



VIA EMAIL AND FAX

Chief Roy Fabian
Kát'odeeche First Nation
PO BOX 3060
HAY RIVER NT X0E 1G4

OCT 11 2018

Dear Chief Fabian:

Government decision on Report of Environmental Assessment for Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek all season road: follow up letter with Kát'odeeche First Nation

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada have recently concluded the decision phase for the environmental assessment of Canadian Zinc's (the developer) Prairie Creek all season road (EA1415-01).

As you are aware, in 2014 the developer proposed the construction of a 184 kilometre all-season road (the Project) from the Nahanni Butte Access Road to service the Prairie Creek Mine in Nahanni National Park Reserve. After referral, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) began its environmental assessment (EA) of the Project on May 22, 2014. GNWT wrote to the Kát'odeeche First Nation (KFN) in May 2015 to advise you of potential government decisions relating to this Project and that the GNWT would be relying on the Review Board's process to assist in fulfilling Aboriginal consultation requirements in relation to the Project.

In concluding its EA process, the Review Board released its final *Report of Environmental Assessment* (REA) on September 12, 2017. The GNWT wrote to you again at that time in order to continue dialogue regarding potential government decisions relating to the Review Board's findings in the REA. The GNWT wishes to express appreciation for KFN's response on October 11, 2017.

Responsible ministers with both the federal government and the GNWT considered KFN's response and other correspondence and information during the decision phase, which spanned from September 2017 to October 2018. The decision phase ended on October 9, 2018, when the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and

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Northern Affairs, on behalf of all responsible ministers, adopted, under subparagraph 130(1)(b)(i) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Review Board's recommendation that the Project be approved to proceed to the regulatory phase.

Next steps

During Project permitting, there will be further opportunities for Aboriginal consultation should you choose to participate. Project operation will also afford further opportunities for your involvement.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Project Assessment Branch Manager Melissa Pink via email at Melissa.Pink@gov.nt.ca, or by phone at (867)-767-9180, Ext. 24021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Hearn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Hearn
Assistant Deputy Minister
Coordination and Planning
Lands

See Distribution List

Distribution List:

Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary, Office of the Premier of the Northwest Territories

Mr. Mike Aumond, Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, GNWT Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Mr. Willard Hagen, Deputy Minister, GNWT Department of Lands

Dr. Joe Dragon, Deputy Minister, GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Mark Hopkins, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Mr. Nicholas Winfield, Director General, Ecosystem Programs Policy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mr. Patrick O'Neill, Director General, Explosive Safety and Security Branch, Natural Resources Canada

Ms. Katherine Cumming, National Manager of Impact Assessment, Natural Resource Conservation Branch, Parks Canada Agency

Ms. Georgina Williston, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Dr. Shelagh Montgomery, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Mr. Peter Groenen, Chief Executive Officer, Kátł'odeeche First Nation
