



Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact
Review Board

Terms of Reference and Work Plan
for the
Environmental Assessment
of the
Canadian Zinc Corporation Phase 3
Surface Drilling Exploration Program
Prairie Creek Mine

April 22, 2005

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Document

This document outlines the process for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of Canadian Zinc Corporation's (CZN) proposed *Phase 3 Surface Drilling Exploration Program* (the "Drilling Program" or "Development") at its Prairie Creek property. Section 2 defines the scope of the proposed development. Section 3 defines the scope of the assessment, i.e. the broad issues that will be considered in the EA. Section 4 provides CZN with terms of reference for the submission of information that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the "Review Board" or "MVEIRB") will require to assess the Drilling Program. Section 5 defines the responsibilities of the parties involved in the EA and provides an overview of the EA process, as well as a schedule.

1.2 Referral to Environmental Assessment

On April 20, 2004, CZN applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) for an amendment to its previously approved Land Use Permit (LUP) (MV2001C0022). The original LUP allowed for an up to 60-hole mineral exploration drilling program within 1000 meters of the Prairie Creek mine site facility. The amendment was submitted in order to obtain permission to drill up to 60 holes in all lands of the Prairie Creek property. The MVLWB carried out a Preliminary Screening of the proposed Drilling Program, according to Section 124 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*. The MVLWB completed the Preliminary Screening on June 1, 2004, and in a letter addressed to the Review Board, the MVLWB decided to refer the development to EA, based upon "*public concern about the cumulative effects of this project on the South Nahanni Watershed*". The Review Board notified CZN about the start-up of the EA process on June 8, 2004 and requested a project description from CZN on June 22, 2004. A *Detailed Project Description* of the Drilling Program was submitted by CZN to the MVEIRB on January 11, 2005.

1.3 Legal Context

This EA is subject to the requirements of Part 5 of the MVRMA. It is also subject to the MVEIRB's *Rules of Procedure*. The Review Board's process is further described in its *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines* (2004). Those documents can be obtained by contacting the Review Board or at www.mveirb.nt.ca.

2 SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT

CZN has proposed to conduct surface-based diamond drilling throughout the Prairie Creek property, on land covered by CZN's existing mining leases and mineral claims. Land Use Permit MV2001C0022 authorizes CZN to drill up to 60 holes within 1000 metres of the mine site. While CZN's LUP amendment application describes a 60 drill hole program, CZN's detailed project description submitted to the MVEIRB speaks of up to 60 drill sites, with possibly multiple holes, distributed over the entire mineral lease and claims area in addition to the 60 holes approved under LUP MV2001C0022.. Pursuant to MVRMA s. 117(1) the Review Board determined that the scope of the development is that described in the Detailed Development Description submitted to the Review Board, unless otherwise specified in this document. The proposed Drilling Program will be during the summer seasons only, and will be carried out in two different fashions:

1. With drill rigs that will be dragged into place by a D-8 Cat on the existing road network, or on newly constructed road spurs with a maximum extension of 100 meters from the existing road; and
2. With a helicopter-portable drilling rig, proposed for use where the land is not accessible by heavy machinery.

The MVEIRB has defined the scope of the development to consist of the following physical works or activities:

- Surface-based diamond drilling activities for mineral exploration that use various types of drill rigs, including ground and helicopter transported drill rigs;
- Activities in support of drilling, including drill and helicopter pad construction, sump construction and operation, water use and hydrocarbon use and storage;
- Re-establishment of old road network, road construction, road maintenance, alteration of drainage patterns, erosion prevention activities, excavation and stockpiling of soils;
- Clearing of vegetation; from both undisturbed and previously disturbed areas;
- Use of the camp and infrastructure *as required for the purposes of the Drilling Program* that are separate from support for already permitted activities;
- All aspects of transportation to and from the drilling locations, including use of heavy equipment, steel skids to drag drill rigs from site to site, trucks, ATVs and helicopters;
- Transportation of equipment and supplies to and from the mine site, as required for the purposes of the Drilling Program (e.g. method of transportation; equipment, supplies and personnel; number of expected transportation trips);
- Stream crossings; and
- Efforts to reclaim areas and infrastructure disturbed by the above activities.

