



Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency
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Agence canadienne de développement
économique du Nord



October 10, 2018

VIA Email & Fax

Chief Eugene Hope
Acho Dene Koe First Nation
General Delivery
Fort Liard, NT, X0G 0A0

Decision on Prairie Creek All-Season Road: follow-up letter with Indigenous Governments and Organizations (MVEIRB file number EA1415-01)

Introduction

As you are aware, in 2014 Canadian Zinc Corporation (the Developer) proposed construction of a 184 km all-season road (the Project) from the Liard River, near the Liard Highway, to service the Prairie Creek Mine in Nahanni National Park Reserve. On September 12, 2017 the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) concluded its environmental assessment (EA) of the Project, and released its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (the Report). The Report recommended the Project be approved, subject to measures and the Developer's commitments, as recorded in the Report.

Environmental Assessment and Aboriginal consultation

After notifying you in June 2014 and in May 2015 that the Federal Minister and the responsible ministers would be relying on the EA process for Aboriginal consultation, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) observed and participated in the EA process for the Project, and carefully reviewed the Board's Report and all correspondence from Indigenous Governments and Organizations (IGOs). With the release of the Board's Report on September 12, 2017, the Northern Projects Management Office and the GNWT Department of Lands immediately distributed joint letters to IGOs including to the Acho Dene Koe First Nation (ADKFN). These letters sought the IGOs' views regarding whether the Report addressed potential adverse



impacts on Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights. We received responses to the September 12, 2017 letters from:

- Nahʔą Dehé Dene Band (NDDDB) on October 2, 2017; October 5, 2017; and December 7, 2017;
- Łíídlıı Kúę First Nation (LKFN) on October 20, 2017;
- Dehcho First Nations (DFN) on October 20, 2017; and,
- Acho Dene Koe First Nation (ADKFN) on November 7, 2017.

In your letter dated November 6, 2017 you acknowledge that the Developer has engaged ADKFN continuously since 2014, and that a positive relationship between ADKFN and Canadian Zinc continues to exist. That letter also expressed various concerns relating to increased traffic from the Project near your community. We have considered your concerns, and conclude that a combination of the Report's measures and existing government programs are likely to function to address your concerns in a satisfactory way. We are happy to provide further information regarding these programs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Federal Minister and the responsible ministers evaluated the Report of Environmental Assessment, and continued to consult with IGOs during the decision phase. They also worked with IGOs and the Developer to resolve outstanding concerns. Based on this, we believe that IGOs' concerns about potential adverse effects of the Project on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights have been addressed.

The Federal Minister and responsible ministers recognize that Aboriginal consultation is an ongoing process. There will be further opportunities for you to participate during the post environmental assessment phase, should the project move forward. We encourage you to actively participate in all processes related to this project and continue to bring forward your concerns.



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If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Adrian Paradis, Senior Project Manager (adrian.paradis@canada.ca) with the Northern Projects Management Office.

Sincerely,

Kate Hearn
Assistant Deputy Minister
Planning and Coordination
Department of Lands
Government of the Northwest
Territories

Diane Billingsley
A/ Director-General
Northern Projects Management Office
Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency
Government of Canada

cc:

Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary, Office of the Premier of the Northwest Territories

Mr. Mike Aumond, Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, GNWT Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Mr. Willard Hagen, Deputy Minister, GNWT Department of Lands

Dr. Joe Dragon, Deputy Minister, GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Mark Hopkins, Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Mr. Patrick O'Neill, Director General, Explosive Safety and Security Branch, Natural Resources Canada

Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board