



Sudbury Soils Study OPEN HOUSE

November 25, 2003

On Tuesday, November 25, 2003, the public is invited to our third Open House at Science North, from 3:00 to 9:00 pm.

The Open House will be an opportunity for you to meet members of the study team and Technical Committee, and for us to provide you with updates on work completed to date. It will also be an opportunity to learn how public input has been included in designing the study, and to provide us with your thoughts on the project so far.

Thank you for your Input!

The SARA Group would like to thank Greater Sudbury area residents who participated in the “Have Your Say” workshops in May, and the Open House in June. These events were well attended and we certainly appreciate the valuable input that we received from the community.

Feedback from the community has helped us:

- Better define what we call Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) – the Study subjects important to you (e.g., plants, animals, activities). A final list will be made public this fall;
- Understand that we need to provide a clear overview of the Study process, and the role of the Technical Committee ;
- Increase participation in the Vegetable Garden Survey – we now have more than 60 homeowners involved; and,

- Increase our awareness of local concerns related to metals in the environment.

We would also like to thank all members of the public who have sent us an email or called us with a question, concern or comment. Your input is very valuable to us, and we are listening to you to help make this study better. Please continue to ask questions, we will do what we can to help. All comments received will be placed on our website.

www.sudburysoilsstudy.com

If you have any questions or comments about the study, please contact us by email at questions@sudburysoilsstudy.com, or call us, toll-free, at 1-866-315-0228. Our telephone number is voice-mail only, but we do promise to get back to you within 24 hours. ■

The Study Process

The Sudbury Soils Study is spearheaded by a community partnership. The study is managed by a Technical Committee made up of 15 representatives from the member groups:

- Ontario Ministry of the Environment;
- INCO Limited;
- Falconbridge Limited;
- City of Greater Sudbury;
- Sudbury & District Health Unit; and
- Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.

The vision of the Technical Committee is as follows:

“A transparent process that provides a thorough, scientifically-sound assessment of the environmental and health risks to the Sudbury community, and effectively communicates the results so that future decisions are informed and valued.”

The Technical Committee makes decisions by consensus. This means that no one member group can unduly influence a decision or affect the study outcome. The fair, open and transparent process

that has been adopted by this Committee will ensure the delivery of accurate scientific results for all citizens of Greater Sudbury. In addition to the Technical Committee, which oversees the overall study, there are a number of other participants (refer to the chart below).

Study Outcome and Actions

Study reports and results will be released throughout the next two years. The study team will host additional workshops and open houses and produce newsletters and newspaper announcements to communi-

Chemicals of Concern (CoCs)

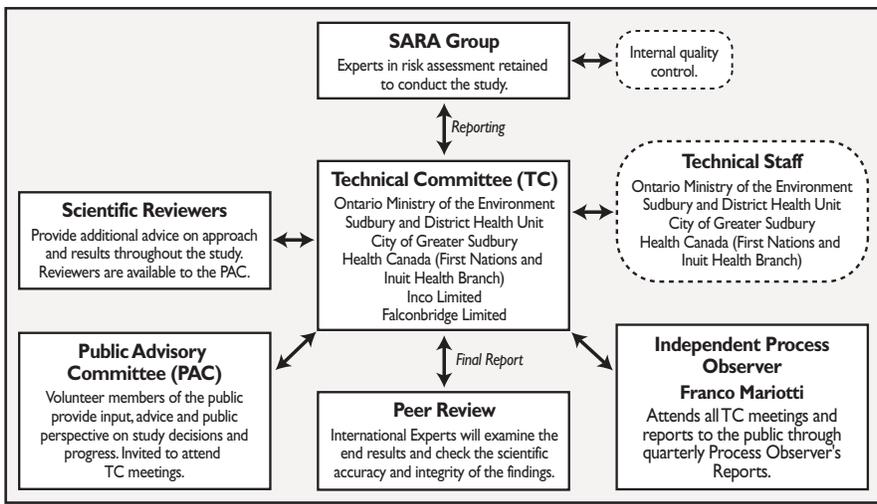
If you have been following the study, you know that we have focused on four chemicals of concern (CoCs): arsenic, copper, cobalt, and nickel. We made the commitment at the beginning of this study to add other CoCs if this is indicated by our analysis. We have added lead to the list of chemicals for further study, because our work has shown that it meets the criteria for CoCs:

