

Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) - Flin Flon / Creighton Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

September 2, 2009 – Flin Flon City Hall
Meeting #12

Attendance

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership					
Don Aasen Town of Creighton	X	Bev Hill NorMan Regional Health	X	Deb Odegaard FF&D Env't Council	X
Robert Bratvold Creighton School Board		Tom Lindsey Steelworkers Union	X	Bill Pauley Flin Flon School Division	
Katie Garinger General Public		Charlene Logan MCRRHA	X	Dave Price Green Project	X
Ian Cooper HBMS	X	Barb Lyons General Public	X	Bill Hanson City of Flin Flon	
Cheryl Hordal General Public	X	Christa McIntyre Healthy Flin Flon	X		

Guests / Other		
Sheldon McLeod (Facilitator) S.L. McLeod Consulting	Shirley Neault (Recorder) HBMS	Brad Lantz HBMS
TAC Member (Observer) George Bihun (via telephone) SK Environment	Alan Hair (via telephone) HBMS	Elliot Sigal Intrinsic Environmental
TAC Member (Observer) Dave Bezak MB Conservation	Dr. Susan Roberecki (via telephone) MB Health & Healthy Living	Blair Jackson Goss Gilroy Inc.
Dr. Lawrence Elliott (via telephone) NOR-MAN Health Region	Dr. James Irvine (via telephone) Churchill River Health Region	Celine Pinsent Goss Gilroy Inc.
4 Evaluation of Exposure Study Field Team Members	3 Public Observers	

Introduction

- Facilitator Sheldon McLeod called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.
- A review of the draft notes of the previous meeting was conducted. The notes were approved.
- Action Items from the previous meeting were reviewed. The status of these action items is summarized in the tables at the end of these notes.

Member's Commentary – Community Feedback

- Each CAC member was given the opportunity to share what they are hearing in the community regarding the HHRA.
 - It is very quiet.
 - A few members mentioned that the only question they are being asked is, "Why not test adults?"

Status of HHRA / Independent Peer Review Process

- Sheldon McLeod provided an update on the IERP:
 - The draft report from the peer review panel via TERA was returned to the panel members for final review earlier this week. The report is expected to be ready to circulate to the TAC members by September 8.

- Elliot Sigal of Intrinsic provided an update on the HHRA:
 - The schedule for completion of the report remains unchanged from last meeting.
 - When the TAC and Intrinsic receive the IERP report from TERA, Intrinsic will respond to comments and return those to the IERP. Concurrently, the HHRA report will be revised based on the same comments.
 - Then the risk assessment can be returned to the TAC for final technical review. Concurrently, the evaluation of exposure study will be done.

Question: What in the draft HHRA report prompted the evaluation of exposure study?

Response: The potential levels of exposure from all of the sources (e.g. soil, water, fish, etc.) were elevated enough to warrant further investigation.

Question: Does testing throughout the community skew the data?

Response: No because concentration trends will be analyzed to determine if geographic proximity to the facility or other influences are impacting the results.

Further Evaluation of Environmental Exposure

Reference Documentation – September_2_2009 update to CAC

- Blair Jackson and Dr. Celine Pinsent from Goss Gilroy presented further information on the environmental exposure study. Highlights included:
 - The study will begin immediately. Some of the study team were present at the meeting and were introduced.
 - To determine who will be asked to participate, a statistician-developed sampling frame was used. This looks at the populations, the geographic distribution of those populations and the number of people in those areas or frames.
 - A sample size of approximately 400 (out of 1200 local children) is the goal. Approximately 200 children from West Flin Flon, 100 from East Flin Flon and 100 from Creighton / Channing will be asked to participate. Children between approximately 3-7 years old will provide both urine and blood samples. Those older will provide urine only while those younger will provide blood only.

Comment: You should consider sampling children who live at the area lakes but regularly spend time in Flin Flon / Creighton (e.g. to attend school). There are also approximately 1500 people who visit the area for extended periods between May and October. Consider sampling them.

Response: If no issue is found in children who are tested and live in town, then those that reside outside of the immediate exposure area should also be fine.

Comment: It may make people more comfortable with participating if the names of the CAC members are included with the letters being distributed, rather than just the names of the study team.

Response: Great idea, if the CAC members are okay with it (permission granted by members) (see action #043).

Comment: Test adults.

