

Mackenzie Valley Review Board



EA0809-002: Canadian Zinc Corporation – Prairie Creek Mine

Meeting Report from the Fort Liard Scoping Session

Compiled by: Mackenzie Valley Review Board (“Review Board”) staff

Location: Fort Liard Community Hall

Date: October 1, 2008

INTRODUCTION

Review Board staff hosted scoping sessions in several Dehcho communities between September 30 and October 3, 2008, to gather issues and concerns from all parties about the proposed Prairie Creek Mine, approximately 90 kilometres northwest of Nahanni Butte. The Review Board will be using this meeting report, reports from other scoping sessions (including a Technical Scoping Session in Yellowknife on April 9, 2008), all of the information on the Public Record (available at www.mveirb.nt.ca), and any follow-up scoping submissions from any interested parties (due October 14), to determine how to proceed with this Environmental Assessment.

While this meeting report is as comprehensive as Review Board staff could make it, this is not a verbatim document. It is based on notes by Review Board staff. Unlike the official statements made at Review Board hearings toward the end of the Environmental Assessment process, scoping sessions are less formal dialogues.

People's names have not been associated with the individual statements they made at the session in this document.

Interested parties are reminded that they can submit comments to be placed on the public record of the Environmental Assessment at any time.

Contact Alistair MacDonald at the Review Board with any questions or comments:

Ph: (867) 766-7052

Fx: (867) 766-7074

amacdonald@mveirb.nt.ca

ATTENDEES

In attendance (only those people who signed in or made their names known):

Alistair MacDonald – MVEIRB
Nicole Spencer – MVEIRB
Jessica Simpson – MVEIRB
David Harpley – Canadian Zinc Corporation
Wilbert Antoine – Canadian Zinc Corporation
Chris Reeves – Canadian Zinc Corporation
Chief Steve Kotchea – Acho Dene Koe First Nation
Marvin Browning (sp?)
Shane Parrish – Acho Dene Koe Corporate Group
Steve Maleski – North Caribou Air
Peter Bertrand – Acho Dene Koe member
Shirley Bertrand – Acho Dene Koe member
Ernie McLeod – President, Fort Liard Metis Local #67
Julia CapotBlanc – Acho Dene Koe member
Joel Holder – GNWT Environment and Natural Resources
Lorraine Seale – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Fraser Fairman – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Mike Vandell – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Steve Vandell – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Dana Haggerty – Parks Canada

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED

The following questions were identified by participants *(Review Board staff note: the developer is encouraged to provide submissions addressing these questions at any time):*

- How Fort Liard can get involved in direct and indirect employment from the mine
- Training and use of community environmental monitors
- Business and employment opportunities related to environmental monitoring
- Whether or not Impact and Benefit Agreements would be negotiated and timelines
- How the current water storage pond system has worked over the past 25 years (e.g., has there been any leaks in the berms?), and how this will change with the new development
- How the water treatment system will work and what the quality of effluent will likely be. Included in this were specific questions looking for details on how all of the water “cells” will work, and where the release point for water is.
- What the worst case scenario is for landslides/subsidence in and around the mine site, and the likelihood of a catastrophic event like this
- What fish are in Prairie Creek and the surrounding area, and how they might be impacted by changes in the water
- A concern was raised about whether there is arsenic in the ground at this site

- How surface tailings management will be conducted, and how groundwater will be monitored under the mine workings to make sure the paste backfilled tailings are not leaching metals into the environment.

The following potential issues were identified:

- Impacts of the Prairie Creek Mine on water quality and fish in Prairie Creek and the South Nahanni River
- Structural stability of the water storage ponds system
- Animal consumption of polluted water, plants, other animals
- Landslides in the steep terrain surrounding the mine
- Whether or not local workers would have trouble adapting to working at the mine site and stress effects (*Review Board staff note: it was unclear whether the potential stress was related to working underground, in a remote location on a three week in/out rotation, or due to some other unnamed factor*)
- Winter road construction and operability concerns – specifically problems associated with overflow around Grainger Gap
- Development occurring too quickly before local people can be adequately trained to take advantage.
- This development contributing to an overall Dene cultural loss, especially reduction in use and knowledge of aboriginal language.

MEETING REPORT

Due to poor weather in Fort Simpson, Review Board staff could not get in to Fort Liard until the afternoon. The meeting commenced at 3pm and concluded at 5pm. The meeting was an informal one, with the developer and Review Board staff walking individual attendees through the environmental assessment process and a description of the proposed development, and answering questions. Wall mounted posters were used as visual aids. Review Board staff canvassed individuals for questions about the proposed development and issues they feel need to be considered during the environmental assessment and wrote down the responses (a summary of which is included above).

Review Board staff noted that the majority of attendees at the Fort Liard scoping session expressed a positive attitude toward the proposed development. The most common question raised was when the development was likely to start and how Fort Liard people could take advantage of jobs and business opportunities.

Potential impacts on water quality were identified by several attendees as being the most important issue to consider closely during the environmental assessment.

A question was asked whether Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) are required with all potentially affected communities. Review Board staff noted that these are contractual negotiations between parties outside of the environmental assessment process and that while they are becoming more common, they are not a legal requirement under the MVRMA in the Dehcho region. Review Board staff noted that a completed IBA can be considered by the Review Board as evidence of a cooperative working relationship between parties, but that only if commitment details are provided can an IBA assist the

Review Board in determining whether mitigation to minimize social, economic or cultural impacts will likely be effective.

A participant noted a desire that development not occur “all of a sudden”, that it be spread out enough (“controlled”), and have enough advance warning, that local people could get training and invest in appropriate equipment, to take full advantage of new opportunities.

A participant also noted that the overall speed of development (not just the Prairie Creek Mine) may have adverse impacts on culture, specifically the desire and ability of Dene people to retain their language.

Review Board staff noted a desire by several people to learn more about the proposed development in a formal setting at a future date. *The Review Board encourages the developer to make arrangements for a return visit to Fort Liard to provide a development description presentation and question and answer session in the near future. Meeting minutes for any such session should be compiled by the developer, vetted by the participants, and a final copy provided for the Review Board's public record for this environmental assessment.*

Review Board staff made it clear to attendees that comments about the proposed development should be submitted to the Review Board by October 14th in order to be included in the Review Board's initial deliberations about how to proceed with the environmental assessment. Review Board staff also reiterated that scoping is the beginning of the environmental assessment process, and identified the variety of opportunities for community voices to be heard during subsequent stages of the environmental assessment.

MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Canadian Zinc Corporation – Prairie Creek Mine

Location:	Fort Liard	Meeting Date:	October 1, 2008
Facilitator:	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board	Place/Room:	Community Hall
Name		Organization	
1.	Nicole Spencer	The Sound.	
2.	Jessica Simpson	MVEIRB	
3.	Martin Brooking	WELDER	
4.	Shane Parrish	ADK Corporate Group	
5.	Steve Malesku	North Cariboo Air.	
6.	Joel Abdoor	GNWT - ENR.	
7.	PETON BERTRAND	ADK. DENE.	
8.	SHIRLEY BERTRAND - J	ADK (who does Kac member)	
9.	Erin McLeod	Mete Co 67	
10.	Lorraine Seale	INAC.	
11.	Fraser Fairman	INAC	
12.	Mike Vandell	INAC	
13.	Steve Vandell	INAC.	
14.	Dana Haggarty	Parks Canada	
15.	Julia CapotBlanc	ADK FN.	
16.	Steve Kotchen	ADK FN.	
17.	Al MacDonald	MVEIRB	
18.			