

## Jason McNeill /YK /RWED

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**From:** nwonline /unix /sh [nwonline@toronto.cbc.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2002 4:07 PM  
**To:** Jason McNeill /YK /RWED  
**Subject:** CBCNEWS NORTH - Permit wait costs company two season's work

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The following is a news item posted on CBC NEWS NORTH  
at <http://north.cbc.ca/template/servlet/View?filename=oc2minezinc>

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### PERMIT WAIT COSTS COMPANY TWO SEASON'S WORK

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Yellowknife, N.W.T. -

A mining company says it's taking too long to get the proper permits it needs to work in the Northwest Territories.

Canadian Zinc wants to construct a tunnel and build a pilot plant to process ore at a site about 14 kilometers from the boundary of the Nahanni National Park Reserve.

However, it took the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board ten months to do an environmental assessment of Canadian Zinc's application.

The board then sent the environmental assessment to the minister of Indian Affairs for approval in February. Five government departments reviewed it before sending it back to the board last month.

But the company is still months away from getting the permits it needs.

The review board needs to rework a section of the environmental assessment dealing with the integrity of the mine's tailing pond. That's supposed to take four months, according to the board. Then the assessment will go back to the minister for approval.

"It's obviously very difficult to do business in the Northwest Territories and very disappointing for most of the people who work in minerals in the N.W.T. trying to get through this process a simple and innocuous application," says Malcolm Swallow, the head of Canadian Zinc.

Swallow says having missed both the 2001 and 2002 summer work seasons, he's hopeful of getting the permits he needs to begin work in 2003.

David Livingstone, who co-ordinated the review of the assessment for the department, agrees it's taken too long.

"It's fair to say that we all recognize it took too long and that we are determined to respond to board reports more quickly in the future and we're working collectively to make that happen, he says.

Livingstone says a response time of 45 to 60 days is more like it.

These complaints about the slow process come just as Imperial Oil is about to kick the northern regulatory process into gear to look at a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. The federal government has said it wanted that approval process to move along smoothly.

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