The following are not considered part of the scope of the development:

- The proposed winter road to the mine site;
- Drilling activities previously permitted within the area designated under LUP MV20011C022;
- Operation of the pilot plant (already permitted);

- Previously permitted underground development; and
- Use of the camp and infrastructure *beyond the requirements* to support the proposed Drilling Program.

3 SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

The scope of this assessment is the identification of the issues that will be examined in the EA. The original 60-hole drill program permitted by LUP MV2001C0022 was subject to an EA by the Review Board (EA01-003), which found that the development was not likely to cause significant adverse impacts on the environment or be cause of significant public concern. Many of the activities of the proposed Drilling Program are the same as those assessed in EA01-003. The two main differences are the introduction of helicopter based drilling and, most importantly, the expanded geographical scope from within 1000 metres of the existing mine site to potentially all areas held by CZN's mining leases and mineral claims. Therefore, the Review Board will conduct an examination of possible impacts on this much larger and more varied area.

The geographical scope of this assessment will include the CZN mineral lease and mining claim areas, the portions of the Prairie Creek watershed downstream of the proposed development, the ranges of wildlife using the area, the areas potentially affected by transportation activities, and the areas of surrounding land use that may be affected in some identifiable way by the proposed Drilling Program. The geographical scope for assessing impacts on the human environment includes the communities of Nahanni Butte, Wrigley, Fort Liard, and Fort Simpson.

The Review Board will not examine the commissioning and full-scale operation of the Prairie Creek Mine. In the Review Board's opinion, the possible opening of the mine is speculative.

In examining these impacts, the Review Board will consider information on the Preliminary Screening public registry, the items described in s.117 of the *MVRMA*, and any other issues the Review Board may raise in the course of the assessment, within the parameters of s.117(2). Section 4 of this Terms of Reference provides specific details.

4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.1 General Terms

CZN is to provide the Review Board with the information requested in section 4.2. This information is intended to supplement that which has already been filed on the public record, such as the Preliminary Screening, the *Detailed Project Description*, as well as information from previous EAs relating to the Prairie Creek mineral property.

It is the opinion of the Review Board that the *Detailed Project Description* for the Drilling Program presents a fairly comprehensive overview of the project. As a result, the information requirements for the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) have been scaled back significantly. Table 1 identifies what issues the Review Board considers have been acceptably addressed in the *Detailed Project Description* for this Development. Where issues have not been adequately addressed, Section 4.2 asks for specific details that need to be addressed in a supplemental Developer's Assessment Report (DAR).

Table 1 – Summary Evaluation of Available Environmental Information

Specific Items	Existing Information Acceptable?
Non-Technical Summary and Conformity Table	No
Developer Description	Yes
Development Description	No
Project Response to Environmental Sensitivity	No
Needs and Alternatives	Yes
Public Consultation	No
Assessment Boundaries <i>(see s. 3 Scope of Assessment for boundaries)</i>	Yes
Physical and Biological Environment	No
• <i>Vegetation and Plant Communities</i>	Yes
• <i>Aquatic Resources and Habitat</i>	No
• <i>Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat</i>	No
• <i>Rare or Threatened Species</i>	Yes
• <i>Soils and Geological Formations</i>	Yes
• <i>Environmental Monitoring and Follow-up</i>	No
• <i>Reclamation</i>	No
Human Environment	No
• <i>Economic Impacts</i>	No
• <i>Local Cultural and Heritage Resources</i>	Yes
• <i>Land Use</i>	Yes
• <i>Protected and Withdrawn Areas</i>	No
Identification of Potential Impacts and Views on Significance	No
Accidents and Malfunctions	Yes
Fuel Spill Contingency Plan	Yes
Health and Safety Plan	Yes

4.2 Specific Items

The Review Board will place particular focus on potential cumulative impacts for all aspects of the development. Therefore, this Terms of Reference request cumulative impacts related information throughout this section, rather than treating cumulative effects as a separate item.

