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Ministère de l'Exécutif et des Affaires Intergouvernementales

Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs

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October 11, 2007

Mr. Kevin Buck  
Director of Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU  
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Via email to: [kbuck@nirb.nunavut.ca](mailto:kbuck@nirb.nunavut.ca)

Dear Mr. Buck

This letter is in response to the October 3, 2007 correspondence from the Nunavut Impact Review Board requesting that Parties submit technical comments on the High Lake Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) based on information submitted by Zinifex Canada Inc.

On September 17, 2007 the Government of Nunavut submitted forty Information Requests (IRs) to NIRB which outlined the information the GN would need to assess the adequacy of the technical content of the DEIS.

On October 3, Zinifex responded to these IRs stating that due to time and resource constraints, the company was unable to respond fully to each IR. In fact, Zinifex responded to only seven of the forty IRs submitted by the GN. According to the correspondence, the proponent plans to submit the rest of the information immediately before, or during, the October 29 technical meetings.

The GN technical staff has reviewed the information provided by Zinifex on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and has concluded that it is insufficient for the purpose of developing a complete set of technical comments. The quality of the technical advice provided by the GN will be reduced considerably without a complete understanding of the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project, and the proposed mitigation and monitoring measures. Ultimately, the lack of information will impact negatively on the outcomes of the technical meetings and pre-hearing conference.

The GN understands that tight deadlines may have contributed to the lack of information and supports the efforts of Zinifex to provide it to Parties by the end of October. However, it is in the interest of all Parties, including the proponent, that the majority of the requested information is available for thorough stakeholder review and comment *prior* to the technical meetings.