1. Levels of chemical in local soils exceeds Ministry of the Environment (MOE) trigger levels for further study;
2. The chemical is found throughout the study area, or throughout one of our communities of interest (Sudbury core, Copper Cliff, Coniston, Falconbridge, Whitefish Lake First Nation and Wahnapiatae First Nation);
3. The chemical can be tied back to smelting activities.

To date, there are five chemicals of concern - arsenic, copper, cobalt, nickel, and lead. As our analysis continues, additional CoCs will be included if they meet the criteria. ■

cate findings to the public. Information will be made available at local libraries and posted on our website.

There is no expected immediate risk to human health based on the information available to date. However, if there are long-term risks the study will identify them, all information about these risks will be made public, and the Technical Committee will work with the community to develop ways to address them. If remediation is required, Inco and Falconbridge have committed to taking any action necessary. ■



www.sudburysoilsstudy.com

The SARA Group

The **Sudbury Soils Study** is a community-wide initiative that includes an assessment of risks to human health and the environment from metals in local soils. This study is not the end of the process, though. Actions will be determined by study results, and residents of Greater Sudbury will be kept up to date on future developments.

Many of you have asked us who we are, and what our role is in the Sudbury Soils Study. We are the **Sudbury Area Risk Assessment (SARA) Group**, a group of consulting firms who are experts in areas related to the study:

- **C.Wren & Associates Inc.**
 - formerly ESG International Inc.
 - project management, public consultation, ecological risk assessment
- **Cantox Environmental Inc.**
 - project management, human health risk assessment, ecological risk assessment
- **Rowan Williams Davies and Irwin (RWDI) Inc.**
 - air monitoring and modelling
- **Hellingman Communications**
 - public consultation, risk communications, media relations
- **McLeod-Wood Associates**
 - First Nations consultation
- **Goss Gilroy Inc.**
 - medical and human health consultants
 - Dr. Lesbia Smith (our medical consultant, who is working with local physicians)
- **SGS Lakefield Research/University of Guelph**
 - analysis of soil and vegetation samples

We report directly to the Technical Committee and provide regular updates to the Public Advisory Committee.

Study Updates

You may have seen members of the SARA Group around town this summer, as we had researchers out in the field (and in many backyards!) sampling for our vegetable garden, air monitoring, and ecological risk studies.

Vegetable Garden Survey

Thanks to the participation of so many interested Sudburians, we have had a very busy summer collecting a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and wild berries from backyard gardens,



commercial operations and wild sites in the Greater Sudbury area. These will be analyzed for metal concentrations and so will the soils in which those plants were grown.

This Sudbury-specific information will then be used in risk models as part of the human health risk assessment (HHRA). The results of the vegetable garden survey are expected to be available to participants early next year, and to the general public as part of the Sudbury Soils Study results towards the conclusion of the study. ■

Air Monitoring Program Update

As part of the human health risk assessment, we are undertaking an air monitoring program to collect information on metal



levels in the air around the Sudbury area. This program will collect air samples every six days for an entire year, and will give us an excellent understanding of the level of these metals in the air in the Sudbury area.

