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MVEIR file # - 1415  
NRCan # - NWT-173

May 26, 2017

Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Review Board  
Box 938, 5102-50<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Via NPMO submission

**Re: EA 1415 Natural Resources Canada – Final Closing Comments for the Proposed  
Prairie Creek All-Season Road Project**

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips;

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is pleased to provide its closing comments to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board for Canadian Zinc's (CanZinc) proposed Prairie Creek All-Season Road Project Environmental Assessment (EA 1415).

*Involvement*

To date, NRCan has participated in all phases of the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed Prairie Creek All-Season Road (project) in order to provide scientific expertise and information to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board (MVRB). NRCan has focused on the review of explosives storage information and effects on permafrost.

*Explosives*

NRCan may be required to issue a magazine licence under the *Explosives Act* if the project is approved. NRCan is satisfied with the explosives information provided by CanZinc. If a magazine licence is required, NRCan will require more detailed information with the application.

*Permafrost*

NRCan is satisfied that CanZinc has done a reasonable job identifying areas of permafrost along the alignment of the proposed road and generally agrees with the characterization for this stage of the design process as the proposed approach by CanZinc is consistent with other development proposals in the Northwest Territories. NRCan continues to recommend that the Developer carry out site investigations to identify additional areas where obstruction of cross drainage may occur, confirm permafrost and subsurface conditions in areas where ground ice conditions occur, and conduct qualitative analysis in highly sensitive areas to better assess how permafrost conditions might change as a result of climate change.

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If you have any questions regarding NRCan's comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 343-292-6746 or at [Rachelle.Besner2@Canada.ca](mailto:Rachelle.Besner2@Canada.ca).

Sincerely,

*[Original signed by]*

Rachelle Besner  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Environmental Assessment Division  
Natural Resources Canada

cc: Sarah Robertson, Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office  
Rob Johnstone, Deputy Director, NRCan