

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

September 25, 2008
Teleconference

Attendance

MB Conservation: Dave Bezak, Geoff Jones, Mike Gilbertson, Scott Nichol
MB Health & Healthy Living: Marcia Anderson, Susan Roberecki
MB STEM: Doina Priscu
MB Water Stewardship: Dave Green
SERM: George Bihun
SK Health: James Irvine, David Sampson
Health Canada: Lindsay Smith
HBMS: Ian Cooper, Alan Hair, Shirley Neault
Intrinsic Environmental: Elliot Sigal, Adam Safruk
Facilitator: Sheldon McLeod
Observers: Tom Lindsey

Introduction

- The agenda was reviewed and accepted.
- The notes from the previous meeting (September 4) were reviewed and approved with some minor revision.
- A review of action items from the previous meeting was conducted as noted in the action tables.

Update on Human Health Risk Assessment

Indoor Dust

- The analyses from the third and fourth labs are in. The third lab used was able to analyze 19 of the 38 samples, while the fourth analyzed five samples. Highlights of the reanalysis are:
 - The latest results are closer to the Lab #2 results. Statistical analysis of all of the results indicate significant differences in the lead results between Lab #1 and Lab #2 but no significant differences between the lead results between Lab #2 and Lab #3. There were some differences for the other chemicals of concern but the results from Lab #1 are still an order of magnitude off.
 - The speciation results indicate a clear signature of the Smelter in four of the five samples. The other sample indicated lead-based paint.
 - The QA/QC audit is ongoing. Further information on the QA/QC programs is expected next week.
 - The recommendation from Intrinsic is to accept and use the dust data from Lab #2 for the HHRA.

Question: Was the medium being tested dust, dust collected on filters or a digested sample?

Response: These labs were given dust samples (not on filters) which they then digested to test. The labs were instructed to sieve to 75 microns and then analyze. Lab #1 did not sieve the dust; they ground it. Lab #3 sieved the dust.

Question: During the statistical analyses were all 38 samples compared to 19 or were the paired 19 results used?

Response: The analyses used 19 paired datasets.

Question: How did the lab explain not following the requested procedure?

Response: They are being asked that as part of the QA/QC audit. This also supports the recommendation to accept the data from Lab #2.

Question: Will the QA/QC audit results impact decisions made today?

Response: It is doubtful but possible; therefore the approval to proceed is conditional on the results.

Bioaccessibility

- A bioaccessibility document was recently circulated. The members were asked to provide comments by the end of next week (see action #084).

Fish/Berries

- Excepting methyl mercury, the hard data is in. The draft report should be ready for circulation in the second week of October. The methyl mercury data is expected by then too so may be included in the draft report.

Toxicity Profiles

- Thank you to the members who provided comments on the drafts. Responses to these comments will be ready by the end of next week. The lead profile will be circulated Monday (see action #085).

Question: Is the HHRA on the agenda for the upcoming Healthy Flin Flon meeting? Should the Communications Working Group (CWG) be involved?

Response: A short (5 minute) update on the HHRA will be made at the October 6 meeting. Once the draft material is prepared, a meeting of the CWG may be called (see action #086).

Timeline

- The HHRA timelines were reviewed. Therefore, the revised targets are:

Draft HHRA to TAC	2008-10-31
TAC comments to Intrinsic	Mid-December 2008
Finalize HHRA	January 2009
Peer Review commences	2009-02-01

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
079	Review draft snow report in light of clarified comments	Alan Hair	2008-08-29	2008-08-19, new 2008-09-04, ongoing 2008-09-25, ongoing
080	Obtain and circulate QA/QC data from both labs that analyzed dust samples	Elliot Sigal	2008-09-19	2008-09-04, new 2008-09-25, Complete
081	Circulate a response to how the dust sampling data will be used in the HHRA	Elliot Sigal	2008-09-30	2008-09-04, new 2008-09-25, ongoing
084	Provide comments on the bioaccessibility document	Health Depts. & any other	2008-10-08	2008-09-25, new
085	Circulate the lead profile and the responses to comments on the draft toxicity profiles	Elliot Sigal	2008-10-03	2008-09-25, new
086	Determine if CWG meeting is required	Alan Hair	2008-09-30	2008-09-25, new

Peer Review Panel

- A draft RFP for the peer review panel was recently circulated to the TAC. The members were asked to comment by October 10 (see action #087).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
082	Circulate draft RFP for peer review to TAC	Alan Hair	2008-09-19	2008-09-04, new 2008-09-25, Complete
087	Provide comments on the draft peer review RFP	TAC members	2008-10-10	2008-09-25, new

Activities of the Communications Working Group

- There are no recent activities from this group to report. However, there has been recent media contact.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
083	Circulate information regarding the 10 parks that will be worked on by the MB Government	Dave Bezak	2008-09-05	2008-09-04, new 2008-09-25, Complete

CAC Update and Feedback

- At the latest CAC meeting, the group was updated on the dust sampling program. Other items discussed included an individual who has had his family biologically monitored a few times over the years with no concerns identified. The CAC also wanted to know when the soil for the enhancement project would be arriving. Ideas regarding communication with the general public were brainstormed. The CAC observer indicated that the information needs to be presented in laymen's terms, as it is quite confusing right now.
- One of the CAC observers to this group has agreed to be replaced. Volunteers from the CAC will be sought.

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
073	Provide the response to the ecological risk assessment question to the CAC	Alan Hair George Bihun	2008-09-10	2008-07-17, new 2008-08-19, ongoing 2008-09-04, ongoing 2008-09-25, Complete
074	Arrange a meeting to discuss / plan for long-term biological monitoring	James Irvine/Susan Roberecki	2008-10-15	2008-07-17, new 2008-08-19, ongoing 2008-09-04, ongoing 2008-09-25, ongoing

Public Engagement

- This item was not discussed at this meeting.

Other Business

- A new Medical Officer of Health will begin in the NORMAN region on October 6, so this is Dr. Anderson's last meeting.
- A bioaccessibility presentation for the TAC was discussed, as was a web-based presentation of the HHRA (see action #088).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
088	Arrange for and send invitations to TAC members for a web-based bioaccessibility presentation	Elliot Sigal	2008-09-28	2008-09-25, new

NEXT MEETINGS / PRESENTATIONS:

Bioaccessibility presentation
Teleconference
HHRA web-based presentation
Face-to-face meeting

October 7 at 12:00
October 20 at 2:00
November 20 from 9:00-12:00
December 9 from 10:00-2:00 in Winnipeg