

Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) - Flin Flon / Creighton Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

April 7, 2008
Teleconference

Attendance

MB Conservation: Dave Bezak, Mike Gilbertson, Geoff Jones, Scott Nichol, Audrey Romanchuk
 MB Health: Marcia Anderson, Susan Roberecki
 MB STEM: Doina Priscu
 MB Water Stewardship: Dave Green
 SERM: George Bihun
 SK Health: Karen Hill, James Irvine, David Sampson
 Health Canada: Margaret Yole
 HBMS: Ian Cooper, Alan Hair, Joel Nilsen
 Intrinsic Environmental: Adam Safruk, Elliot Sigal
 Facilitator: Sheldon McLeod
 Observers: None

Introduction

- The agenda was reviewed. One new addition was made:
 - Discussion of the process for distributing residential soil sampling results to home owners.
- The notes from the previous meetings were reviewed and approved pending some minor corrections to be made before posting them on the website.
- A review of action items from the previous meeting was conducted as noted in the action tables.

Question: What is the process / schedule for future updates to the TOR?
 Response: Any comments should be submitted to Sheldon McLeod. These will be forwarded to Elliot Sigal for reply. The TAC will then discuss the issue and amend the TOR as required. There is no set schedule for review of the TOR. The TOR will also include the latest revision date.

- The notes from the previous meeting were adopted as revised.

Question: Respecting Action Item #32, an additional comment was just submitted. Has the provisional TAC TOR been posted to the HHRA website yet?
 Response: No. However, the October draft is still posted.

Question: Can the wording of the TAC TOR be clarified to stress that co-ordination of the HHRA is a HBMS responsibility rather than government?
 Response: Yes.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
017	Final comments on the HHRA TOR to be submitted.	Susan Roberecki	2007-12-14	2007-12-06, updated 2008-02-04, ongoing 2008-02-27, ongoing 2008-04-07, ongoing
022	Conduct a broader survey of drinking water to confirm that the current sites are representative.	Alan Hair	2008-01-15	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-04, ongoing 2008-02-27, ongoing 2008-04-07, ongoing

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
024	Provide references for adjustment factors to TAC.	Elliot Sigal	As factors arise	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-04, ongoing 2008-02-27, ongoing 2008-04-07, ongoing
026	Provide an interim report on the results of the problem formulation stage.	Elliot Sigal	2008-03-14	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-04, ongoing 2008-02-27, ongoing 2008-04-07, Complete
048	Post the provisional HHRA TOR to the HHRA website.	Alan Hair	2008-04-18	2007-04-07, new
049	Clarify HBMS' role as co-ordinator of the HHRA in the TOR.	Sheldon McLeod	2008-04-18	2007-04-07, new

Update on Human Health Risk Assessment

Problem Formulation

- Comments were received from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Health, and Health Canada. There were no major issues, and these comments will be incorporated into the revised problem formulation.
- Health Canada's comments were sent directly to Intrinsic. These comments are to be forwarded to Sheldon McLeod for distribution along with Manitoba Health comments (see action #050).

Question: There has been recognition of snow ingestion as a pathway. Is there any information on how the snow sampling data will be incorporated into the process?

Response: No. There is no existing information related to this pathway. Any methodology developed for the snow ingestion pathway will be done in consultation with the TAC.

Draft Dust Report

- Comments were received from Manitoba Conservation. Only one comment required discussion by the TAC:
 - The report should provide an update respecting re-sampling of fabrics. Re-sampling is currently scheduled for late spring to early summer. This will allow for maximum dust exposure. The sampling methodology may also be revised in light of the very low levels measured during the first sampling program.

Question: Can the tables be modified to include limits?

Response: With the exception of an EPA guideline for lead, there are no limits to include.

Question: Has there been a comparison of soil and dust data in the case of the one elevated dust sample in Creighton?

Response: Yes. The corresponding soil samples were not unusually elevated. The data for both soil and dust is provided in the two reports and the results can be cross-referenced based on sample number. Alan Hair will provide further explanation on this (see action #051).

Question: How well do the indoor dust samples correlate with the outdoor soil samples?

Response: There is a correlation, although not linear. This is confounded by the fact that indoor wipe samples are measured in mass per unit area while soil samples are measured in mass per unit mass.

- It was suggested that the wording regarding the re-sampling be changed to “will be done” rather than a recommendation.

Question: What is the process for publicizing this report?

Response: A presentation will be made on the final report to the CAC at their next meeting and the report will then be placed on the HHRA website.

Snow and Water Sampling

- Sampling for both snow and drinking water has been completed. The draft report on the snow sampling is expected by April 18, 2008. At this time, there is no update on the status of the drinking water report.
- It was requested that, for clarity, all future references to the water sampling should specify “drinking” water.

