

**From:** [Alison Woodley](#)  
**To:** [Alistair MacDonald](#);  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Request for extension to Scoping submissions for EA 0809-002 CZN Prairie Creek Mine  
**Date:** Thursday, October 09, 2008 8:14:53 PM  
**Attachments:**

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Dear Alistair:

I am writing to formally request an extension to the October 14<sup>th</sup> deadline for submissions on the Scoping phase of EA 0809-002.

In the past week there have been unfortunate problems with the MVEIRB website and public registry that, while being beyond the control of Board staff, have nonetheless resulted in CPAWS and others having very limited access to the public registry. The registry and MVEIRB website were unavailable from Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>, which was a time that I had allocated to work on CPAWS' submission. It then went down again on Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup> and remains unavailable. This has made it very difficult for CPAWS to prepare for this week's technical scoping session and to develop a comprehensive submission to the scoping phase of the EA by the current deadline of October 14<sup>th</sup>. The result of this limited access to the public registry will be diminished quality of our submission to what we consider to be a critical phase of the environmental assessment process. Thus we have decided that our only recourse is to request an extension.

The proposed Prairie Creek mine is a particularly complex file with a long and complicated environmental assessment history. While we appreciated the efforts this week of Board staff to send us documents on request, the reality is that we often need to browse through the files on the registry to determine the relevant history on certain permit applications. In addition, the proponent of this project has put forward

positions that are directly linked to the historical EA record and we need access to this record to respond.

It is not adequate for us to request specific documents, as we are not always aware what the applicable documents are. And it is not always possible for staff to turn around requests for documents quickly. For example, this morning I emailed to request a copy of the Guidelines for EA, and have not received them yet. I fully understand that you and your colleague were likely out of the office for the day, but nonetheless this continues to be a major challenge.

While we understand that there are other opportunities for input during the EA process, the scoping stage of any environmental assessment is critical as it determines what will be discussed in the subsequent stages. We need to get our submission right at this stage.

Given that the registry has already been unavailable for five days in the last week, we formally request that the Board extend the deadline for submissions to the Scoping phase of EA 0809-002 for one week from the time that the online public registry becomes available again.

We further request that you confirm that submissions received within this extended time period will be fully incorporated into the scoping phase of EA 0809-002.

This will allow us, our legal advisors and other parties to access the information necessary to fairly and fully participate in this phase of the EA.

I would appreciate a response to this request by end of day tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Alison Woodley  
Manager, National Protected Areas Program  
CPAWS

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*Alison Woodley, M.A.  
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