



Amanda Hanson
Director, Technical Services
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Re:NIRB File No. 08MN006 - Hackett River Project

Dear Mrs Hanson,

In response to your letter of February 8th 2012, Xstrata Zinc Canada formally confirms its ownership of the Hackett River Project.

In preparation of the submission of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), we are actively continuing the work during the 2012-2013 period, including the pre-feasibility assessments and baseline environmental data collection. Although we will not submit the DEIS in the 2012-2013 fiscal year period, it should be noted that our intention is to submit the DEIS in the second quarter 2013.

Should you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michel Boucher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michel Boucher
General Manager, Mining Projects
Xstrata Zinc Canada
8801 Transcanada Highway, Suite 400
Saint-Laurent, Quebec H4S 1Z6

cc : R.Prairie