Food Survey / Initial Feedback

- To date, nearly 500 responses have been received. The rate of new response arrival is beginning to slow down. The responses will be compiled in a database.

Residential Soil Sampling

- The CAC and CWG had expressed concerns about directly mailing results to home owners and residents.
- As a result, the letter informing home owners and residents regarding the soil sampling report was revised. No results were included but the letter instead indicated that data would be provided upon request. To date, roughly 40 requests have been received, which represents approximately 20% of the survey population.
- Letters with results will be timed for release along with the invitations to the Open House, in order to boost public interest.

Other Progress on the HHRA

- The biosensitivity study is progressing slower than anticipated, but will not affect the overall schedule.

Question: The overall HHRA time line is unchanged?

Response: Yes.

Question: Can the HHRA time line be revised to include the dust re-sampling.

Response: Yes.

- There have been no comments received on the draft residential soil sampling report (Action Item #45). It has been noted that GPS co-ordinates for several addresses are incorrect and these are being reconciled. As there are no other comments, the report will be finalized and posted on the HHRA website.

Question: Can the Health Departments receive a copy of the finalized letter to home owners regarding the soil sampling results?

Response: Yes. However, the only change has been to add a reference to the Open House.

Question: Would the HHRA process benefit from the creation of a "Secretariat" position to better manage communications?

Response: That is the role of the CWG. TAC member organizations should ensure that their CWG designates attend CWG meetings in order to represent their organization's interests.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
032(a)	Revise TAC TOR to reflect latest discussions.	Sheldon McLeod	2008-01-15 2008-04-21	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-04, ongoing 2008-04-07, ongoing
032(b)	Provide wording for the TAC TOR stressing that co-ordination of the HHRA is a HBMS responsibility rather than government	Dave Bezak / Susan Roberecki	2008-04-21	2008-04-07, new
033	Include CAC Feedback item on future TAC meeting agendas.	Sheldon McLeod	2008-01-15	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-04, ongoing 2008-04-07, Complete
039	Circulate an example toxic profile of chemicals of concern for comments regarding content / approach	Elliot Sigal	2008-03-14	2008-02-04, new 2008-02-27, ongoing 2008-04-07, ongoing
042	Supply Geoff with specific data including UTM coordinates.	Elliot Sigal	2008-03-14	2008-02-14, new 2008-02-27, ongoing 2008-04-07, Complete
045	Provide comments on the draft soil report to Alan	TAC	2008-03-03	2008-02-27, new 2008-04-08, Complete
046	Provide words via e-mail for footnote in table re CCME guideline explanation	Susan, Dave B. & Geoff	2008-02-29	2008-02-27, new 2008-04-08, Complete
047	Post the health handout given at the CAC meeting on the HHRA website.	Ian Cooper	2008-02-29	2008-02-27, new 2008-04-07, Complete
050	Circulate comments on the HHRA problem formulation to TAC members.	Elliot Sigal, Sheldon McLeod	2008-04-07	2008-04-07, new
051	Provide explanation on cross-referencing soil and dust results.	Alan Hair	2008-04-11	2008-04-07, new
052	Finalize dust report, present to the CAC, and post to the HHRA website.	Alan Hair	2008-04-25	2008-04-07, new
053	Update HHRA time-line to include dust re-sampling.	Elliot Sigal	2008-04-11	2008-04-07, new
054	Finalize residential soil report, post it to the HHRA website and notify TAC members that it has been posted	Alan Hair	2008-04-18	2008-04-07, new

Activities of the Communications Working Group

- A brief discussion of the logistics and organization of the Open House (April 17th, 3:00 PM – 8:30 PM) was conducted.

Question: Has there been any communication to the public regarding the Open House?

Response: Effective April 11th, notices will go out in the local paper, the HHRA website, the local cable access channel, and LED signs throughout the community.

Question: Would the Open House benefit from having greeters from HBMS rather than CAC membership?

Response: It was felt that the public would be more comfortable with CAC members rather than HBMS. HBMS will have a presence at the Open House to meet with the public.

Question: Will any new technical information be presented at the Open House?

Response: No. All information presented at the Open House will have passed through the TAC first.

Question: How will the media be handled?

Response: As this is a public meeting, all media members are welcome to attend. It is anticipated that there will only be local media present. If government organizations have concerns with speaking to the media, they may wish to make arrangements for the presence of official government press officers or spokespersons.

Question: Should the HBMS / Intrinsik table be first in circuit, as opposed to last?

Response: The flow of the room is arranged according to the chronology of the HHRA. However, this is only a guideline and the public is free to visit the displays in any order they wish.

Correspondence and Comments Received

- No comments from the community have been received by the CAC.
- There were no other comments.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 12th, 2:00 pm
Teleconference (To be convened and chaired by Alan Hair)**