A Summary

A-1 *Non Technical Summary*: Please provide a plain language, non-technical summary of the *Detailed Project Description* and Developer's Assessment Report. The Review Board may require the developer to translate these into South Slavey.

A-2 *Conformity Table*: Please include a table cross referencing the items requested in these

Terms of Reference with the relevant sections of the *Detailed Project Description* and/or the DAR.

B Development Description

The Review Board requires a description of the following parts of the Development.

B-1 Road Development - Please provide information on the following items:

- a) Provide the total linear distance, in kilometers, of the existing road network on the Prairie Creek property.
- b) As much as is possible, given uncertainties associated with the exact location of mineral exploration drill sites, indicate which specific areas of the existing road network will be utilized for the Drilling Program. Provide maps that depict those areas.
- c) Identify areas where road conditions or road alignment is a potential concern in terms of stability and erosion (as was alluded to on page 28 of the *Detailed Project Description*) and proximity to watercourse (closer than 30 metres). Provide maps that show those areas of potential concern.
- d) As much as is possible, given uncertainties associated with the exact location of mineral exploration drill sites, indicate areas where road spurs are most likely to be constructed.
- e) Based upon CZN's commitment to not construct spur roads of length greater than 100 m, provide a map that defines a 100m boundary zone around all components of the existing road network so that the Review Board can better understand the area that may be subject to road construction.
- f) Provide any protocols or practice codes that CZN uses to identify problems with the road network, and mitigation measures proposed to alleviate the situation.
- g) Provide information on the type, source and quantity of materials required for road construction.
- h) Provide details concerning the proposed visits by DFO inspectors to examine the road network. Report upon the intended scope of the inspection, the expected timelines and CZN anticipated response to the Inspector's directions.

B-2 Aerial Images: Please address the following:

- a) To enable the Review Board to visualize the proposed drill site areas and access corridors, please provide aerial photographs or satellite images of the current condition of the entire Prairie Creek property
- b) To enable the Review Board to understand the progression of development at Prairie Creek, please provide copies of satellite images or aerial photographs that CZN has in its possession from earlier periods and that. Ideally these images should date back to

the time before major development took place at the site.

B-3 Drilling Sites - Please provide the following information:

- a) Clarify the number of drilling sites that are proposed for the Drilling Program.
- b) Indicate how many holes could be potentially drilled at the sites.
- c) State how many sumps will be constructed in association with the drill sites.
- d) Indicate what the approximate dimensions of the drill sites and sumps will be.
- e) If multiple hole drilling is proposed from a single drilling pad, please indicate how the dimensions of the drilling pad may change as a result.
- f) Show on a map the area designated under LUP MV2001C0022 for the Phase II surface exploration drilling program.
- g) Provide the chemical compositions and brand names of drill fluids to be used.
- h) Provide the total number of holes drilled under past Land Use Permits and describe the specifics of any other past undertakings in the area (i.e. size of underground adits and trenches)

B-4 Road network responsibility: Please provide further details as to CZN responsibilities in regards to ownership, development, maintenance, and reclamation of the road network. This description should also include:

- a) Information regarding any security bonding that CZN must provide for reclamation of the roads and
- b) Information on any Inspector's directions in regards to the condition and use of the road network.

