



Parks Canada  
Parcs Canada



PO Box 348, 10002-100 St.,  
Fort Simpson, NT  
X0E 0N0

8 April 2015

Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

**Re: Proposed airstrip on Prairie Creek access road corridor**

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips,

I am writing to follow up on discussions that took place on July 8<sup>th</sup> during the technical scoping session for the Prairie Creek All Season Road and Airstrip Environmental Assessment (EA1415-01 [2014]).

As you will recall, at that time Parks Canada expressed its position that Canadian Zinc's proposed airstrip within Nahanni National Park Reserve cannot be permitted by lease, license of occupation or easement as it is beyond the legislative authorities in the *Canada National Parks Act*. Specifically, while s. 41.1 of the CNPA allows Parks Canada to authorize access roads to two mines adjacent to park lands which follow existing routes that pass through the park, this section does not contemplate the construction of an airstrip.

During that same scoping session Canadian Zinc indicated that they had further information to present supporting their view that the airstrip could be permitted. At the time Parks Canada committed to consider this new information and, following that, advise the Board on its position with respect to the airstrip.

Parks Canada has now had the opportunity to consider the arguments presented by Canadian Zinc in detail. I can confirm that Parks Canada's position remains the same: that it does not have the legislative authority to authorize Canadian Zinc by lease, licence of occupation or easement to construct an airstrip within Nahanni National Park Reserve.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at (867) 695-7753 or [david.britton@pc.gc.ca](mailto:david.britton@pc.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

David Britton  
A/Field Unit Superintendent, Southwest NWT

**Canada**