

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

July 28, 2001

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Our File EA01-002 and EA01-003

Peter Campbell
Vice-President Project Affairs
Canadian Zinc Corporation
Suite 1202, 700 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 1G8

Dear Mr. Campbell

**RE: Environmental assessment (EA) of the Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN)
Environmental Assessments for the Phase II Drilling Program EA01-003, and the
CZN Decline and Metallurgical Test Plant EA EA01-002.**

Thank you for your letter dated July 13, 2001 and your comments regarding unnecessary delays to CZN's environmental assessments resulting from the work of the Review Board's expert advisors.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board ("Review Board" or "Board") relies extensively on the professional and technical services of government experts, and provides its expert advisors the professional independence needed to provide quality information to the Board.

During the conduct of the environmental assessments in question, the capacity of the Board's experts to contribute effectively to the review of CZN's environmental assessments was brought into question. The Review Board exercises its mandate judiciously, and places significant value on undertaking quality environmental assessments in an expeditious and timely manner. Given the nature of concern cited, the Board chose to carefully judge the ramifications of the issues raised, and by its letter dated July 17, 2001 ruled on the matter.

The Review Board in preparing its ruling considered the scope of assessment and work plan timing issues identified by government expert advisors, the Nahanni National Park Reserve, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. The Review Board also considered correspondence provided by CZN in response to issues cited by government and non-government parties to the environmental assessments.

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In its July 17, 2001, letter the Review Board decided to place environmental assessments EA01-002 and EA01-003 on hold for thirty calendar days. The Review Board expects government experts to submit an amended work plan to the Review Board, with appropriate justification, by Friday August 3, 2001. The Review will consult with the Canadian Zinc Corporation on the proposed work plan amendments before ruling on the matter.

Your patience and cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Vern Christensen
Executive Director