We began sampling in October, and will continue until we have collected a full year of air monitoring data, with both Inco and Falconbridge facilities operating. ■

Ecological Field Work/Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)

Our Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) was in full swing this summer. Several members of the SARA Group can answer the question “Where were you when the lights went out (August 14)?” by saying we were in and around Sudbury collecting data for the ERA. We were out collecting wildlife dietary items like grass and insects, which will be analyzed for metal concentrations. ■

Technical Committee Members

Ontario Ministry of the Environment

- Brian McMahon, Sudbury Soils and SO₂ Assessment Program
- Dale Henry, Manager, Human Toxicology and Air Standards
- Mary Ellen Starodub, Senior Advisor, Risk Management

INCO Limited

- Glen Watson, Environmental Biologist – Project Manager
- Dr. Bruce Conard, Vice President, Environmental & Health Sciences
- Dr. R.W. (Bob) Francis, Medical Director

Falconbridge Limited

- Marc Butler, Environmental Coordinator
- Dr. Gord Hall, Director of Occupational Health and Hygiene
- Denis Kemp, Director, Environmental Development

City of Greater Sudbury

- Bill Lautenbach, Director, Planning Services
- Dr. Stephen Monet, Coordinator of Environmental Initiatives

Sudbury & District Health Unit

- Bruce Fortin, Director, Health Protection Division
- Ido Vettoretti, Community Environmental Health Specialist
- Ed Wierzbicki, Environmental Support Officer

Health Canada First Nations & Inuit Health Branch

- Ray Alatalo, Environmental Health Officer

There are also four members of the Technical Committee who provide input into the process, but do not participate in final decision-making:

- Ivan Fillion, PAC Chair, Cambrian College
- Communications Sub-committee Chair, rotating - one member quarterly from each of the member organizations
- Dick DeStefano, Technical Committee Facilitator
- Julie Sabourin, Administrative Support

Public Advisory Committee Members

- Darrel Alston
- Joe Cimino, Vice Chair
- John Hogenbirk, Vice Chair
- Aino Laamanen
- Rubina Nebenionquit
- Franco Mariotti, Process Observer
- Norris Artuso
- Ivan Fillion, Chair
- Gary Hrytsak
- Dino Masiero
- Paul St. Jean
- Julie Sabourin, Recorder

Have your say contact us

Here's how:

- Give us your comments using the form below
- Attend workshops and open houses
- Call our toll free project information number at **1.866.315.0228**
- Send an email with your comments to:
questions@sudburysoilsstudy.com
- Send written comments by mail or fax to:

The SARA Group
933 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, ON P3E 6B5
Fax: (705) 675-4866

Further information and frequently asked questions can be found at the project website **www.sudburysoilsstudy.com**.

Get Involved

- Please sign me up to receive Sudbury Soils Study Newsletters and Process Observer Reports.

Please send materials by: Canada Post Email

Name: _____

Organizational Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

We welcome your comments. Please feel free to use this form to provide your comments to Sudbury Soils Study partners at the accompanying address. (The SARA Group, 933 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury, ON, P3E 6B5, Fax: (705) 675-4866)

Current Study Activities

There are many activities that will take place in the community during the next two years.

Fall 2003 and Winter 2004

- Meetings with the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) (September, November)
- Vegetable Garden Survey (June-September)
- Meetings with the PAC, and Whitefish Lake First Nation (Early September)
- Air monitoring survey (October 2003 - October 2004)
- Update Newsletter published (mid October)
- Public Open House:
Tuesday, November 25, 2003 – 3pm to 9pm,
Science North, Inco Cavern
100 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury
(Note: parking is free for Open House participants)
- Market Basket Survey (December)

We will also hold meetings with interested stakeholders, and communicate our findings with the public through meetings, newspapers, and our website.

Want to Know More?

The director of the SARA Group, Dr. Chris Wren, is speaking to groups throughout the community about the Sudbury Soils Study – why it's important, how it's being done and how citizens can get involved.

If you are a member of a service club, organization, business, church group, etc. and would like Dr. Wren to speak at an upcoming meeting, call us toll free at 1.866.315.0228. Please leave a message with your name and telephone number, and the date, time and location of your meeting. Your call will be returned and the arrangements confirmed.

Photo Credit

Our Spring 2003 Update Newsletter featured photographs showing the dramatic impact of Sudbury's successful greening program. We did not provide credit for these photos, and would like to do so now. Many thanks to Keith Winterhalder of Wintergreen Ecological Services in Sudbury and a long-time advocate of the greening of Sudbury, for letting us feature his work.



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métaux • santé • environnement

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