C Project Response to Environmental Sensitivity

Because of the exploratory nature of the development, the Review Board accepts that exact drill locations cannot be determined in advance. Instead of providing detailed environmental information for each drill site and predicting impacts at each site, CZN is required to identify how it will modify its Drilling Program in response to environmental sensitivity. CZN is to provide Project alternatives and mitigation measures for any area where sensitivity criteria are found. Criteria include:

- steep topography;
- the presence of soils with high erosion/compaction/sedimentation potential in areas where drilling, road construction and heavy machinery transportation may occur;

- above average stream flows during period where crossings are normally to be contemplated;
- flood or extreme storm events;
- areas of unique aesthetic quality;
- spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes;
- areas frequented or used extensively by wildlife (i.e. food sources, travel corridors, den or nesting sites, mineral licks, natality areas for Dall's Sheep); and
- vegetation communities that are sensitive to disturbance, or have slow recovery rates

CZN may alter this list, provided sufficient rationale is given. The Review Board further requests that CZN provide a discussion of the following items and any other mitigation measures CZN has considered using in sensitive areas:

- the threshold by which any of the criteria listed above trigger a requirement for increased helicopter-based drilling;
- considering the increased use of helicopter assisted drilling to limit the need to create new roads and incur stream crossing in areas identified as sensitive; and
- establishing “no-go” areas on areas of the road network that are already subject to compaction and erosion, or have strong erosion and compaction potential, or are in close (30 metres) proximity to any watercourses, including ephemeral streams.

Where possible CZN is to provide maps showing environmental sensitivities, no-go-zones, helicopter only zones, etc. Where this is not possible CZN is to provide a description of how its personnel will determine the presence of any sensitivity criteria.

D Public Consultation:

Please provide information on the following items:

- a) List the issues raised during the course of recent consultation activities undertaken, in respect of the Drilling Program, as listed in Section 4.0 of the *Detailed Project Description*.
- b) Identify to what extent any of these issues have been resolved and how.
- c) Indicate if discussions have been taking place between CZN and the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee to address potentially conflicting land use goals, and if so, present the results of those consultation.

E Physical and Biological Environment:

E-1 Aquatic Resources and Habitat - Please provide information on the following items:

- a) Identify, on a map, potential water sources (i.e. non-ephemeral streams) for drilling;
- b) Estimate the maximum number of crossings of the Prairie, Galena, Little Quartz and Big Quartz Creeks by heavy equipment and trucks and discuss alternatives to those proposed crossings;
- c) Provide approximate dates where watercourse crossings will be prohibited to prevent impacts to fish migration; or provide the criteria by which the fish migration will be detected by site managers;
- d) The consideration of any other sedimentation prevention methods, beyond those provided in Section 3.4 of the *Detailed Project Description*.
- e) Illustrate, on a map, the most likely locations for watercourse crossings.
- f) Provide the rate of flow of Prairie Creek during the spring and summer season.
- g) Discuss the feasibility of aquatic surveys being conducted this summer in terms of data deficient species within creeks that will be crossed.

E-2 Wildlife - Please provide information on the following items:

- a) Include a comparison analysis on the potential disturbance of wildlife by the transportation and operation of helicopter-based drilling versus that of the ground-transported rigs.
- b) Provide an estimate, in decibels, of the noise generated by the transportation and operation of the helicopter and ground-based rigs.
- c) Discuss the Drilling Program's potential effects to migratory species of birds who use the Prairie Creek area.
- d) Based upon the experience of recent years, estimate the frequency of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft that land at the Prairie Creek site, or pass overhead at low elevation [<2000 ft(610m)] during the drilling season. Estimate the degree of impact, if any, on local populations of large mammals and indicate what effects may be expected with the increased amount of aircraft travel expected as part of the Drilling Program. Indicate mitigation measures that CZN could implement for its own operations to reduce this potential source of impact to wildlife.

E-3 Reclamation - Please provide information on the following items:

Submit information on reclamation of roads and drilling pads, including reclamation requirements of the Land Lease and CZN's proposed reclamation of roads and drilling pads located outside the surface lease boundaries.

- a) Based upon CZN's understanding of site conditions, identify parts of the road

network, if any, that should be immediately considered for reclamation and not employed in the Drilling Program, based upon environmental sensitivity or poor condition. Provide rationale for the inclusion or exclusion of roads on this list. Use maps to depict the areas of concern. The map should be updated following the proposed visit by DFO Inspectors this summer and a copy should be submitted to the MVEIRB. CZN may submit the revised map following the Developer's Assessment Report.

