

Nahæâ Dehé Dene Band  
GENERAL DELIVERY, NAHANNI BUTTE, NT, X0E 0N0  
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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
5102-50th Ave Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7  
Attn: Kate Mansfield

February 12, 2016

**Re: Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) Information Requests, Prairie Creek All Season Road Project, DAR and DAR addendums**

On January 8, 2016, NDDB submitted a request to the Review Board to extend the deadline to submit information requests to February 26, 2016. The deadline for information requests was extended to February 12<sup>th</sup> for different reasons.

NDDB would like to reiterate its need for additional time to review the voluminous material currently on the public registry. NDDB still intends to submit IRs by February 26, 2016 and as such I intend for this letter to be accepted only as a partial submission.

In November, 2015, following a public election, a new Chief and Council was elected in Nahanni Butte. In response to the direction of Band Members, the Chief and Council Members are taking the time needed to ensure that the breadth and depth of projects in the region are understood, not only by ourselves but also by the Members that we represent.

NDDB Members, having just taken part in a lengthy and exhaustive environmental assessment for Canadian Zinc's proposed winter road, were surprised, unprepared and frustrated to learn that an all-season road is instead being proposed. Prior to committing to engage in another environmental assessment that will demand significant resources, time and energy from our elected officials, staff, consultants and members at large, NDDB requires more time to communicate with the Canadian Zinc leadership in order to understand the motivation for this abrupt change in plans. To date, NDDB Members remain unclear about why an all season road is needed and very concerned about the implications surrounding this change in project scope.

Although we will likely submit further information requests to the Board, a first and important step for us is to understand why an all-season road is needed and whether it is truly a cost-effective and realistic proposal.

In the Board's adequacy assessment, it was noted that there was insufficient detail provided by Canadian Zinc for Parties to understand how the proposed options (an all season road, a winter road with increased truck traffic or flying out excess concentrate) were evaluated.

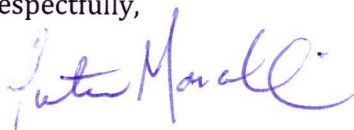
As an example of this lack of information, the source and details of the cost estimates are not clear and require a much more detailed break-down of components for both the construction, maintenance and hauling stages. Specific costs estimates for running the proposed ferry should also be included. With the information provided, it is not at all convincing that an all-season road, with the complexity of its construction and maintenance in the face of permafrost and avalanche risks, is more cost effective than a winter road, given that overall ore estimates have not increased. Cost estimates should be based on detailed assessments of avalanche risk and instability due to permafrost as well as detail in the management plans proposed to address these risks. Such level of detail remains lacking in the DAR and its appendices.

Given that Nahanni Butte's support of this project in the past has been predicated on the hopes that Band Members can benefit through economic and employment opportunities, the business case surrounding this decision is absolutely central to Nahanni Butte's interests. As we all know, the time, resources and energy needed to complete an environmental assessment are exorbitant and it is with this in mind that we hesitate to engage in a process that is not based on sound and transparent logic. Significant public resources are invested in such processes at local, regional, territorial and federal levels and, as such, the business case surrounding a decision like this must be made public.

We look forward to better understanding the rationale that has led to this dramatic change in project plan and scope.

The information requested in this letter and in the information requests submitted by DFN are necessary before the application can be considered for adequacy. NDDDB does not feel that the quality of the DAR is adequate at this time. Once adequate, NDDDB would like to request that Parties have a further opportunity to ask questions and provide written comments before a public hearing is held.

Respectfully,



Chief Peter Marcellais