

Mackenzie Valley Review Board



EA0809-002: Canadian Zinc Corporation – Prairie Creek Mine

Meeting Report from the Wrigley Scoping Session

Compiled by: Mackenzie Valley Review Board (“Review Board”) staff

Location: Wrigley Community Hall

Date: October 2, 2008

INTRODUCTION

Review Board staff hosted scoping sessions in several Dehcho communities between September 30 and October 3, 2008, to gather issues and concerns from all parties about the proposed Prairie Creek Mine, approximately 90 kilometres northwest of Nahanni Butte. The Review Board will be using this meeting report, reports from other scoping sessions (including a Technical Scoping Session in Yellowknife on October 9, 2008), all of the information on the Public Record (available at www.mveirb.nt.ca), and any follow-up scoping submissions from any interested parties (due October 20), to determine how to proceed with this environmental assessment.

While this meeting report is as comprehensive as Review Board staff could make it, this is not a verbatim document. It is based on notes by Review Board staff. Unlike the official statements made at Review Board hearings toward the end of the Environmental Assessment process, scoping sessions are less formal dialogues.

Interested parties are reminded they can submit comments to be placed on the public record of the Environmental Assessment at any time. A digital recording of the session is stored in the Public Record at the Review Board’s Yellowknife offices.

People’s names (other than developer’s responses) have not been associated with the individual statements they made at the session in this document.

Contact Alistair MacDonald at the Review Board with any questions or comments:

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amacdonald@mveirb.nt.ca

ATTENDEES

In attendance (only those people who signed in or made their names known):

Alistair MacDonald – MVEIRB
Nicole Spencer – MVEIRB
Jessica Simpson – MVEIRB
David Harpley – Canadian Zinc Corporation
Wilbert Antoine – Canadian Zinc Corporation
Chris Reeves – Canadian Zinc Corporation
Joel Holder – GNWT Environment and Natural Resources
Wilson Dimsdale – GNWT Industry Tourism and Investment
Julie Jackson – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Krystal Thompson – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Lorraine Seale - Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Dana Haggerty – Parks Canada
Chief Darcy Moses – Pedzeh Ki First Nation
Sharon Pellissey – Pedzeh Ki First Nation
Angus Ekenale - Pedzeh Ki First Nation
Mary Clille - Pedzeh Ki First Nation
Eddie Gargan - Pedzeh Ki First Nation
Albert Moses - Pedzeh Ki First Nation

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED

The following issues were identified by participants (Review Board staff notes: the developer is encouraged to provide submissions addressing these questions or perceived information gaps at any time):

- Water quality was very important to the community – especially concerns about how water quality will alter downstream over time.
- Community members felt it was important to have First Nations involved in monitoring the water
- Air quality was raised – a community member stated “we do not want another Giant Mine situation” with airborne emissions
- Stability and potential for leakage of the water containment ponds
- Ability to contain water in the event of a flood, either of Prairie Creek, the water ponds, or Harrison Creek
- Soil erosion of the road into the water system
- Job and business opportunities – how First Nations can get involved
- Acceptability of management plans, for the life of the mine
- Ecological integrity of the South Nahanni Park Reserve
- Social impact monitoring; e.g., bush economy vs. wage economy issues and the speed of social and cultural change
- Waste management - garbage, sewage, old equipment and hazardous waste concerns
- Winter road – public safety and interference with traditional peoples hunting

MEETING REPORT

The meeting commenced at 10:20 am.

Jessica Simpson, Community Liason Officer for the Review Board, gave a presentation which provided an introduction to environmental assessment. This (and all other presentations) is available at www.mveirb.nt.ca under the Public Registry for Canadian Zinc Corporation Environmental Assessment-EA-0809-002.

A short presentation was then given by Review Board staff member Alistair Macdonald, regarding the role and goals of scoping sessions. Alistair identified that the purpose of these meetings during the early “scoping” stage is to find information gaps in the work done so far, to identify the right questions to ask during the Environmental Assessment, and to raise concerns about how the development might impact the environment.

