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Canadian Wildlife Service
5019, 52 Street
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

June 13, 2014

File #: EA1415-01

Sachi De Souza
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
Yellowknife, NT

Via email: chubert@reviewboard.ca

RE: Acknowledgement of receipt of a notification pursuant to ss. 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*

Dear Ms. De Souza:

This letter confirms receipt of your letter of notification pursuant to ss. 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), on May 27, 2014 in the context of the Prairie Creek All Season Road and Airstrip proposed by Canadian Zinc Corporation. Environment Canada looks forward to participating in the environmental review of this project. As a disclaimer, please note that this letter serves only to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of notification pursuant to ss. 79(1) of SARA; it should not be considered as a response from Environment Canada on any other requirement regarding this environmental assessment process.

Environment Canada is the lead federal jurisdiction for SARA notification purposes for the species Wood Bison, Woodland Caribou (Boreal population and Northern Mountain population), Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Yellow Rail and Short-eared Owl.

The species Wood Bison, Woodland Caribou (Boreal population and Northern Mountain population), Rusty Blackbird and Short-eared Owl are managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories; as such, you are advised to consult the Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Environment and Natural Resources for their information, expertise and advice on this/these species. COSEWIC assessments and respective recovery documents for these species are available on the Species at Risk Public Registry (<http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca>) and should be referred to during the environmental assessment process.

The Minister of the Environment has published a Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou (Boreal population) stating the recovery needs of this species and identifying the species' critical habitat (the habitat necessary for survival/recovery of the species). This Recovery Strategy, as well as other relevant information on the species, can be found on the *Species at Risk Act* Public Registry (<http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca>). The management of the Woodland Caribou (Boreal population) herds are under territorial responsibility and we recommend consulting the Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Environment and Natural Resources for their expertise and advice on this species. You must consider Recovery Strategy objectives in every step of the environmental assessment.

The species Grizzly Bear, Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, Wolverine, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow and Horned Grebe are not listed under SARA but have been assessed by COSEWIC. As such you are advised that it is best practice to consider them just as they were listed under SARA. You are advised to contact the Government of the Northwest Territories –

Department of Environment and Natural Resources for information, expertise and advice on Grizzly Bear, Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis and Wolverine.

Please note that under ss. 79(2) of the Species at Risk Act, the person required under an Act of Parliament to ensure that an assessment of environmental effect is conducted must identify adverse effects on all listed species, including species of special concern and the critical habitat of extirpated, endangered and threatened species; and if the project is carried out, ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects and to monitor them. These measures must a) be consistent with best available information including any Recovery Strategy, Action Plan or Management Plan in a final or proposed version; and b) respect the terms and conditions of the Species at Risk Act regarding protection of individuals, residences, and critical habitat of extirpated, endangered, or threatened species.

The competent minister's role within environmental assessment is to provide technical advice and support to the federal authority to assist in addressing these requirements. However, it should be noted that the SARA competent minister also has certain specific obligations relative to species and critical habitat protection stemming from SARA itself, separate from the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* or the environmental assessment process.

For further information on your responsibilities regarding the consideration of wildlife species at risk in the environmental assessment process, please consult the following documents available on Environment Canada's website (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En>):

- *Addressing Species at Risk Act Considerations Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act for Species Under the Responsibility of the Minister responsible for Environment Canada and Parks Canada;*
- *The Species at Risk Act Environmental Assessment Checklists for Species Under the Responsibility of the Minister Responsible for Environment Canada and Parks Canada;*
- *Environmental Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada.*

While these SARA documents make specific reference to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and are currently being updated, the general principles can still be applied and much of their content may be relevant to other federal environmental assessment regimes in Canada's North such as the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

Sincerely,



Bruce MacDonald
Manager, Northern Conservation Section, Canadian Wildlife Service

cc: Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment Northern, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Loretta Ransom, Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Paula Smith, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Northern Conservation Section, Canadian Wildlife Service



Our file: EA1415-01
Prairie Creek All Season Road and Airstrip

To:

Environment Canada
PO Box 2310, 5019-52nd Street, 4th Floor
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
X1A 2P7

Via email: ec.ea.nwt@ec.gc.ca

May 27, 2014

RE: Notification pursuant to s. 79 of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*

Please be advised that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is undertaking an environmental assessment of the Prairie Creek All Season Road and Airstrip proposed by Canadian Zinc Corporation.

On May 22, 2014 the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board referred the Prairie Creek All Season Road and Airstrip to environmental assessment pursuant to section 126 (2)(a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The Review Board has created a public registry for this file, where all information will be held. The public registry is available online at www.reviewboard.ca/registry. The file is EA1415-01, Prairie Creek All Season Road, Canadian Zinc Corporation.

Based on information from the preliminary screening applications and project description, this proposed development may adversely impact species which have been identified as being at risk under either Species at Risk Act (SARA) or by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. The Review Board is providing this information to discharge its duties under s.79 of *SARA*, which requires that notification be made to the appropriate responsible minister when any project could have an impact on a species at risk.

During this environmental assessment, the Review Board asks that Environment Canada assist the Review Board in determining the likelihood of adverse effects of the proposed project on the above species and/or their critical habitats. Please also indicate if any other species merit special consideration during this environmental assessment.

Further information regarding this environmental assessment may be obtained at the Review Board's online public registry (www.reviewboard.ca/registry) or by contacting me at sdezouza@reviewboard.ca or by telephone at (867) 766-7054.



Sincerely,

original signed by

Sachi De Souza
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Review Board