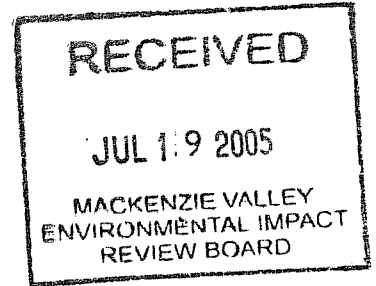




Northwest
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

JUL 19 2005



Mr. Vern Christensen
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO BOX 938
200 SCOTIA CENTRE, 5102-50TH AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Christensen:

**EA0405-002 Canadian Zinc Phase III Drilling – Request
for Ruling – Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Participation**

In response to the request from Canadian Zinc Corporation for a ruling on the appropriateness of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's (CPAWS's) status as an intervener to this environmental assessment, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) offers the following comments.

In the GNWT's view, allowing interveners to formally participate in environmental assessments as parties, promotes a wider discourse than might otherwise occur if greater restrictions were placed on participation in the environmental assessment process. A full discussion of the issues is necessary to assist the Review Board in developing its recommendations and fulfilling its mandate. Allowing interested parties to participate also serves to promote public confidence that the environmental review process is as thorough as necessary. The GNWT appreciates that the participation in the environmental assessment process must not only be full; it must also be fair. Information placed before the Review Board must be accurate and reliable.

The GNWT submits that removing CPAWS as a party at this point would be a drastic step that could undermine public confidence in the review process. A preferable approach would be for the Review Board to address any concerns it may have regarding CPAWS's participation, upon reviewing Canadian Zinc Corporation's letter of July 14, 2005, through directions applied consistently to all interveners. The reliability of CPAWS's evidence, and the weight to be placed on it, will be assessed through the public hearing process.

.../2



To be certain, circumstances may come to pass that require the removal of a party from an environmental review process. In the GNWT's view, the present circumstances, as we understand them, do not indicate that the removal of CPAWS as a public interest group as a party is warranted.

Sincerely,


R.P. Bailey
Deputy Minister

- c. Mr. Gavin More – Manager
Environmental Assessment
Policy, Legislation & Communications