- b) Provide a discussion concerning the feasibility of ecological restoration in areas to be disturbed by the Drilling Program (i.e. roads and drilling pads). Consider the potentially limiting factors of climate, precipitation, soil fertility and topography and suitable restoration species in this discussion. Based on those factors, provide what level of restoration can be achieved based upon varying levels of effort.
- c) Provide greater detail on the methods that will be employed to re-vegetated sites disturbed by the proposed Drilling Program, as alluded to in Section 2.2.1.2 of the *Detailed Project Description*. Information regarding a re-vegetation monitoring program and the species constituents of the native seed mix should be provided.
- d) Provide an estimate for the time required for areas disturbed by road or pad construction to a stabilized, self-sustaining native plant community, based on the proposed reclamation strategy requested above, as well as a "non-managed" situation.

E-4 Environmental Monitoring - Please provide information on the following items:

- a) Provide a protocol for short and long-term monitoring that addresses sediment and erosion control measures, stream crossings, reclamation and re-vegetation.

F Human Environment:

F-1 Economic Impacts - Please provide information on the following items:

- a) A description of business opportunities for local organizations, particularly any Aboriginal business joint-ventures, which may be considered for the proposed Drilling Program.
- b) A prediction of the total value of wages that will go to persons residing in local communities, based on the results of previous years.
- c) The number and types of jobs, including the job qualifications, that will go to local communities for the Drilling Program.

F-2 Protected and Withdrawn Areas: Discuss CZN's commitment and methods to maintain the aesthetic quality of the entire Prairie Creek property in relationship to the goals of neighbouring land users, including the Nahanni National Park Reserve.

F-3 *Cultural and Heritage Resources*: Discuss the feasibility of having an archaeologist, or someone capable of identifying heritage sites and artifacts, present during any major soil disturbances.

G Identification of Potential Impacts and Views on Significance and Mitigation

Considering all of the above items CZN is to determine the impacts on the environment the proposed Drilling Program may have in terms of:

- Direction (beneficial/adverse);
- Magnitude;
- Geographical extent (spatial boundaries);
- Duration;
- Frequency;
- Probability;
- Reversibility; and,
- Significance

All impacts should also be examined for their potential to add to existing impacts resulting in significant cumulative impacts, despite individual impacts not being considered significant. For each impact prediction or proposed mitigation, all uncertainties (e.g., due to poor baseline data or low predictive validity) should be stated explicitly. A precautionary approach should be followed when determining appropriate mitigation measures.

Notwithstanding the developer's conclusions, the Review Board will make the final determination of significance.

5 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

5.1 Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Review Board and its staff, government bodies, the developer and other parties in the EA are explained in this section. Further information regarding the structure of the EA process is available in the Review Board's *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines* and the *Rules of Procedure*. Both documents are available from the Review Board.

All submissions received from all sources will be considered during the Review Board's EA decision-making process. Usually such submissions are considered to be public documents and will be placed on the Public Registry. However, the Review Board will accept documents on a confidential basis if required. Submissions should be in a format that is easily available to all stakeholders and should follow any templates provided by the Review Board.

Review Board

The Review Board, assisted by its staff, is required to undertake the following in relation to this EA:

- conduct the EA in accordance with ss.126(3) of the *MVRMA*;

- take into account any previous screening or assessment report made in relation to the development, in accordance with s.127 of the *MVRMA*;
- determine the scope of the development, in accordance with ss.117(1) of the *MVRMA*;
- consider environmental assessment factors, in accordance with ss.117(2) of the *MVRMA*;
- make a determination regarding the environmental impacts and public concern of the development, in accordance with ss.128(1) of the *MVRMA*;
- identify areas and extent of impacts within or outside the Mackenzie Valley in which the development is likely to have a significant adverse impact or be a cause of significant public concern, in accordance with ss.128(4) of the *MVRMA*;
- report to the Federal Minister in accordance with ss.128(2) of the *MVRMA*.

