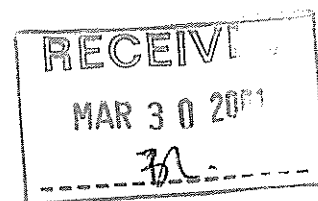


Louie Azzolini

From: rick meis [rmeis@imt.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2001 11:18 AM
To: minister@inac.gc.ca
Cc: eao1@mveirb.nt.ca; peter@y@y.net
Subject: Canadian Zinc Corporation Land Use Permit Application



Hon. Robert Nault, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

10 Wellington Street, North Tower

Hull, Quebec K1A 0H4

Fax: (819) 953-4941

<mailto:minister@inac.gc.ca>minister@inac.gc.ca

RE: Canadian Zinc Corporation Land Use Permit Application
MV2000C0030

Dear Minister Nault,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Canadian Zinc Corporation's land use permit application concerning the Prairie Creek mine in the Northwest Territories.

Please excuse this electronic mailing, but I just found out about this potentially devastating permit proposal to an area that is near and dear to my heart. I have spent a couple summers in the area, having hiked the divide country at the heads of the South Macmillan and Ross Rivers, the Itsi and Ragged Ranges, and I have canoed the South Macmillan and South Nahanni Rivers.

This mine is immediately upstream from Nahanni National Park Reserve, and located in the South Nahanni watershed, an area of outstanding conservation value, which the Deh Cho First Nations wish to protect for its cultural and ecological values. The Park Reserve is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a designation which recognizes the area's globally significant wilderness values.

Minister Nault, there are some places where industrial development simply does not belong, and the South Nahanni watershed is one of those places. I urge you to deny the mineral exploration drilling program application, the proposal to re-establish 40 kilometers of road to remove the fuel cache, and any other applications which would further the effects of industrial development in the watershed. I also ask you to ensure the fuel cache is removed in the most environmentally responsible, safe and timely manner possible.

This area is one of the most beautiful places on our continent. The natural amenities left essentially intact will be of more value over time than another short term and undoubtedly environmentally destructive mining venture. One needs not go very far in that country to find virtually lifeless remnants of badly executed mining. Being from Montana, I can speak with experience when I say the mining company will not do what it says it will do. It goes with the turf. Mining companies do not see multiple uses, only profit for a very few.

In order to facilitate the protection of the area's outstanding wilderness values, I urge you to expedite negotiations with the Deh Cho First Nations for interim protection of the South Nahanni watershed through the Deh Cho Process.