

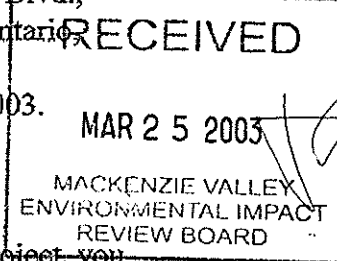
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March 23, 2003.



Vice - Director, MREIRB.

Dear Mr. Christensen,

Last year, in your environmental assessment of Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek project, you recommended that the Federal Government should determine the final boundaries of the Nahanni National Park Reserve in order to help your Board in its future deliberations for projects in the area.

May I suggest that your Board consider making an additional recommendation to the Federal Government. Since DIAND instigated a re-assessment after your review report was concluded, would you be willing to recommend that DIAND facilitate some form of financial assistance to Canadian Zinc so that this project near this World Heritage Site can meet the necessary stringent environmental controls as your Board carries out its important mandate?

There is a certain irony in your Board's current assessment about the test pilot plant and decline plans of Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek project.

The Nahanni River and others are the lifeblood of the Deh Cho First Nation which for this reason alone require protection. However, were it not for the proximity of this project to the Nahanni National Park Reserve, resulting in an understandable intense public scrutiny, Canadian Zinc's present plans would probably not require environmental impact review. And yet, such a project would provide long term jobs for the local Nahanni Butte Dene Band and other members of the Deh Cho First Nation. Added to this, is the fact that the Prairie Creek site has one of the top grade deposits of zinc in the world with all the mining facilities and kilometers of tunnels on site, thus ensuring the longevity of this local employment.

The Nahanni National Park Reserve is beautiful and must be protected and preserved. However, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band and the Deh Cho First Nations have not yet received their fair due in modern life. Their future cannot be held back, nor should a junior company which apparently has shown a sensitivity to some northern concerns by agreeing to allow the Nahanni Butte Dene Band to own 10-15% of the company.

For what it is worth, the analysis of this retired high school teacher concludes that some form of financial assistance from the Federal Government to expedite the continued pristine quality of the Nahanni River, but only during the start-up process of the Prairie Creek project until full permitting has been received and bank loans acquired, would best address the various needs. Didn't DIAND recently provide \$400,000 to the Can Tun mine to clean up a diesel spill?

An irony further to the one above is that it seems odd that the Federal Government can pour money into the Maritimes for economic development yet not do more likewise for the north.

I wish you the best in your hard decisions of this week, knowing full well that the members of your Board will do their best to deal with this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Attwell

Copy to Mr. Todd Burlingame, Chairman