The Review Board's Environmental Assessment Officer (EAO) is the primary point of contact between the Review Board and the developer, government bodies (federal, territorial and municipal), non-government organizations (NGOs), aboriginal organizations, expert advisors (expert consultants contracted directly by the Review Board), the public and other interested parties. This does not limit or preclude the developer's contact with other parties during the EA process.

This Environmental Assessment will be principally coordinated and facilitated by Martin Haefele, (A)Senior Environmental Assessment Officer. Mary Tapsell, Manager of Environmental Assessment and Patrick Duxbury, Environmental Assessment Officer, will also participate extensively in this EA process.

Government Bodies

Government bodies may be involved in the EA process as:

- a Regulatory Authority as defined in the *MVRMA*;
- a Responsible Minister as defined in the *MVRMA*;
- a Federal Minister as defined in the *MVRMA*; or
- an advisor to the Review Board.

Government bodies are expected to participate and adhere to the timelines as set out in the Terms of Reference.

Developer

The developer is expected to respond in a suitable and timely manner to directions and requests issued by the Review Board. The developer may present additional information at any time to the Review Board beyond what is requested during the EA process. The Review Board encourages the developer to continue consulting all potentially affected communities and organizations during

the EA process.

Other Parties

Aboriginal groups, NGOs, the public and other interested parties may request and be granted party standing by the Review Board, as per the MVEIRB *Rules of Procedure*. Parties may provide the Review Board with information relevant to the EA of their own volition, or they may be asked by the Review Board to provide any relevant information they may have. Parties are expected to participate and respond to directions and requests issued by the Review Board in an appropriate and timely manner.

Expert Advisors

In addition to the expertise available from within government, the Review Board may also choose to hire expert advisors to provide independent technical expertise on specific aspects of the EA.

5.2 Milestones

Table 1 summarizes the milestones and responsibilities in the EA process.

Table 1 - Milestones + Responsibilities in the EA Process

Milestone	Developer	Government Bodies	Other Parties	Review Board and Staff
EA start-up				✓
Scoping Sessions	✓	✓	✓	✓
Draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan				✓
Review and comment on draft ToR and WP	✓	✓	✓	
Final ToR and WP				✓
Developer's Assessment Report	✓			
Conformity Check and Deficiency Statement (if required)				✓
Deficiency Statement Response	✓			
Information Requests (if required)		✓	✓	✓
Information Request Responses or Roundtable technical meeting (if required)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Technical Analysis		✓	✓	✓
Public/Community Hearing (at Board's discretion)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Review Board Report of EA and Reasons for Decision				✓
Response from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (if required)		✓		
Consultation - throughout / as required	✓	✓	✓	✓

5.3 Deliverables

The following section lists and explains the various deliverables to be produced during the EA process. They are listed in the order they will be produced.

Public Registry, public notification, government notification, developer notification, expert advisor identification, identification of EA roles

The Review Board has initiated the notification measures required by the *MVRMA*. The Review Board has opened the Public Registry on the EA. The Public Registry will be updated regularly.

The Review Board will identify expert advisors if and as required. Please refer to s3.7 of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines* for further detail.

Approved Terms of Reference and Work Plan

A final Terms of Reference and Work Plan will be developed incorporating comments on the draft document received from parties, including potentially-impacted communities who will be visited by Review Board staff. This document will contain the scope of the development, the scope of the assessment, directions to the developer, a description of the EA process and an EA schedule. Please refer to s3.10 *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines* for further information.

Developer's Assessment Report

CZN will be responsible for submitting to the Review Board, a DAR that will provide the information listed in Section 4 of these Terms of Reference. CZN should use diagrams, charts and maps for clarifying information presented in the text where appropriate and should consider the use of a glossary for technical or uncommon terms.

