

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

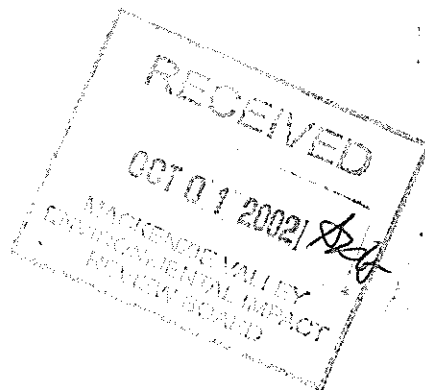


Ministre des Affaires
Indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

SEP 3 2002

Mr. Malcolm J.A. Swallow
President and CEO
Canadian Zinc Corporation
1202 - 700 West Pender Street
VANCOUVER BC V6C 1G8



Dear Mr. Swallow:

This is in reply to your letter of April 22, 2002, expressing your concerns regarding the delay in reaching a decision on the recommendations contained in the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's report on Environmental Impact Assessment EA01-002, Underground Decline/Exploratory Drilling and Metallurgical Pilot Plant Developments.

The Ministerial decision process with respect to Board reports is a collaborative one which involves Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and those of other federal and territorial Ministers. In this case, the review of the Board's report took longer than expected.

After careful and thorough review, we have determined that, pursuant to subsection 130 (1)(b)(i) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the report shall be returned to the Board for further consideration, principally as there remains significant unresolved issues related to the use and integrity of the tailings facility and water treatment plans.

Thank you for writing to me. I would encourage you to maintain communications with Mr. David Livingstone, Director, Renewable Resources and Environment on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Robert D. Nault, PC, MP

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