

From: Krista Ingram <Krista_Ingram@gov.nt.ca>

Subject: Aboriginal Consultation: Approval of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan for Phase 1 of the Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek All-Season Road Project

Date: November 2, 2021 at 09:53:22 MDT

To: 'Grand Chief Cayen' <grandchief_cayen@dehcho.org>, 'Steve Vital' <chiefsteve.nbdb@gmail.com>, LKFN Chief <chief@liidliikue.com>, "chief@adkfirstnation.ca" <chief@adkfirstnation.ca>

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Sent on behalf of the Honourable Shane Thompson, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

Grand Chief Cayen, Chief Vital, Chief Antonie, and Sub Chief Berreault,

Please see attached correspondence, "Aboriginal Consultation: Approval of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan for Phase 1 of the Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek All-Season Road Project".

Mársı | Kinanāskomitin | Thank you | Merci | Hąı' | Quana | Qujannamiik | Quyanainni | Máhsı | Máhsı | Mahsı

Krista Ingram

Executive Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Shane Thompson
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs
Minister of Lands
Minister Responsible for Youth

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Please be advised that meetings held with Minister Shane Thompson will be reported on the GNWT's Public Engagement and Transparency Report.

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November 02, 2021

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Aboriginal Consultation: Approval of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan for Phase 1 of the Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek All-Season Road Project

On October 27, 2017, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) notified Canadian Zinc (CZN; now NorZinc) that a Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) approved by the Minister of ENR would be required for the Prairie Creek all-season access road project, under section 95 of the *Wildlife Act*. On October 4, 2021, CZN submitted a final version of a WMMP for Phase 1 of the road to be considered for approval. Prior to making this decision, I am seeking your views on whether any of the proposed actions to be undertaken by CZN in the WMMP has the potential to adversely impact your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights.

The draft WMMP for the project has undergone several reviews and updates throughout the environmental assessment (EA) and post-EA regulatory phase conducted by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) and Parks Canada.

To date there have been two opportunities for public review of the WMMP. The first draft of the WMMP, which covered the entire all-season road project, underwent public review between March 12, 2019 and April 24, 2019. Based on feedback received and a decision to narrow the scope of the WMMP to construction and operation of the Pioneer Winter Road (Phase 1), a revised version was submitted by CZN to the Minister of ENR and the Superintendent of Nahanni National Park Reserve on November 12, 2019. This revised version of the WMMP underwent public review between December 10, 2019 and January 9, 2020. CZN replied to the public comments on January 16, 2020. On February 4, 2020, CZN indicated in a news release that the Pioneer Winter Road (Phase 1) would not be commencing in the first quarter of 2020 as previously planned.

On April 25, 2020, ENR sent a letter to CZN indicating that it would defer its approval decision for the WMMP, and identified four key revisions to the WMMP that CZN had to address before ENR would consider it for approval. The letter also identified a number of other minor recommended changes to the WMMP. ENR requested that CZN submit a final version of the Phase 1 WMMP for approval at least 90 days prior to commencing construction. CZN will be submitting a separate WMMP for the next phase(s) of the all-season road at a later date.

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On October 4, 2021, CZN submitted a revised version of the Phase 1 WMMP to ENR. ENR has completed an initial review of the WMMP and determined that the four key revisions, and other minor recommended changes, have been addressed in the revised Phase 1 WMMP. ENR's April 25, 2020 letter to CZN indicated that Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations would be consulted prior to making a decision on approval.

Please review the October 2021 version of the Phase 1 WMMP and advise ENR if you feel any of the proposed actions to be undertaken by CZN in the WMMP has the potential to adversely impact your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights. In your comments we request that you clearly identify the right that has the potential to be affected, and any proposed modifications to the WMMP.

Due to the large size of the files, a copy of the October 2021 Phase 1 WMMP, and associated wildlife baseline survey reports, will be sent to your organization through our Secure File Transfer site by way of a separate e-mail. Please note that the links to download these reports expire after four days.

Comments should be provided to Dr. James Hodson, Manager Environmental Assessment and Habitat, by **December 17, 2021**. Dr. Hodson will also be the designated departmental contact person should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Phase 1 WMMP. Dr. Hodson can be contacted by phone at (867) 767-9237, extension 53227 or by email at James.Hodson@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



Shane Thompson
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

c. Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Ms. Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

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Mr. Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

Ms. Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Brett Elkin
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Environment and Natural Resources

Ms. Heather Sayine-Crawford
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Mr. Jamie Chambers
Superintendent, Dehcho
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Mr. Boyd Clark
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Mr. David Harpley
VP Environment
NorZinc Corporation

Mr. Jonathan Tsetso
Superintendent, Nahanni National Park Reserve
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