



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Raymond Michaud
Mayor, Village of Fort Simpson
P.O. Box 438
Fort Simpson, NWT
X0E 0N0

March 15, 2005

SENT BY FAX: (867) 695-2005

Re: Environmental Assessment of Canadian Zinc Corporation's proposed Phase 3 Surface Drilling Exploration

Dear Mr. Michaud,

Thank you for your letter, received on March 14, 2005, which expressed concerns about the length of time required to conduct the environmental assessment (EA) for Canadian Zinc Corporation's proposed *Phase 3 Surface Exploration Program*.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and its staff are fully aware of the views held by many Dehcho residents who believe that the proposed development represents an opportunity for economic development and employment. However, the Review Board is also aware that the proposed activities have, and continue to trigger a substantial amount of public concern about downstream effects on the South Nahanni watershed. In light of these competing views, the Review Board must provide opportunities for all interested parties and the public to submit information, opinions and concerns for consideration during the EA.

The Review Board recognizes your concerns about the timeliness of the EA process. In developing its strategy for the drilling program EA, the Review Board is attempting to incorporate new techniques in the conduct of this EA. This includes holding a roundtable meeting, in Yellowknife, with interested parties to help identify the core issues to be examined in the EA. Visits to the communities of Nahanni Butte, Fort Simpson, Wrigley and Fort Liard for the purpose of identifying the concerns of local residents are also planned for the week of April 4th, 2005. The Review Board expects that those activities, in addition to others being considered will allow for a more expedient EA process.

However, it should be noted that responsibility for an expeditious environmental assessment is the responsibility of many parties, not just that of the Review Board. In particular, the proposed drilling program was referred to environmental assessment on June 1st, 2004. Canadian Zinc Corporation's detailed project description was not received by the Review Board until January 15, 2005.

Again, thank you for your letter and we encourage your participation in this environmental assessment as it progresses.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tapsell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mary Tapsell
Manager, Environmental Impact Assessment

cc: John F. Kearney
Chairman, Canadian Zinc Corporation

