

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

September 21, 2009
Teleconference

Attendance

MB Conservation:	Dave Bezak, Geoff Jones, Dean Kasur, Ines Hiraoka
MB Health:	Lawrence Elliott, Susan Roberecki
MB STEM:	Doina Priscu
MB Water Stewardship:	Kevin Jacobs
SERM:	George Bihun
SK Health:	James Irvine, David Sampson
Health Canada:	Lindsay Smith
HBMS:	Ian Cooper, 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 August 25 meeting were accepted.
- The action items from the previous meeting were updated as indicated in the tables below.

Update on HHRA

- The final IERP report has been circulated.
 - Intrinsic is preparing a point-by-point response document to the issues raised in the report. This response, as well as a revised risk assessment, will take approximately one month to complete.
 - There were no big surprises in the IERP report. All of the issues raised were discussed at the panel meeting in Winnipeg.

Question: What are the next steps?

Response: The revised risk assessment and response to the IERP should be ready for TAC review by early November. One month is currently being allowed for TAC review and comment and another month for Intrinsic to respond to the TAC review. Then the responses are returned to the IERP via TERA for approval.

Question: Will the responses to the IERP report result in major changes?

Response: It is too soon to say; however, major changes are not expected.

Question: What if something needs to be done as a result of the recommendations in the HHRA?

Response: A framework for risk management plan needs to be developed to fulfill the existing commitment to map out the next steps needed after the various studies are finalized. One document pulling everything together regarding the next actions, should any be required, will be prepared (see action #138). The intent is to work closely with the CAC on development of any risk management plan.

- The Evaluation of Exposure Study Team has been in the field since early September. So far, the focus has been on West Flin Flon and there has been a less than 10% refusal rate. The Team is moving on to East Flin Flon, Channing and Creighton this week.
 - The local doctors are very stretched and may need assistance with any required follow-up for the children being tested. Drs. Murray Lee, Lawrence Elliott and James Irvine may need to help with providing advice if any children have elevated levels detected through the study.

Question: Have there been many calls from people interested in participating who are not part of the design?

Response: Yes, but not many.

Question: Some concern was raised previously about combining Channing and Creighton results. Is there any change to that plan?

Response: I am not aware of the issue; it is likely due to the low population in Channing, but it will be checked (see action #139).

Question: Some comments have been made to the Evaluation of Exposure Study Team about eating home garden crops. Is there an issue?

Response: The level of metals in home gardens is not an issue. This appears to be a misconception.

Communications

- As long as the exposure evaluation is proceeding to plan, the Communications Working Group does not intend to meet until the draft framework document (see action #138) is ready and then an approach can be developed to communicate all the elements of the HHRA, evaluation of exposure study and any risk management plan.
- Consultations are planned with personnel from Sudbury and Trail regarding how they dealt with communicating the results of the studies.
- Updated fact sheets have been added to the Manitoba Health and Healthy Living and Saskatchewan Health websites.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 19th, 10:00-10:30 AM (MB)
Teleconference**

- At the next meeting, a determination needs to be made about scheduling a longer meeting to review the response to the IERP and if the meeting should be face-to-face (see action #140).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
129	Finalize the communications strategy for the exposure study.	Intrinsik/ Goss Gilroy	2009-07-25	2009-06-26, new 2009-07-21, ongoing 2009-08-25, ongoing 2009-09-21, Complete
131	Document the decision to allow extra test subjects whose results would not be used in the overall community assessment.	Elliot Sigal	2009-07-25	2009-07-21, new 2009-08-25, ongoing 2009-09-21, Complete
132	Develop a one-pager (starting with health) to outline the potential outcomes and post-study activity.	Lawrence / Susan / James	2009-08-31	2009-07-21, new 2009-08-25, ongoing 2009-09-21, Complete
133	Add to the one-pager started by the Health Dept. reps for potential community environment follow-up to the exposure study.	Lawrence / Susan / James	2009-10-19	2009-07-21, new 2009-08-25, ongoing 2009-09-21, ongoing
134	Arrange teleconference of the Communications Working Group to discuss exposure study	Alan Hair	2009-08-26	2009-08-25, new 2009-09-21, Complete

	communications plan.			
135	Prepare schedule for the Community Advisory Committee on September 2 nd .	Elliot Sigal	2009-09-01	2009-08-25, new 2009-09-21, Complete
136	Update Gantt Chart for overall HHRA progress.	Elliot Sigal	2009-09-01	2009-08-25, new 2009-09-21, Complete
137	Prepare update on the peer review process.	Sheldon McLeod	2009-09-01	2009-08-25, new 2009-09-21, Complete
138	Determine what the "bridge" document should be called and contain to guide the risk management plan, should it be needed	Alan Hair / Elliot Sigal	2009-10-31	2009-09-21, new
139	Check on the status of concern raised regarding the decision to combine Channing with Creighton in the results of the evaluation of exposure study	Elliot Sigal	2009-09-30	2009-09-21, new
140	Determine if a longer meeting is needed to review the response to the IERP	Alan / Sheldon / Elliot	2009-10-02	2009-09-21, new