



June 12, 2009

Alistair MacDonald
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, #200 Scotia Centre
5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Re: Canadian Zinc Corporation's Proposed Prairie Creek Mine - NRCAN Comments on the Terms of Reference

In response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's May 11, 2009 invitation to interested parties, Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) is pleased to submit comments on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Assessment of Canadian Zinc Corporation's proposed Prairie Creek Mine.

The Board can note that NRCAN has not identified any licences or other approvals that we would be required to provide for this project; therefore, NRCAN is not identifying itself as a Responsible Minister under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* for this project. However, NRCAN does have scientific and technical expertise in a number of areas, including areas related to mining and earth sciences. Following discussion with staff at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, NRCAN reviewed and commented on the TOR specifically on issues relating to: 1) groundwater; 2) seismic activity and hazards; and, 3) karst.

With respect to seismic activity and groundwater, NRCAN technical experts were generally satisfied with the draft TOR's wording on those issues, and have no comments to offer.

With regard to karst, NRCAN recommends that the last bullet on page 15 be revised. NRCAN's suggested wording is:

- Identify the location and extent of the Nahanni North Karst landform and describe its structure, permeability, stability, and other relevant characteristics of this landform (e.g. location of sinkholes, poljes) and include the occurrence of carbonates within the EA Study Area, a geophysical and drilling information based assessment of karst risks to project elements, as well as an assessment of the potential existence/formation of subsurface drainage paths due to karst.

We trust that the foregoing will assist the Board in finalizing the TOR. If you have any questions regarding NRCAN's submission, please do not hesitate to contact me at (613) 943-0773 or by e-mail at John.Clarke@nrcan.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

John Clarke
Regional Team Leader
Natural Resources Canada

cc: Rob Johnstone, NRCAN