



Environment Canada    Environnement Canada

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Our File: 4780 014 050 030

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Attention: Martin Haefele

**Re: *Species at Risk Act* issues in relation to the proposed Phase 3 Exploration Drilling Program, Canadian Zinc Corp.**

This letter is in response to the MVEIRB's request to Environment Canada (EC) to address *Species at Risk Act* issues in relation to the hearing for the Canadian Zinc Corporation's proposed Phase 3 Exploration Drilling Program. Specifically, the MVEIRB would like EC to comment on whether species at risk could be impacted by the proposed project.

It is Environment Canada's view that it is the MVEIRB's responsibility to ensure that the requirements of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) are fulfilled in relation to any environmental assessments it conducts as per Section 79 (2) of the Act. However, as this is relatively new legislation, EC commits to working with the MVEIRB to define a process to ensure SARA requirements are met. EC has started working on a document that will provide guidance for MVEIRB in these matters.

EC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada Agency and the GNWT are formalizing a bilateral agreement with respect to the administration of SARA in the Northwest Territories. As part of this agreement, the parties agree to work in collaboration to achieve species at risk protection and recovery. Therefore, in most cases, GNWT will comment on species at risk within its jurisdiction and EC will comment on other species at risk. Since the GNWT commented on some of their species at the hearing, EC will only comment on three others, the Yellow Rail, the Short-eared Owl and the Western Toad.

For all three species mentioned above, the effects of this single exploration drilling program will not likely have negative impacts because the habitat requirements of these species do not overlap with the habitat that the company will be working in. However, EC would still like to see Canadian Zinc Corp. live up to the commitments it made in relation to species at risk. Specifically:

“CZN is of the opinion that it is logical to review the SARA issues in conjunction with the wildlife survey planned for spring 2006 and the subsequent survey report, and to determine and adopt any appropriate mitigation measures over-and-above those already proposed. CZN commits to do this.”

In addition, species at risk may be negatively impacted if the results of this exploration program lead to operation of a mine site. Further effects to species at risk as a result of mining operations will need to be reassessed in such a case.

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For further clarification on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact Vanessa Charlwood at (867) 669-4965 or by email at [vanessa.charlwood@ec.gc.ca](mailto:vanessa.charlwood@ec.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

Anne Wilson  
Water Pollution Specialist  
Assessment and Monitoring Section  
Environmental Protection Branch

cc:     Vanessa Charlwood (SARA Biologist, Environmental Conservation Branch, Yellowknife)  
       Mike Fournier (Northern EA Coordinator, Environmental Protection Branch, Yellowknife)