



Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada  
www.inac.gc.ca www.ainc.gc.ca  
Nunavut Regional Office  
P.O. Box 100  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence  
NWB INAN0208

Our file - Notre référence

March 12, 2004

Philippe di Pizzo  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Water Board  
P.O. Box 119  
Gjoa Haven, NU, X0E 1J0

Via electronic mail to:  
[exec@nwb.nunavut.ca](mailto:exec@nwb.nunavut.ca)

**Re: Scheduling of Nanisivik Mine Closure Technical Meetings and Pre-hearings**

On behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Health Canada, and Natural Resources Canada ("the Federal Departments"), I would like to thank the Nunavut Water Board ("NWB") for the opportunity to provide comment on the scheduling of technical meetings, pre-hearings, and hearings for the *Nanisivik Mine 2004 Reclamation and Closure Plan* ("the Nanisivik Closure Plan"). As indicated in your letter of March 5, 2004, the NWB is now in receipt of all outstanding documents of the Nanisivik Closure Plan from CanZinco Limited ("CanZinco"), and the review period was initiated on March 8, 2004.

The Federal Departments are in agreement that the Nanisivik Closure Plan comprises an important document to guide CanZinco's closure and reclamation of the Nanisivik Mine site, and to provide protection to the human and environmental health of the Nanisivik and Arctic Bay communities. The NWB review and hearing processes provide an integral forum in which all parties are given the opportunity to advise on how these two complementary objectives might be best accomplished. In consultation with Government of Nunavut, the Federal Departments are pleased to provide the following comments on the technical meetings, pre-hearings, and hearings:

1. In the interest of serving the public, it is essential that all reviewers have the opportunity to undertake a thorough review of the Final Closure Plan with the requisite due diligence. To generate meaningful comments from their respective areas of expertise, the Federal Departments require the full 60 day period, accounted for in the NWB's *Rules of Practice and Procedure for Public Hearings*, prior to the undertaking of any technical meetings or pre-hearings. The Federal Departments therefore propose that technical meetings and pre-hearings be held no sooner than the week of May 10-14, 2004, in Iqaluit, NU.

2. The Federal Departments recognize the value of Nanisivik Closure Plan approval and implementation occurring in an expeditious manner. Reviewers will therefore provide CanZinco, via correspondence to the NWB, with requests for additional information as they arise throughout the course of the 60 day review period. Depending on the amount, complexity, and submission date of the requested information, every realistic effort will be made to complete the review of supplementary information prior to the technical meetings and pre-hearings.
3. The Federal Departments are opposed to technical meetings occurring in advance of May 10, 2004. Without the full opportunity to review the Nanisivik Closure Plan, the Federal Departments will not be in a position to provide CanZinco with a full and accurate assessment of their respective concerns. To ensure that all reviewers are given fair opportunity to identify areas of outstanding information requirements, the Federal Departments are in agreement with the information request procedure identified in Item 2 above.
4. The Federal Departments reserve the right to request any remaining outstanding information relating to the Nanisivik Closure Plan at the technical meetings and pre-hearings. An additional period of review, consistent with the magnitude of outstanding or contested information, may be required following the technical meetings. In order that the scheduling of the final hearings not become divorced from the Nanisivik Closure Plan review process, it is recommended that the dates of final hearings not be determined until such time as reviewers are satisfied with the technical sufficiency of the Nanisivik Closure Plan. The Federal Departments recommend that final hearings be held in Arctic Bay.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Nanisivik Closure Plan review and hearings proceedings, and please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any further questions or concerns.

Best regards,



Stephen Traynor  
Director, Operations

cc. Bob Carreau, Breakwater Resources Ltd.  
cc. Colette Meloche, Environment Canada

cc. Stephanie Critch, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
cc. Rob Johnstone, Natural Resources Canada  
cc. Anjala Puvananathan, Health Canada  
cc. Norman Cavanagh, Justice Canada  
cc. Susan Hardy, Government of Nunavut