Response: Testing adults could confuse the study because a large database of information already exists as a result of ongoing testing conducted on HBMS employees. This group of adults has different exposures that are controlled by various means.

Question: Could the evaluation of exposure study lead to adult testing?

Response: If concerns are uncovered, then there may be potential for further testing.

Question: So, we are testing children but the overall exposure for the community as a whole will be reported based on the results?

Response: Yes and the results will determine what, if any, risk management in the community is required.

Question: Is there any danger of transferring contamination amongst other family members?

Response: Contact with blood or other bodily fluids will not transfer metal contamination.

Evaluation of Environmental Exposure – Communications Strategy

Reference Documentation – Communications_schedule_Responsibilities_Aug 31;
FAQs_for_CAC_Communications_Sept 2; Invitation Letter (Hard copies of these documents provided at the meeting)

- The communications strategy was reviewed:
 - Randomly selected participants will receive a letter, a 2-page description of the study and the list of CAC members and their affiliations.
 - Two to three days after the above documents are delivered, the home will be visited by a study team member to follow-up and potentially make appointments for completing the consent form and conducting the interview.
- The potential participant selection process is :
 - Municipal tax rolls were reviewed to obtain residential addresses, without knowing if anybody lives at the address or not and, if so, who they are.
 - Send the initial invitation package to all residential addresses in West Flin Flon.
 - Randomly select 100 households from the remaining addresses.
 - Visit the homes 3-4 times.
 - If x number of homes are not eligible (e.g. no children live there), then another x number of homes are randomly selected.
- Residents who are not invited to participate, but are eligible (have children under 15 years of age) can participate. The data generated from this group will be used a little differently (statistically).

Question: Could posters also be put up around town?

Response: Yes that is a good idea. The poster could also be distributed electronically.

Comment: The city and town offices should also be supplied with information.

Response: Agreed (see action #044)

Question: What is the CAC's communication role?

Response: Exactly what has transpired to date regarding input into the communication materials and throughout tonight's meeting. Get the word out! Ongoing, weekly e-mail updates will be provided by the study team. CAC members are asked to provide feedback as you receive it.

Comment: The study team needs to be upfront about the time commitment, so participants do not get annoyed because, "it took twice as long as you promised".

Response: Agreed.

Comment: To appease the current concerns regarding testing adults, you should sample 50 people and analyze the results separately.

Response: None.

Question: In the Port Colborne study, only risks from metals in supermarket foods were analyzed. How is that issue going to be avoided here?

Response: Our study is total exposure that we will not be able to say is 25% from this source, 10% from that source, and so on. But, we may be able to associate some activity with the results and we can compare our results with other communities not impacted by similar industrial processes.

- A local resident who has been conducting a 50-year ecological study in the area that will end in 2017 provided some additional area information:
 - The surface water from Trout Lake (Flin Flon's water supply) is more pure and safer than most bottled water, indicating that acid rain is not a problem.
 - As part of his study, he has regularly had his hair, tissue and fingernails analyzed with no issues found.
 - The local blueberries are safe to eat. Another researcher has proven that low bush berries do not draw in toxins; only the leaves and surrounding soil does.
 - To ingest the same volume of toxins from food sources, a person could consume 1000 pounds of blueberries or 1 pound of salmon or tuna.
- The group was asked to consider if a CAC spokesperson should be named. The terms of reference allow for this to happen and one may be needed in 2-3 months.
- The evaluation of exposure study team could use 2-3 youth to assist with the study. These are paid positions. Interested persons 18 years or older can contact Blair if they are interested.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
032	Offer suggestions for engaging the public when the final report is ready	CAC Members	2008-10-15	2008-06-17, new 2008-09-10, ongoing 2008-11-19, ongoing 2009-04-15, ongoing 2009-06-01, ongoing 2009-07-06, ongoing 2009-09-02, ongoing
041	Send draft communications package to CAC members	Goss Gilroy / Sheldon McLeod	2009-07-31	2009-07-06, new 2009-09-02, Complete
042	Comment on draft communication package	CAC Members	2009-08-07	2009-07-06, new 2009-09-02, Complete
043	Prepare a list of CAC members and affiliations / have copies made for inclusion with the invitation letters	Ian Cooper	2009-09-03	2009-09-02, new
044	Supply city and town offices with exposure study information packages	Ian Cooper	2009-09-04	2009-09-02, new

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 22, 2009 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Location: FF City Hall**