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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Office of Premier Peter Taptuna
Hivuliqtip Peter Taptuna Havakvingani
Bureau du Premier ministre Peter Taptuna

NOV 24 2014

Wade Luzny
CEO & Executive Vice-President
Canadian Wildlife Federation
350 Promenade Michael Cowpland Drive
Kanata, ON K2M 2W1

October 15, 2014

Dear Mr. Luzny,

Thank you for your letter regarding the failure of the Imperial Metals tailings pond and your interest in Nunavut's environmental standards.


The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) is responsible for reviewing projects in Nunavut and ensuring environmental standards are met. NIRB's main objective is to *"protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the eco-systemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area."* NIRB has the responsibility to recommend whether a project should proceed, and to monitor the project post-approval. The final decision on whether a project should proceed is made by the federal Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister.

In all cases, project proposals that are approved have associated terms and conditions as well as the regulatory requirements. NIRB monitors all projects in the territory.

The environmental assessment process in Nunavut is by its nature a public process. All documents involved in the review of a project proposal are publicly available. Comprehensive consultation with the public occurs. These consultations include communities, aboriginal groups, regulating agencies, and other interested parties. Wildlife, tailings management, and water quality comprise a significant portion of the review process, with many opportunities for interested parties to provide input on these topics throughout the review process.

Overall, the environmental assessment and monitoring system in Nunavut is rigorous, comprehensive and thorough.

Sincerely,


Peter Taptuna
Premier of Nunavut