



February 12, 2016

Ms. Sachi De Souza
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102 50th Avenue,
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Dear Ms. De Souza

Re: Environmental Assessment EA1415-001, Prairie Creek Mine

Liidlii Kue First Nation represents our members within the greater Dehcho First Nations territory. The Prairie Creek Mine is within this area in which we have existing Dene rights to the lands, waters and resources of which our livelihood, culture and social security depends upon.

LKFN has reviewed the application for an all-weather access road related to the Canadian Zinc Prairie Creek Mine. The current application is outside of the scope of the approved licence and permit and as such, LKFN considers this a separate application from the previously approved project. LKFN has an existing Impact Benefits Agreement with Canadian Zinc, however the application is outside of the scope of the current agreement. We rely on our Traditional Knowledge information, Denendeh Resources Committee, land users, Elders and Youth to provide meaningful input into resource applications and proper analysis.

LKFN considers all-weather access and linear disturbance to be a high priority because of the increased risks to the environment, cumulative impacts, including risks to the natural ecosystem and health of keystone species such as caribou and fish which our existing Dene rights rely on. The proponent, Canada and the GNWT have not consulted with LKFN on the new application. LKFN must be included in the regulatory process.

The Prairie Creek is within the Nahanni Mountains of which contribute to the quality and flow of our sacred waters. Our relationship with the aquatic ecosystem is one that spans over time and changes to the natural world. The Nahanni area is sacred to our people and we protect it through our sustainable use of the area. Waters flow into the Nahanni River, Liard River and Dehcho of which members continually use and frequent for a healthy lifestyle.

LKFN is currently engaged in the Dehcho Process and as such our existing rights must be respected. LKFN has raised concerns on permanent access roads in the past and presently with the Dehcho First Nations and government. . We continue to be engaged in community based monitoring at the forefront of wildlife monitoring, land and resource management as well as baseline water quality and quantity monitoring and Climate Change. LKFN through the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program Results workshop also raised concerns regarding the aquatic ecosystem and fish health, distribution and population.

We look forward to engagement on this Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Liza McPherson', written in dark ink.

Liza McPherson
Executive Director

cc. Dehcho First Nations
Canadian Zinc Corporation