

From: Nahanni River Adventures
Sent: 19/10/2008 4:38:49 PM
To: Alistair MacDonald
CC:
BCC:
Subject: Prairie Creek Scoping

Re: Prairie Creek Mine Scoping

Dear Mr. MacDonald,

I am a wilderness tourism business owner in the South Nahanni Watershed, including Nahanni National Park Reserve and UNESCO World Heritage Site, operating since 1984.

The value of my business and others, as well as the health of downstream residents, depends on the environmental integrity of the watershed.

I am concerned that the proposed Prairie Creek Mine could have significant environmental impacts on Nahanni National Park Reserve and World Heritage Site downstream, including long term impacts on water, wildlife and the wilderness values of the region. It is perched in a narrow valley of the watershed, in an area of high seismic activity, requiring extensive road development to economically remove the product from the mine site.

The location of the mine close to, and upstream of the national park and World Heritage Site means we should be applying the highest possible standard of care in it's assessment. As Canadians, we have a responsibility by law to protect the ecological integrity of our national parks and by international treaty to do all we can to protect World Heritage Sites for future generations of all the people of the world.

Given the potential of mining to have long term impacts on ecosystems, and given the location of this proposed mine upstream from the national park and World Heritage Site, I urge the Board to ensure that the environmental assessment is the most rigorous and highest level possible. I am confident that a responsible mining company, working adjacent to a national park and World Heritage Site would want to meet and exceed the highest standards and best practices. Nothing less than a thorough environmental assessment of all components combined, should be considered.

I urge the Board to ensure that the whole mine operation, all its components, including the access road are scoped into the environmental assessment. To date there has been insufficient scrutiny of the project in entirety and the cumulative effects of combined project pieces. We will all benefit, including the mining firm, from the knowledge that will come from a comprehensive assessment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Neil Hartling

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