report of Environmental Assessment, the Public Record, the new information received from Canadian Zinc, and related comments received, the Review Board has produced the Reasons for Decision for your consideration pursuant to s.130 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:
Todd Burlingame,
Chairperson

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