A Presentation was given by David Harpley of Canadian Zinc Corporation which provided an overview of the proposed Prairie Creek Mine. He followed this with a presentation on Canadian Zinc Corporation’s initial assessment of potential environmental impacts. The following questions and comments were fielded by the developer during these presentations:

How will wildlife be impacted by Mine and Road?

The developer notes that there was a Wildlife Management Plan completed as a result of previous environmental assessments. From the last research survey in 2006 and 2007 there seems to be very few animals in the road area. There are also few animals in the site area. There is a resident Dall’s sheep population, a few grizzlies pass through and there are scattered sightings of wolf and woodland caribou.

How important is that specific location for Dall’s Sheep?

The developer felt they seem to be unaffected by the Mine. There is a resident population of about a dozen.

Will the road be a part of the EA? The developer’s opinion is that the Winter Road has been deemed exempt from environmental assessment by the Supreme Court of the NWT.

Are all environmental plans in place? The developer noted there is a Mine Water Contingency Plan, Wildlife Management Plan, Fuel Spill Contingency Plan, Flight Impact Management Plan which have all been produced for past EAs and licenses, and which they feel should reduce the need for additional assessment on certain issues.

Where will sewage water go?

Sewage will be treated onsite, the treated effluent sent to the water cells, and any solids incinerated.

Are the Transfer Sites heated?

No, they are not heated. The developer wants the concentrate to stay frozen.

How long is the Winter Road? The developer noted the winter road is approximately 180 km

Where is the Waste Rock Pile going to be? In a tributary above Harrison Creek and above the mine site, in a draw.

Any idea how much drainage will be from the Waste Rock Pile?

Any drainage and run-off will accumulate in a catchment pond at the bottom of the area and tested prior to release.

What are the flow rates of water coming out of the mine? Will they increase as CZN goes deeper into the mountain? Currently the flow rates are approximately 18 litres per second. This will likely double when the mine starts its operation, but additional work is being done by the developer to confirm this. The developer will size its treatment facility to handle at least double the expected inflows of water, and make it adaptable to a larger volume operation.

How deep will the mine get? It is unknown exactly at this point. There is already approximately five km of tunnels within the Mine.

Is there any cyanide on the premises? No, it has been removed.

What are you doing with the old machinery?

Much of the machinery is being used (trucks and back hoes) or will be replaced or updated. Any machinery discarded will be cut up and removed or if not hazardous put into a landfill in part of the waste rock pile to be eventually covered up.

How much fuel can the tanks hold?

The developer identified that the mine will likely demand about 6 million litres of fuel per year, and the tanks can hold approximately 8 million litres of fuel.

What happens if a fuel tank bursts?

There is enough catchment area to hold more than one full tank contents, so that no fuel will be lost. In addition, the runoff from the mountain each year collects inside the catchment area, indicating that the tank area is impermeable.

Will the Mine Site be able to accommodate an accumulation of all the water flow, especially in spring runoff – is there potential for flash floods in either Prairie Creek or Harrison Creek?

The flow in the mine definitely increases in the spring. The developer feels there is enough containment area, high enough dykes and berms, and proper ditching and other channelling to accommodate all the run-off from the Mine and the mountain at any time of year. They indicated there has been no known history of site flooding during spring runoff.

How will the water pipes and ponds function in winter?

The pipes will be heat traced, some will be underground, there will be ice on the top of the ponds, but water will flow from below. The mine does not issue much water at all during winter.

How long will the mine be open?

The mine will be open for 14 years with a possibility of extension depending on further exploration to see what is down deeper.

Will there be water treatment for the life of the Mine? Yes

Will water treatment facilities be upgraded? It will be upgraded when more water needs to be treated, when operations begins.

What kind of fish are in Prairie Creek?

Bull trout, whitefish, sculpins

After the question and answer sessions, people took the opportunity to go up and add comments to the wall during and after lunch. Review Board staff took notes on concerns raised by interested parties and placed them on the wall for public viewing as well. *Notes from comment cards are included below.*

The meeting was not formally reconvened and was adjourned at 2:20pm.

Alistair MacDonald concluded with a note of thanks to all participants and a re-iteration that this is only the start of the EA process and that there are many more avenues for dialogue and public input along the way.

