



October 20th, 2008

Alistair MacDonald
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Via E-mail to :
amacdonald@mveirb.nt.ca

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

RE: DFO Comments on the scope for Canadian Zinc Corporation's Prairie Creek Mine Project

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) attended the scoping session held on October 9th, 2008 in Yellowknife for Canadian Zinc Corporation's Prairie Creek Mine project. As a follow up to that session, DFO would like to provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) with the following written scoping submission.

DFO is responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs in support of Canada's scientific, ecological, social and economic interests in relation to sea, coastal and inland fisheries, and oceans in general. DFO's primary focus in reviewing proposed developments in and around fishery water is to ensure that the works and undertakings are conducted in such a way that the proponents are in compliance with the *Fisheries Act*. DFO also has expertise in areas including, but not limited to oceans science, fish and marine mammal biology, aquatic ecology, as well as fisheries and habitat management.

DFO has determined that the project as currently proposed will not likely require the issuance of an Authorization under the *Fisheries Act*. However in reviewing the project description, DFO has identified the following factors that may require additional consideration and could be included in the scope of the Environmental Assessment for Prairie Creek Project:

- Environmental effects of malfunctions and accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any measures proposed to mitigate potential adverse effects on fish and fish habitat;
- Effects of the environment on the project, including the impacts of extreme events such as flooding, earthquakes and landslides on the integrity of the water storage pond and temporary tailings storage pad to avoid impacts on Prairie Creek;
- Cumulative impacts that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out, including

activities along winter road and any future decommissioning of the winter road including stabilization and re-vegetation of banks near water crossings;

- Impacts of potential sedimentation from the waste rock pile on Prairie Creek and Harrison Creek;
- Mine closure and reclamation for components of the mine near Prairie Creek and Harrison Creek to ensure long term suitability of those watercourses for fish and fish habitat.

Finally, it should be noted that all comments are based on our current understanding of the proposal, as submitted in the May 2008 project description by Canadian Zinc Corporation. Should a subsequent submissions or re-design of the project be submitted, we anticipate that changes to the scope would be required.

In closing, DFO would like to thank the MVIERB for the opportunity to provide comments and we look forward to continued discussions related to this development proposal. If there are any questions or clarification needed on any of these matters, please contact Sarah Olivier at (867) 669-4919.

Regards,



on behalf of

Beverley Ross

Regional Manger, Environmental Assessment for Major Projects

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- cc. Stuart Dean, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Julie Dahl, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
James Boraski, Fisheries and Oceans Canada