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Canadian Zinc's Permit Applications for Mine Expansion, Prairie Creek Mine



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We are in receipt of, and have initially reviewed, Canadian Zinc's applications for a new Land Use Permit and Water Licence for an expanded Prairie Creek Mine (expanded application). Our community with Canadian Zinc on this file prior to its official application.

Canadian Zinc has indicated that it is their intention to commence construction of the expanded mine in the spring of 2022, subject to the issue of permits and related approvals, and to commence full commercial operations by the end of 2024.

Our technical advisors have conducted a review of Canadian Zinc's expanded application, and based on their review and feedback, we do not feel an environmental assessment (EA) is necessary. This perspective is based on the fact that our understanding of the potential impacts is actually better now than it was during the original EA and the water license process provides many of the same opportunities as an EA to discuss and improve the project if needed. Our reviewers also note that the certainty of the predictions about project effects, especially with respect to water and effluent quality, is much better now than it was during the original EA of the mine back in 2012. This is because Canadian Zinc and its consultants have gathered additional monitoring data and updated the models used to make predictions.

You will be aware that the original mine project was the subject of environmental assessment EA0809-02 followed by the issue of operating permits. With our representatives, our nation will be fully engaged in the permitting process to be managed by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) in relation to the new applications. We are confident that the MVLWB's process can and will appropriately address all of the issues relating to the revised mine project, and that no other process, such as additional environmental assessment, is necessary for this purpose.

In the agreements Canadian Zinc has with us, the Company has made commitments regarding employment of our members, business contracts and other production-related benefits. We are look forward to seeing these realized.

Mahsi,

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