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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
#200 Scotia Centre
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Via email: chubert@reviewboard.ca
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Re: EA0809-002, Prairie Creek Mine

CPAWS-NWT is pleased to provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board with information requests in response to the Developer's Assessment Report submitted by Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) to the Board.

Request for Information for:
IR Number: EA0809-002 Prairie Creek Mine

Directed to:
Canadian Zinc Corporation
Suite 1710-650 West Georgia Street
P0 Box 11644
Vancouver, BC
V6B 4N9

Subject: Questions regarding temporary storage of tailings in the Water Storage Pond (WSP)

In section 2.0 of your addendum to the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) and 6.12.2 of the DAR you have outlined how you would use the WSP as a second storage area to store up to 50,000 tonnes of tailings until sufficient mine openings are available for backfill. You have outlined why you think this option is a "superior solution" compared to storing tailings above ground.

To better understand how this would be a "superior solution" we ask that the following be clarified.

- 1) What are the limitations to building a covered temporary storage facility with a capacity (60,000 tonnes) to hold the 50,000 tonnes from the first 5 months of operations and the 10,000 tonnes proposed for storage in the building adjacent to the concrete shed? If this was feasible would it not be a superior solution to storage in the WSP?
- 2) Duration of tailings storage in the WSP

Temporary storage is an arbitrary timeframe considering the estimated life of the mine could be 14 years or more.

Does the length of temporary tailings storage in the WSP consider transfer to an available mine opening immediately when one becomes available (0-2years?) or will this be done opportunistically some time during the life of the mine (0-14years)?

- 3) Method of tailings removal from the WSP

What would be the method of dredging tailings from the WSP?

Is it possible that this method will puncture or tear the geo-synthetic liner?

If heavy equipment is used, is there a risk that this could cause ground instability around the WSP?

Will above-ground storage of dredged tailings be required prior to transferring to the backfill plant?

- 4) Would you continue to call the pond a water storage pond or rename it a water storage and tailings pond to clarify the true function?

Thank-you for responding to these information requests,



Kris Brekke
Acting Executive Director - Conservation Coordinator
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