

CZN Expansion



Fisheries
and Oceans

Pêches
et Océans

Fish Habitat Management
Suite 101, 5204-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, Northwest
Territories
X1A 1E2

Your file Votre référence
MV2001C0022

Our file Notre référence
SC04006

from
Prelim. Screening
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Mackenzie Valley Land
& Water Board

11 May, 2004

File

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Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th Floor, 4910 – 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P6

Application # MV2001C0022

Copied To PLH/SS/Reg

Attention: Melody McLeod

**RE: Canadian Zinc Corporation, Phase II Drilling Amendment Request, Prairie
Creek, NT**

Dear Ms. McLeod:

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management – Western Arctic Area (DFO) received the amendment application by Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) for Land Use Permit MV2001C0022 for advanced exploration at the Prairie Creek mine site. DFO has reviewed the application and has a number of concerns regarding the proposed changes.

The purpose and scope of work proposed by CZN in the amendment are significantly different from the project originally reviewed under Part 5 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) in 2001. The purpose of the project as proposed in 2001 was to conduct “in-fill” drilling for the further delineation of the Zone 3 vein mineralization for the support of a bankable feasibility study (*CZN – Environmental Assessment Report, Phase II Mineral Exploration Drilling Program, Prairie Creek Mine, 7 June, 2001*). CZN has altered the purpose of the project in their amendment application to the exploration of mineral deposits elsewhere on the property.

Concurrent with the change in the purpose of the proposed drilling program there is a change in the scope and footprint. In the original proposal, CZN was very explicit in their description of the project: the project was to be confined to the use of existing tote roads in an area of 36.6 ha in the Harrison Creek drainage, north northeast of the campsite (*CZN – Environmental Assessment Report, Phase II Mineral Exploration Drilling Program, Prairie Creek Mine, 7 June, 2001*). This area has been previously impacted by development. The proposed amendment moves the drilling activities to areas not previously impacted by development and for which no environmental assessment has been conducted.

DFO is concerned at the lack of information regarding the proposed amendment and the potential effects on fish and fish habitat in the area. Of key concern is the potential impact of this development on bull trout populations on the property. Bull trout are considered to be at risk in the Northwest Territories and sensitive in neighbouring jurisdictions (Wild Species 2000). Because of the growing concern, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has designated bull trout as a Highest Priority Candidate for assessment. COSEWIC cited population declines as a result of human activities that cause migration barriers, habitat degradation, and habitat fragmentation as reasons for concern. A species status report is being prepared for the committee to consider.

In summary, DFO feels that the Land Use Permit amendment proposes a significant change in the scope, purpose and footprint of the project. CZN has provided no information regarding the proposed locations, development activities, impacts, and mitigation. Additional information is required to determine whether the proposed project will have any effect on fish and fish habitat, particularly bull trout populations. DFO recommends that, as per section 26(4) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations, this project be treated as an application for a new permit.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (867) 669-4919, or by fax at (867) 669-4940.



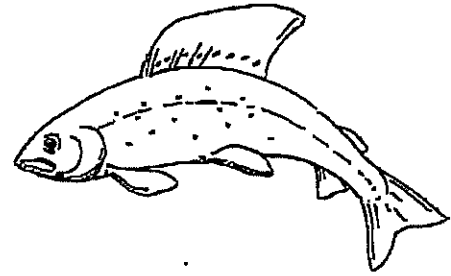
J. David Tyson
Area Habitat Biologist
Fish Habitat Management
Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Western Arctic Area

copy. J. Dahl, Area Chief, Habitat, DFO-FHM



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TO/A:

**Sarah Baines
Regulatory Officer
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11 May, 2004

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MESSAGE

Enclosed please find DFO-FHM comments on:

**DFO File No. SC04006
MVLWB File No. MV2001C0022**

Canadian Zinc Corporation, Phase II Drilling Amendment Request, Prairie Creek, NT

FROM/DE:

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Area Habitat Biologist
Western Arctic Area**

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