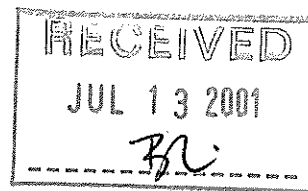




**CANADIAN PARKS AND  
WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
NWT CHAPTER**



July 12, 2001

Hon. Robert Nault, P.C., M.P.,  
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development,  
10 Wellington St North Tower  
Hull, Quebec, K1A 0H4  
Fax: (819) 953-4941

**Re: MVEIRB Canadian Zinc Land Use Permit Application MV2000C0030, 6-7 Hole Drilling Program Decision**

Dear Minister Nault,

I am writing to follow up the letter CPAWS-NWT sent to your office on May 18, 2001 regarding the above land use permit decision and the current interpretation your department is using for the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.

Our main concern regarding the above decision was that there were no conditions attached to the permit by the MVEIRB to reduce the environmental impacts of the activities to be undertaken, even though the Board supported the GNWT suggestion that a preliminary reconnaissance be completed before the start of operations to assist in the evaluation of wildlife presence and response to disturbance.

We have not yet received a response to our letter, and in the mean time the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board has issued a land use permit to Canadian Zinc for the 6-7 hole drilling program. The GNWT suggestions were not included as conditions of the permit.

The MVEIRB stated that they did not make the GNWT suggestion a condition of permit approval because they had found that the drilling program would not likely have a significant environmental impact, and that as the MVRMA is now interpreted, no conditions can be put on activities found not likely to have significant impacts. This is a new interpretation of the MVRMA, and a change in operating procedure for the MVEIRB, which has resulted from the BHP assessment.

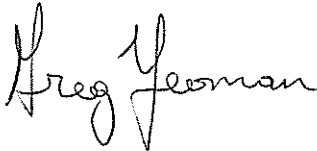
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We believe this interpretation is counter to the content and spirit of the MVRMA. Attached is a letter from the Sierra Legal Defence Fund which supports our view. We ask that you direct the MVEIRB to interpret the MVRMA as they were prior to the BHP assessment, where conditions to minimize impacts could be placed on all developments, regardless of the finding of significance.

CPAWS-NWT is concerned that if this is not done, further permits will be granted where less than full measures are required of developers to minimize their environmental impacts, resulting in greater cumulative impacts from development activities in the NWT.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Yeoman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" and last name "Yeoman" clearly distinguishable.

Greg Yeoman  
Conservation Director  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society –  
Northwest Territories Chapter

cc. Bob Overvold, NWT Regional Director General, DIAND  
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, MVEIRB  
Wanda Anderson, Acting Executive Director, MVLWB