

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

July 17, 2008
Teleconference

Attendance

MB Conservation: Dave Bezak, Mike Gilbertson
 MB Health & Healthy Living: Susan Roberecki
 MB STEM: Doina Priscu
 MB Water Stewardship: Dave Green
 SERM: George Bihun
 SK Health: James Irvine
 Health Canada: None
 HBMS: Alan Hair, Shirley Neault
 Intrinsic Environmental: Elliot Sigal
 Facilitator: Sheldon McLeod
 Observers: Tom Lindsey

Introduction

- The agenda was reviewed and accepted.
- The notes from the previous meetings were reviewed and approved.
- A review of action items from the previous meeting was conducted as noted in the action tables.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
024	Provide references for adjustment factors to TAC.	Elliot Sigal	2008-08-31	2007-12-06, new 2008-07-17, ongoing
059	Remove "provisional" from the HHRA Terms of Reference on the website (with the understanding that it is a living document)	Alan Hair	2008-06-13	2008-06-05, new 2008-07-17, Complete

Update on Human Health Risk Assessment

General

- The bioaccessibility study is behind schedule by two weeks. Otherwise, the process remains on track. A revision to the Gantt chart is required (see action #066).

Indoor Dust

- The supplemental dust sampling collection was completed during the last week of June. Dust from 38 homes was collected using a high-volume sampler according to the methods described in the previously distributed plan. The samples are currently at the lab and it has been confirmed that there was enough dust collected for the detection limits. The draft report is expected by July 31.

Food Survey

- The draft plan for collection of local food has been circulated and comments have been received from Manitoba Conservation. Quotes for conducting the fish sampling and analysis have been requested.

- The Government's help may be required to expedite the necessary collection permits for exceeding fishing limits (see action #067).
- Manitoba Water Stewardship is planning a fish sampling campaign on Schist, Athapapuskow and Rocky Lakes for late August. There may be an opportunity to share data (see action #068).
- A request was made to consider sampling from a Saskatchewan lake located NW of the plant (see action #069).

Bioaccessibility

- Preliminary data is expected tomorrow. Health Canada, as the department with the most relevant expertise, may need to be consulted with. The data will be circulated to the full TAC membership.

Drinking Water

- The final draft report has been circulated to TAC members. Comments from the membership are welcomed (see action #070).

Snow

- The final draft of the snow report, with comments provided considered and incorporated into it, is expected within the next two weeks.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
032(a)	Revise TAC TOR to reflect latest discussions; Clarify HBMS' role as co-ordinator of the HHRA in the TOR.	Sheldon McLeod	2008-01-15 2008-04-21	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-04, ongoing 2008-04-07, ongoing 2008-05-12, ongoing 2008-06-05, ongoing 2008-07-17, Complete
056	Check other available information on snow to try to understand reason for differing results and validate data.	Geoff Jones/ Alan Hair	2008-05-30	2008-05-12, new 2008-06-05, ongoing 2008-07-17, Complete
060	Add review of public consultation to agenda of future TAC meeting	Sheldon McLeod	2008-09-01	2008-06-05, new 2008-07-17, Complete
061	Circulate work plan for food survey to TAC members	Elliot Sigal	2008-06-13	2008-06-05, new 2008-07-17, Complete
062	Investigate a way to provide interpretation of snow sample results in the snow report	Alan Hair	2008-06-30	2008-06-05, new 2008-07-17, Complete
063	Follow up on arsenic / lead level result from South Main soil sample NOTE: This location will be used within the HHRA.	Alan Hair	2008-06-30	2008-06-05, new 2008-07-17, Complete (but new action generated – see # 065)
065	Evaluate the use of the South Main soil sample result in the mapping (in consultation with TAC members)	Geoff Jones	2008-08-19	2008-07-17, new
066	Revise the Gantt chart to reflect 2-week delay with bioaccessibility work	Elliot Sigal	2008-07-25	2008-07-17, new

