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Pêches et Océans
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Fish Habitat Management
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Your file *Votre référence*
EA0809-002

Our file *Notre référence*
YK-08-00114

June 12th, 2009

Alistair MacDonald
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

RE: DFO Comments on the Draft Terms of Reference and Work plan for Prairie Creek Mine Project

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is pleased to provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) with the following comments on the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Assessment for Canadian Zinc Corporation's Prairie Creek Mine Project.

Section 2.2.2 Temporal Scope

Under the second bullet in this section, the ToR ask the proponent to "*place special focus on the consideration of times during the development when valued components are particularly sensitive to external stimulus (e.g., during wildlife migration periods).*" To elaborate on this point, DFO would also like the proponent to be particularly mindful of the spawning and incubation periods of fish and consider timing windows and proper sediment and erosion control measures to reduce impacts of activities in close proximity to water bodies.

Section 3.3.10 - Biophysical Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans.

DFO recommends that the proponent develop a conceptual framework for an integrated Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan (AEMP). This plan should consider all existing aquatic monitoring programs in conjunction with the requirements under the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER) for an Environmental Effects Monitoring program (EEM) along with other required water quality monitoring programs (i.e Surveillance Network Program site under a water license). The AEMP should be designed in such a way that standardized protocols are followed for all sampling sites to avoid duplication of effort and ensure all data is comparable.

As well, in the development of the AEMP, the proponent should focus on small bodied benthic feeding fish species as a means of identifying and predicting potential impacts before they reach higher trophic level fish communities (i.e. Bull trout).

DFO appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on this comprehensive draft Terms of Reference. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Olivier at (867) 669-4919, by fax (867)669-4940, or email Sarah.Olivier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Beverley Ross
Regional Manager, Environmental Assessment for Major Projects
Central and Arctic Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

cc Julie Dahl, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tania Gordanier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Lorraine Sawdon, Fisheries and Oceans Canada