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Mr. Bob Woolley, Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
Box 2130  
7th Floor - 490 50th Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

May 10, 2002

**RE: Environmental Assessment Required at Can Tung and Prairie Creek Mines**

Dear Mr. Woolley,

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Nature Federation, and its 40 000 members and supporters, to express our concern about the issuing of water permits for North American Tungsten's Can Tung Mine.

We were extremely concerned about the diesel spill at the mine early this year, and it heightened our concern about the risks of operating the mine on the Flat River. Given that the Flat River flows directly into Nahanni National Park Reserve (NPR), the stakes are incredibly high.

As a World Heritage Site and renowned wilderness park, Nahanni deserves an exceptional standard of care, requiring great precaution in how the surrounding land base is managed. Parks Canada is obligated under the *National Parks Act* to protect the ecological integrity of Nahanni NPR, but it cannot do so without the full cooperation of stakeholders and land managers in the greater national park ecosystem.

As such, the Canadian Nature Federation strongly urges the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board to conduct a full environmental assessment on the Can Tung mine, PRIOR to any further licences being issued.

We recognize that the Can Tung Mine is not the only substantial threat to Nahanni NPR's ecological integrity. The Canadian Nature Federation is seriously concerned about the issuing of permits for the mine at Prairie Creek, which flows into the South Nahanni River and into the park. There are already substantial risks to the river from the storage of cyanide, diesel fuel, and PCBs along the creek beds and arsenic- and mercury-contaminated cres at the site. We strongly urge you to conduct a full environmental assessment of the mine and its associated infrastructure at Prairie Creek BEFORE further permits are issued.

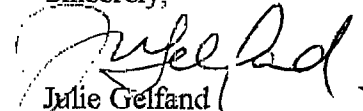
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*canadian nature federation \* fédération canadienne de la nature*  
*The protection of nature, its diversity, and the processes that sustain it.*

I know that I speak for a majority of Canadians in expressing concern for the future of Nahanni National Park Reserve. Please ensure that no industrial development in the Greater Nahanni ecosystem is approved without a rigorous environmental assessment and ample opportunity for public comment.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
Julie Gelfand  
Executive Director

C.c. Honou rable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage  
Honou rable Robert Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada  
Mr. Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental  
Impact Review Board  
Ms. Laura Van Ham , Environmental Specialist, National Energy Board