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May 29, 2001

Joe Acom
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938
200 Scotia Centre, (5102 – 50th Avenue)
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

RE: Canadian Zinc Corporation Decline and Pilot Plant EA

The Deh Cho First Nations have signed an Interim Measures Agreement on May 23, 2001. The section on "Mineral Development (Excluding Oil and Gas)" item number 39 states "Canada will not issue any new prospecting permits under the Canada Mining Regulations (in the Deh Cho territory without the support of the affected Deh Cho First Nation(s). The affected Deh Cho First Nation(s) will provide written confirmation of their support, or reasons for non support to the Mining recorder's Office by January 22 of any given year in order for the permits to be issued by January 31 by the Canada Mining Regulations." Even though this agreement was not in effect at the time of the application, we still expect consideration for opposing the application under this agreement. The Federal Government was aware of this agreement, therefore, we expect that it should be respected.

We are concerned about the impact that the proposed drilling program may have on our traditional territory due to the program's potential to adversely affect the quality of the waterways within the South Nahanni watershed. Further, we are an affected First Nation. Overlap exists amongst the neighboring First Nations. Serious consideration must be given for this.

Given the clause cited above from the Interim Measures Agreement, we strongly feel that the applications from Canadian Zinc be denied despite the Environmental Assessment done by your office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (867) 695-3131.

Mahsi.

Chief, Rita Cli

c. Denendeh Resources Committee