NOTES FROM THE INDEX CARDS SUBMITTED DURING THE SCOPING SESSION (Review Board staff has subcategorized them):**Social, Economic and Cultural Impacts**

- How will social impacts be monitored
- Will cultural impact studies be undertaken
- Problems with increased income and community/family effects from drugs, alcohol and violence
- Effects of traditional life vs. wage economy
- Cultural impact studies required
- Heritage resource studies required
- Jobs and business opportunities
- Training for truck driving and other high demand off site jobs

Winter Road and Liard Highway

- Will the winter road be a part of the environmental assessment?
- Soil erosion of roads – sedimentation problems?
- Traffic on roads; safety and road deterioration concerns\
- The Roads: will they be a part of the environmental assessment
- It is a moist [meaning swampy?] region where the transfer facility will be. What will you do-where will you get the rock from?

Air Quality

- Don't want a repeat of Giant Mine problems with air quality.

Wildlife

- How important is this specific location for Dall's sheep?
- Effects of noise on wildlife
- Effects of mine and road together on wildlife?

Water and Fish

- Will there be enough water or will the developer have to draw from the Prairie Creek?
- Will anything from the tailings pad or water ponds go into the creek?
- How do you know that water won't affect the creek?
- What quality of water is coming out of the mine? Where does it all go?
- Water quality is a big issue in mining (using it, how much, treatment, monitoring)
- Is the existing treatment plant to be replaced? If so, will it function effectively at all times (stated twice)?
- What kind of fish are in the area (asked twice)?
- Spring runoff – will the ponds get too full? Will there be flash floods? How will meltwater be managed?
- Sewage water – where will that go and how treated (mentioned by two parties)?
- Concerns about water quality downstream over time
- Cumulative water quality effect during the mine life and after the mine closes
- How much water will be pumped out as it gets deeper?

Monitoring and Management

- How does Canadian Zinc plan on monitoring long term effects? Will there be an Environmental Agreement to help monitor?
- Are there plans for continuing studies for the life of the mine? (for water management, air quality, wildlife)
- Are all environmental management plans in place?
- Who reports to communities? Especially water quality.
- Who is involved with water monitoring currently?
- From past history, have there been environmental concerns? Establish an environmental monitoring board?
- First Nations should be monitoring water quality (a couple of people mentioned this) – people are still leery of the water
- Will the Land and Water Board monitor the mine? Are there aboriginal people involved? This is their land
- Independent researchers needed; we only have the developer's research info

Waste Management

- Dealing with hazardous waste
- What happened to the cyanide?
- What will happen with old equipment?
- What happens to garbage on site (mentioned by two attendees)
- Storage of waste rock concerns, e.g., acid rock drainage from waste rock pile

Park

- The ecological integrity of the park is a concern
- What is the nature of the agreement between CZN and Parks Canada?

Public Concerns

- The most important concerns are 1. the watershed and the water for the people and the animals-can't live without it.2. using traditional knowledge especially up the North Nahanni. A lot of our people have sites up there. They need more study.
- We want jobs but want the environment to be protected as well.

MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Canadian Zinc Corporation – Prairie Creek Mine

Location:	Wrigley	Meeting Date:	October 2, 2008
Facilitator:	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board	Place/Room:	Community Hall
Name		Organization	
1.	Annie Spence	MVEIRB	
2.	Jessica Simpson	Review Board	
3.	Wilton Dimsdale	GNWT	
4.	Sharon Pellissey PKFN	Lands Officer - PKFN	
5.	Darcy Moses PKFN	Chief	
6.	Angus Ekanaka	PKFN	
7.	Mary Elie PKFN	Councillors	
8.	Eddie Dargan	-	
9.	Joel Abder	GNWT - ENR.	
10.	Julie Jackson	INAC	
11.	Krysta Thompson	INAC	
12.	Alfred Moore	Councilor PKFN	
13.	Dana Huggarty	Parks Canada	
14.	Alistair Macdonald	MVEIRB	
15.	David Hapley	CZN	
16.	Wilbert Antoine	CZN	
17.	Chris Reenes	CZN	
18.	Lorraine Seale	INAC	