



AUG 12 2016

Mr. Chuck Hubert  
Sr. Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact  
Review Board  
PO Box 938  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Hubert:

**Canadian Zinc Corporation (Canadian Zinc)'s Prairie Creek All-Season Road Environmental Assessment (EA) (EA1415-01) – Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)'s comments on facilitator's reports for cultural impact technical sessions**

I am writing in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) July 27, 2016 request for comments on facilitator Joanne Barnaby's reports on the cultural impacts technical sessions held in Nahanni Butte (July 4) and Fort Simpson (July 5). GNWT departments have reviewed these reports and provide the following comments:

1. Fort Simpson report: please include Melissa Pink, Department of Lands, GNWT as an attendee.
2. Fort Simpson report page 7, regarding the following excerpt:

*"LKFN [Łı́ıdlıı Kúę First Nation] would like the Review Board to consider the Traditional Knowledge in the Dehcho Land Use Plan in relation to the all-season road."*

The GNWT would like to clarify that the land use plan is currently *draft* and that the *Draft Interim Dehcho Land Use Plan (Draft Plan)* has been updated since Canadian Zinc first submitted the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR). The GNWT encourages the MVEIRB to request a revised *Draft Plan* from the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee for consideration in the environmental assessment.

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The GNWT also notes that the *Draft Plan* is not an approved land use plan, and will not be binding until approved and subsequently implemented by *Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement* parties. The parties are currently undertaking a technical review of the *Draft Plan* and as such, the GNWT can neither indicate support or disagreement with the contents of the *Draft Plan* as they pertain to this assessment. However, the *Draft Plan* includes many years of Traditional Knowledge data collection for the area in question and as such, the Traditional Knowledge in the *Draft Plan* may be of value for the MVEIRB to consider in its assessment.

3. Fort Simpson report, page 11: the report incorrectly identifies the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) as the government department providing comments regarding road access. A Department of Lands representative provided those comments.
4. Nahanni Butte report, summary on page 8: GNWT notes that during the session NBDB members wrote information on maps that were available at the session. GNWT requests that MVEIRB post this information to the public record.
5. Nahanni Butte report, page 9: the report states “There was a clear consensus in the community that people do not want non-residents using the road. It should be a ‘mine only’ road.” The GNWT requests clarity as to whether the term “non-residents” was meant to refer to people who are not Nahanni Butte Dene Band members, people who are not residents of the Hamlet of Nahanni Butte, or to have some alternative meaning. This is an important distinction due to the access concerns in this EA, and the potential for access restrictions due to the proposed road crossing Nahanni Butte Dene Band Indian Affairs Branch (IAB) Lands.
6. Nahanni Butte report, page 10: the GNWT notes that at the Nahanni Butte session it appeared that many Nahanni Butte Dene Band members did *not* favour removal of the road. It appeared that some community members wished that the road be maintained at least in part for a potential youth camp. The GNWT recommends that the MVEIRB solicit additional thoughts and input directly from the Nahanni Butte Dene Band on this issue.

If the MVEIRB or any of the parties to this EA have questions regarding the GNWT's comments, please contact Melissa Pink, Manager, Project Assessment Branch, at [Melissa.Pink@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Melissa.Pink@gov.nt.ca) or 867-767-9183 ext. 24069, or Paul Mercredi, Project Assessment Analyst, at [Paul.Mercredi@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Paul.Mercredi@gov.nt.ca) or 867-767-9183 ext. 24068.

Sincerely,



for

Lorraine Seale  
Director  
Securities and Project Assessment  
Department of Lands