

Teleconference Meeting Notes (HBMS/Govt)
Thursday, August 30, 2007 9:00 am to 10:00 am (CDT)
Flin Flon Area HHRA Study TAC Meeting #2

Present:

HBMS:	Alan Hair Stephen West Ian Cooper
Intrinsic Environmental Sciences Inc.	Elliot Sigal Adam Safruk
SK Health:	Dr. James Irvine Shala Ricklefs Kimberly Kratzig
SK Environment:	George Bihun
MB Health:	Dr. Michael Routledge Dr. Marcia Anderson
MB Conservation:	Floyd Phillips Mike Gilbertson Geoff Jones Dean Kasur Jean Van Dusen David Bezak
Health Canada:	Lindsay Smith

Purpose of the Meeting:

To continue the discussions between Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited (HBMS) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan on the human health risk assessment (HHRA) of exposures to metals in the Flin Flon area.

Meeting Notes:

1. Manitoba Conservation (MC) introduced the meeting, including a background of recent activities, and reviewed the proposed agenda.
2. The release of the MC report on metals in soils in the Flin Flon area through the Flin Flon Reminder news story on August 1st was discussed. No public feedback as a result of the news story had been received by any of the parties. HBMS indicated that in preparation for the release and also to seek interest for participation on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), they had contacted a number of groups prior to the release of the report. Similarly, SK Environment had also talked with a number of their stakeholders in the Creighton area in advance of its release.
3. Consultants to HBMS had not been able to complete the drafting of information on the proposed HHRA committee structures, their roles, mandate, etc. As a result this topic was deferred to a future discussion. HBMS was hopeful that materials would be available by mid-September for circulation to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members.

4. Intrinsic reported on their site visit to Flin Flon at the end of July. A lot of information had been collected, including GPS coordinates for the soil and other sample sites. In response to the request to government for environmental data from the Flin Flon area, Intrinsic indicated that information had been received. The next step will be to assess the available information and do a “gap analysis” to identify key missing data. This gap analysis would be shared with committee members as an opportunity to check whether any data may have been over-looked in the initial data submissions. The gap analysis would also serve as the basis for identifying what additional sampling might be required. Intrinsic suggested that additional sampling might be required for metals in residential soils and in house dust. The gap analysis should be available within a week. Any additional sampling by Intrinsic would need to be done in consultation with the public, as well as government. It is anticipated that any outdoor sampling would need to be completed before the end of October.
5. Intrinsic also indicated that they were working on the terms of reference (ToR) for the human health risk assessment (HHRA) that would identify how the risk assessment would be undertaken. The ToR would be a detailed and comprehensive study plan. It would identify the methods to be used, the underlying assumptions, areas where more data were required, *etc.* It was anticipated that a ToR for the HHRA would be available for TAC review by the middle of September.
6. HBMS reported that planning was underway for the creation of the local CAC. A core membership for the CAC was already confirmed (Green Project, Flin Flon & District Environmental Council, Healthy Flin Flon, Steelworkers Union). Other members, such as elected community leaders, school officials, *etc.*, still needed to be confirmed. After some discussion, it was agreed preference was for the CAC to be in-place and perhaps to have met prior to the October 1st Healthy Flin Flon public presentation.
7. Other questions/comments:
 - MC asked for confirmation on how occupational exposure would be considered within the HHRA (this question had been asked by Manitoba Health after the last teleconference call). Intrinsic indicated that such exposures were usually outside the terms of a HHRA, since protection to such exposures was already provided under relevant Labour legislation.
 - SK Health indicated that they had some general information on population health status and statistics for residents of Creighton and these data could be provided to Intrinsic. They also mentioned concerns local residents had on not being able to secure the organic classification for its wild rice (due to the potential impact from industrial emissions). Intrinsic indicated that the HHRA would address the health risks associated with consuming local food products but would not address any economic impacts; economic impacts such as potential property value impacts, generally fall outside the scope of a HHRA.
 - There was a need for consensus on organizations proposed for membership on the CAC; this might be discussed directly between HBMS and the governments of SK/MB.
 - Any additional questions on the HHRA should be sent to Intrinsic (with a copy to TAC through MC).

8. The next steps were:
 - Two documents would be soon available for TAC review/comment (gap analysis in early September and the draft ToR in mid-September)
 - Noon-hour public presentation will be held on Monday, October 1, 2007 to Healthy Flin Flon (air quality update, metals in soils study findings and next steps) [Though discussed, there was no decision on whether TAC would also meet in Flin Flon on this date.]
 - Based on the gap analysis, additional sampling may need to be undertaken prior to the end of October
 - The tentative timeline for the draft report of the HHRA assessment is six months, depending on factors such as comments from the TAC, the CAC, etc. Government review and any external peer review would add to this time.
9. The next teleconference of this group was agreed to be on September 19th at 9:00 am CDT (call-in information to be provided at a later date).

Noted by:
D. Bezak, MB Conservation
September 04, 2007