
The Review Board releases its Report of Environmental Assessment for the Prairie Creek All Season Road (EA1415-01)

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) has completed an environmental assessment of the Prairie Creek All Season Road, proposed by Canadian Zinc Corp. The Board recommends to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (the Minister) that the project be approved subject to the implementation of several measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on the environment.

The Review Board used 13.5 months of the legislated 16 months prescribed to it by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* to conduct the environmental assessment. The remainder of the time was used by Canadian Zinc Corp. to respond to the Review Board and Parties information requirements.

Today, the *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* (the Report of EA) for the Prairie Creek All Season Road was released by the Review Board. This Report of EA describes the Board's findings on the proposed Prairie Creek All Season Road.

The project consists of the construction, operation and closure of a 180 km all season access road from the Prairie Creek Mine (km 0) to the Liard Hwy (km 180). Approximately half of the proposed road is in the Nahanni National Park Reserve. Construction of the all season road is proposed over 3 years, with an operating life of 17 years, followed by the closure and reclamation of the road.

After careful consideration, the Review Board concludes that the proposed Prairie Creek All Season Road should be approved subject to the implementation of 16 measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on the environment. These measures include requirements for Canadian Zinc Corp. to:

- create an Independent Technical Review Panel, to ensure that the road is designed to a standard that is highly protective of people and the environment
- create a *Traffic Control Mitigation and Management Plan*
- conduct systematic wildlife monitoring and adaptive management incorporating Traditional Knowledge
- prepare a *Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan*
- install stations to collect baseline water flow data, to use when designing water crossings
- further engage Traditional Knowledge holders about cultural and heritage resources in the Project area, and conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment incorporating this Traditional Knowledge

- collect detailed baseline information, monitor effects and make an adaptive management framework for the Sundog Creek diversion
- conduct a rare plant survey to form the basis of a *Rare Plant Management Plan*
- conduct permafrost investigations to inform road design and appropriate permafrost mitigations
- create a *Permafrost Management Plan* with systematic permafrost monitoring and adaptive management
- support independent community monitoring of the Project

With these measures to mitigate identified significant impacts, and considering the developer's commitments as described in the Report of Environmental Assessment, the Review Board has recommended that the Project proceed to the regulatory phase for approvals. By addressing the significant adverse impacts in these and other ways, the Project will be improved, and meaningful actions will mitigate the significant impacts that would otherwise occur.

The Report of EA has been sent to Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, for her consideration. Once the Report of EA is approved by the Minister, the Prairie Creek All Season Road can move to the permitting and licensing phase.

The Review Board thanks Canadian Zinc Corp. and all parties for their participation during the course of this environmental assessment.

The Review Board's *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* for the Prairie Creek All Season Road (EA1415-01) is available online in the public registry [here](#).

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Location of Prairie Creek All Season Road



Location of the Prairie Creek All Season Road

About the Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board was established by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* in 1998 as an independent administrative tribunal responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories. As a co-management board, Aboriginal land claim organizations nominate half of the board members, and the federal and territorial governments nominate the other half of the board members. The Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada appoints all members to the Review Board including the Chairperson.