

Teleconference Meeting Notes (HBMS/Govt)
Thursday, July 19, 2007 9:00 am to 10:00 am (CDT)
Flin Flon Area HHRA Study

Present:

HBMS:	Alan Hair Stephen West
Intrinsic Environmental Sciences Inc:	Elliot Segal Adam Safruk
SK Health:	Dr. Ross Findlater Dr. James Irvine Shala Ricklefs Karen Hill
SK Environment:	George Bihun Dale Kristoff
MB Health:	Dr. Michael Routledge
MB Conservation:	Floyd Phillips Mike Gilbertson Vicki Henderson Jean Van Dusen David Bezak
MB STEM:	Doina Priscu
Health Canada:	Lindsay Smith
MB Communication Services:	Julie Kentner

Purpose of the Meeting:

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

Meeting Notes:

1. Manitoba Conservation introduced the meeting, reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the proposed agenda.
2. HBMS introduced the consultants they retained to scope the work and start the first phases of the human health risk assessment. Intrinsic Environmental Sciences Inc (formerly called CANTOX Environmental), a Canadian company, outlined their experience with doing risk assessments and the qualifications of the personnel leading the work on this project. In addition to the two leads identified for the project, Intrinsic indicated that other experts (e.g. board-certified toxicologists) could be made available to the team and could potentially include medical professionals. Intrinsic has undertaken risk assessments for many other smelter communities and is now doing the assessment for the Sudbury area. Intrinsic indicated that they would be on-site in the Flin Flon area in the next 1.5 weeks to become more familiar with the layout of the community and the location of the sampling sites.

3. Intrinsic reviewed the proposed scope of human health risk assessment (materials shared with meeting participants prior to the teleconference call) and the various phases that were envisioned. The study would be complex and detailed. Intrinsic was aware of some of the published reports and environmental data that were available for the Flin Flon area. They would shortly provide a list of more specific data/information requirements, which Manitoba Conservation agreed to circulate to participants for response. A data gap analysis would then be undertaken to identify what additional data might be required – Intrinsic planned to undertake any additional data collection prior to the onset of this winter. The terms of reference for the HHRA would indicate exactly what was going to be done, the processes to be followed, and the methodology to be used. The actual risk assessment itself would use standard protocols that are available from various governments (e.g. Health Canada, CCME, US EPA, Ontario MOE, etc.)
4. Several comments and questions were asked on the approach. MB Health asked whether human health data would be collected/assessed as part of the assessment; Intrinsic indicated that this normally is not part of the assessment but the recommendations of the assessment could include suggestions that such work be undertaken or that a biomonitoring study using biomarkers be conducted. Manitoba Health commented that, at a minimum, the community health assessment for the Region(s) be reviewed. SK Health indicated that the basic plan appeared to be good; there was a strong need for the study to be credible, and this required early engagement of stakeholders supported with communications. SK Health again commented that the soils report should be released as soon as possible.
5. HBMS highlighted its recognition that the HHRA needed to be credible and have integrity. It was committed to engaging local stakeholders as soon as possible, but the commencement of this process would have to await the release of the Manitoba Conservation metals in soils report. HBMS has also retained several communication consultants to assist with the outreach and engagement of community participants.
6. In terms of the general model for overseeing the assessment, HBMS' initial thoughts were that there might be three groups that could assist with the conduct of the HHRA. A Technical Advisory Committee would advise HBMS and its consultant on technical matters related to the development of the study and its conduct (this committee might mirror the participants on the call which included the three governments and several departments). A Community Advisory Group consisting of local Flin Flon area key stakeholders could provide the opportunity for ensuring understanding to the proposed process (and concurrence), as well as provide the forum for continuing broader-based community input and advice. A Communications sub-group could assist with providing information to the broader community, including progress reports on the assessment. Manitoba Conservation suggested that Terms of Reference for these groups would need to be established so that roles were clear. The actual mechanics of how the groups would operate (especially the Technical Advisory Group) would have to be established.
7. Health Canada raised several comments on the assessment approach (i.e., when would the community advisory group be brought into the process; thoughts on how to consider the unique aspects of northern MB/SK geographical areas, exposure factors,

cumulative risk, etc.). This discussion built on previous comments that they had provided to MB Conservation. These comments would be shared with members; the specific technical points could be discussed further in forthcoming discussions related to technical aspects of the work.

8. The next steps were:
 - start immediately on obtaining available data, conducting a data needs assessment and gap analysis, and collecting additional information (as may be necessary)
 - request of governments for info on metals in environmental media in the Flin Flon area (email request to be sent)
 - develop the terms of reference and define the roles for the governance structure
 - release the metals in soils report with a communication strategy to support the release
 - establish the Community Advisory Committee so it can be engaged as soon as possible in the process
9. The next teleconference of this group would likely occur sometimes around mid-August.

Noted by:
D. Bezak, MB Conservation
July 20, 2007