Conformity Check, Review Board Deficiency Statement and Developer's Response

The Review Board will review the Developer's Assessment Report to ensure that the developer has provided the information required. If needed, the Review Board will issue a deficiency statement identifying those areas in which the developer has not provided sufficient information to address an item listed in the Terms of Reference. The developer will be asked to submit information to the Review Board to fill the information gaps identified by the deficiency statement. If the Review Board is not satisfied with the information received, it will halt the environmental assessment until it has received an adequate response. Please refer to the 2004 *EIA Guidelines* s3.12 for details.

Information Requests and Responses to Information Requests

Information Requests (IRs) are very specific and focused requests for clarification or additional information. They may be required for the Review Board to complete its analysis and reach a conclusion about the information provided by the developer. The first round of IRs issued will be developed by the Review Board. The second round will be open to all EA participants.

IRs can be issued by any party in the EA and can be directed to any other party. However, all IRs must be submitted to the Review Board for approval and they must also be submitted in the form required by the Review Board. If approved, the Review Board will then issue the IR under its authority to the intended IR recipient. The IRs and the responses will be included in the Public Registry and be used as evidence for the consideration of the Review Board. See the 2004 *EIA Guidelines* s3.14 for details.

Roundtable Technical Meeting(s) Report

The Review Board, in lieu of, or in addition to the above-mentioned IR process, may choose to hold a roundtable technical meeting to permit a face-to-face question and answer session between interested parties, the developer and Review Board staff. In advance of a roundtable technical meeting, parties will submit their questions/comments to the developer, or to other parties, by way of the Review Board, to allow the developer or parties sufficient time to develop a response. To ensure a fair process, the Review Board exercises discretionary control over what issues may be brought forward in the meeting. Review Board staff will ensure that a record of the meeting is made. Following the meeting, the Review Board will issue a report that details the nature of the proceedings and any technical issues that were identified, discussed, resolved or left outstanding.

Technical Reports from EA parties

The Review Board staff will undertake the analysis of the EA with the assistance of federal and territorial governments, aboriginal groups, the public, and other interested parties. A thorough analysis of the development is essential to assist the Review Board to make the best EA decision. This is a critical stage in the EA process where the key issues and impacts are identified and evaluated. The developer can formally provide and present its views on the information brought to the Review Board's attention including any proposed amendments, additions or refinements to the development or the environmental assessment documents. The technical reports from EA parties are to clearly state the reviewer's conclusions, recommendations and supporting rationales. See the 2004 *EIA Guidelines* s3.13 for details.

Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment (EA Decision)

The Review Board will provide the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) with its Report of Environmental Assessment as per Section 128(2) of the MVRMA. The Minister of INAC will distribute the report to every responsible minister as per Section 128(2)(a) of the MVRMA. The developer and the other EA parties will also receive copies of the Review Board's Report of EA. Please refer to the 2004 *EIA Guidelines* s3.16 for details.

5.4 Schedule

Table 2 provides estimated time lines for the completion of each milestone in the EA process. Days refer to working days. The Review Board may amend the schedule at its discretion.

Table 2 - EA Schedule

MILESTONE	Duration
Start-up of the EA	Done
Draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan	Done
Comments on draft ToR and WP	12 days
Final Terms of Reference and Work Plan	8 days
Developer's assessment Report	20 days
Review Board Conformity Check and Deficiency Statement (<i>if required</i>)	9 days
Developer's Response to the Deficiency Statement (<i>if required</i>)	15 days
Review Board IRs to developer	8 days
Developer Response	10 days
Supplementary IRs to developer (Review Board + parties)	12 days
Developer's response to Supplementary IRs	10 days
Parties' Technical Reports	15 days
Hearing (<i>type to be determined</i>)	10 days
Closure of Public Registry	1 day
Review Board EA decision	40 days
Review Board's Report of EA to the Minister of INAC	---
Federal Minister's response to the Review Board's Report of EA	---
Reporting EA results to Communities	---