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
067	Talk to MB Fisheries about expediting a collection permit for the fish sampling portion of the food study	Dave Green	2008-07-31	2008-07-17, new
068	Follow up on suggestion to share data gathered by MB Water Stewardship from fish sampling program planned for Schist, Athapap & Rocky Lakes	Dave Green / Elliot Sigal	2008-07-31	2008-07-17, new
069	Provide a specific lake located NW of the plant for consideration as a lake to include while fish sampling	George Bihun	2008-07-18	2008-07-17, new
070	Provide comments on the final draft of the drinking water report	TAC Members	2008-07-24	2008-07-17, new

Activities of the Communications Working Group

- There are no recent activities from this group to report but some recent media activity was noted. The sharing of media requests from the TAC members has been good.
- Another Freedom of Information request has been submitted to CancerCare Manitoba. More Flin Flon cancer data has been provided.

CAC Feedback

- At the last meeting of the CAC, information from the Sudbury study was presented. This resulted in two requests for information from the CAC:
 - Why wasn't an ecological risk assessment requested?
 - Why are we waiting to begin biological monitoring?
- A general response to the ecological risk assessment was discussed but it was agreed that an offline discussion should be held to complete the response (see action #s 071, 072 and 073).
- While there may be a reasonable expectation that some biological monitoring may be required based on comparable studies, it would not be appropriate to commence this sampling at the current time as the completed HHRA is needed to allow the specific requirements and scope of any bio-monitoring program to be determined. Input from the TAC (especially the Health Departments) will be required. There are no recommendations at this point that would allow an early start to planning this monitoring, but to ensure that there are no surprises, the likelihood that this monitoring will be needed is high and is therefore being raised now. Once the draft report is out, the recommendations within it will provide the basis for the appropriate sub-group of the TAC to determine the scope and requirements (see action #074).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
071	Craft a response to the CAC regarding ecological risk assessment	Dave Bezak / George Bihun	2008-08-15	2008-07-17, new
072	Compile a summary of the current ecological work being done to present to the CAC	Alan Hair	2008-08-15	2008-07-17, new
073	Provide the response to the ecological risk assessment question to the CAC	Alan Hair	2008-09-10	2008-07-17, new
074	Arrange a meeting to discuss / plan for biological monitoring	James Irvine/Susan Roberecki	2008-09-15	2008-07-17, new

Public Engagement

- This item was not discussed at this meeting.

TAC Terms of Reference

- Latest revision was reviewed. To be consistent, the language that was used in the fact sheets published by both Governments will be used. On that basis, the Terms of Reference were approved and may be posted on the website (see action #075).

Other Business

- The process for selection of a peer review panel was discussed. Ideas include an independent panel selected by government members of the TAC, engage a third party to select the panel or use existing programs (e.g. Centre for Toxicology at the University of Guelph or the Toxicology Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan). There is a downside to using academia, as they seem to have difficulty with meeting timelines (see action #s 076 & 077).
- An expansion of the notes of the last CAC may be required vis-à-vis the cancer links to metals question (see action #078).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
064	Seek advice from the webmaster for posting public comments / responses	Alan Hair	2008-06-30	2008-06-05, new 2008-07-17, ongoing
075	Post finalized revision of the Terms of Reference on the website	Alan Hair	2008-07-21	2008-07-17, new
076	Provide information from other Intrinsic studies regarding peer review panel selection	Elliot Sigal	2008-07-18	2008-07-17, new
077	Recommend how the peer review panel will be selected	George Bihun / Dave Bezak	2008-08-08	2008-07-17, new
078	Provide text for expanding the answer to the cancer question in the CAC notes of June 17	James Irvine	2008-07-18	2008-07-17, new

NEXT MEETINGS: **Tuesday, August 19th, 2:00 pm**
 Teleconference / Boardroom A

Tentative: September 25, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
(with working lunch)
123 Main St., Winnipeg