



JUN 8 2012



Mr. Richard Edjericon  
Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
PO Box 938  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Edjericon:

As the federal Minister, and on behalf of the responsible Ministers with jurisdiction related to this matter (the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Transport Canada, and the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories), I am writing to convey our decision on the Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision EA0809-002: Canadian Zinc Corporation, Prairie Creek Mine, dated December 8, 2011 (Report of Environmental Assessment).

In its Report of Environmental Assessment, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board determined, pursuant to subsection 128(1)(a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, that an environmental impact review of the proposed development is not required. In its opinion the proposed development, as described in the Report of Environmental Assessment, including the list of commitments made by the developer during the proceedings, is not likely to cause significant adverse impacts on the environment or to be a cause of significant public concern.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board further states that its "conclusions assume that the Developer will implement its commitments and that the appropriate regulatory authorities and government agencies will ensure they are implemented as appropriate." The responsible Ministers note that the scope of the development now includes all commitments made by the developer during the environmental assessment as stated by the Review Board, "Commitments made by the Canadian Zinc Corporation during the course of this environmental assessment form an integral part of the Prairie Creek Mine project and are part of the scope of development."

The responsible Ministers' decision was taken after considering:

- Correspondence from the developer, Aboriginal organizations, and other parties;

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- Whether the proposed development might adversely affect established or potential Aboriginal and treaty rights; and
- Pursuant to section 131.2 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the importance of the conservation of the lands, waters and wildlife of the Mackenzie Valley on which the development might have an impact.

Pursuant to subsection 130(1)(a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the responsible Ministers may agree to order an environmental impact review of the proposed development, notwithstanding the determination of the Review Board under subsection 128(1)(a). The responsible Ministers may also refer the matter to a joint review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* pursuant to subsection 130(1)(c). I am confirming that we will not exercise our authority to order an environmental impact review nor will we refer the proposal to the Minister of Environment for a *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* joint panel review.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Teresa Joudrie, Director, Renewable Resources and Environment Directorate at 867-669-2647 or by email at [Teresa.Joudrie@aandc.gc.ca](mailto:Teresa.Joudrie@aandc.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



John Duhcan, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Peter Kent, PC, MP  
The Honourable Keith Ashfield, PC, MP  
The Honourable Joe Oliver, PC, MP  
The Honourable Denis Lebel, PC, MP  
The Honourable Michael Miltenberger, MLA  
Mr. Willard Hagen  
Mr. John Kearney  
Chief Fred Tesou  
Grand Chief Sam Gargan  
Chief Jim Antoine  
Mr. Kris Brekke  
Mr. Éric Hébert-Daly