

Sudbury Soils Study

Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Annual Report for 2005

Prepared by:
Carol Zippel, PAC member
John C. Hogenbirk, Chair

Reviewed by the PAC
Submitted to the Sudbury Soils Study Technical Committee

January 09, 2006

Table of Contents

1.	Background	1
2.	Purpose	1
3.	Membership	2
4.	Meeting Schedule and Participation.....	2
5.	Summary of Themes Tabled with the PAC.....	3
6.	Summary of Major PAC Recommendations.....	4
7.	Concluding Remarks.....	4
8.	Acknowledgements	4

Preamble

This document reports on the activities of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) for the 2005 calendar year. Earlier versions of this document were circulated to the Technical Committee and to the SARA Group for comments on factual accuracy and other feedback. The final version of this report was endorsed by the PAC at the January 17, 2006 meeting and represents the opinions of the PAC.

1. Background

The Ministry of the Environment and Energy summary report on metals in soil and vegetation in the Sudbury area identified that further soil investigations and assessments were necessary. As a result, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, INCO Limited and Falconbridge Limited have cooperatively undertaken a sampling program for the Sudbury area that will refine the existing database. In addition, this database will be used as part of the information necessary to conduct a cooperative and voluntary Human Health Risk Assessment, and an Ecological Risk Assessment. The Ministry of the Environment and Energy, INCO, Falconbridge, the Sudbury & District Health Unit and the City of Greater Sudbury established a Soils Public Liaison Committee as one of its means of consulting with the local community and seeking technical advice prior to and during these studies.

At the October 30, 2001 Public Liaison Committee meeting it was agreed that the Study would best be served by the creation of two separate committees. Hence, a Technical Committee was established to provide the best available scientific support for the Study and a separate Public Advisory Committee was established primarily to strengthen the Study's effectiveness in consulting and communicating with the community at large.

2. Purpose¹

Members of the Public Advisory Committee provide their comments to the Technical Committee on deliberations surrounding the activities assessing the health and environmental impacts of metals in the Sudbury environment including:

- a) the sampling and reporting of community soil metal levels;
 - b) the development and implementation of community Human Health Risk Assessment/Ecological Risk Assessment studies, particularly the components of the studies that deal with public consultation and communications;
 - c) the initiation of any remedial works recommended by the conclusions of the Human Health Risk Assessment/Ecological Risk Assessment studies;
 - d) all associated public communication and consultation activities.
- o The PAC will be maintained at least until such time as the Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment are completed and distributed to the public.
 - o The PAC is not responsible for the scientific or technical review of the study.
 - o In addition, the PAC will provide opportunities for members of the public to express their concerns or to ask questions about any aspect of the Sudbury Soils Study.

¹ Extracted from the PAC's Terms of Reference, dated October 14, 2004

3. *Membership*

The Terms of Reference for the Committee calls for it to be comprised of a maximum of twelve members who live in the City of Greater Sudbury community at large, including one member to represent each of the Whitefish Lake and Wahnapiatae First Nations communities. Membership is selected to best represent a cross section of the community impacted by the Study. Committee members are selected by a joint committee of the PAC and the Technical Committee. Committee members from the Whitefish Lake and Wahnapiatae First Nations are selected by Band Councils from those communities.

4. *Meeting Schedule and Participation*

The PAC held seven public meetings in 2005: three meetings were held at Science North , two at Cambrian College and one each in Whitefish Lake First Nations and Falconbridge. Over the past two years, the PAC has held public meetings in five of the six Wards of the City of Greater Sudbury.

- PAC meetings are held every two months, with working committee sessions convened as required.
- PAC members are invited and regularly attend Technical Committee Meetings. The Chair of the Public Advisory Committee has observer status at Technical Committee meetings. There were typically 2-3 PAC members (including the Chair) at TC meetings in 2005.
- PAC members are on the distribution list for TC minutes and agendas.
- A PAC observer sits on the Communications Sub-Committee.
- PAC members attended an open house held Feb 9, 2005 at Science North.
- There were 7 public PAC meetings in 2005, with an average attendance of 72% of PAC members.
- The PAC convened four working committee sessions to discuss administrative matters. The Independent Process Observer attended three of these four sessions and was informed about the content of the discussion immediately after the fourth session.
- The PAC added two new members in 2005 and three members resigned.
- As of December 2005, the PAC was comprised of 10 members.
- The majority of the TC Working Group have been in attendance at PAC meetings.
- Most PAC meetings have been attended by representatives from the SARA Group.
- There were typically 4-6 members of the public at each PAC meeting, with a high of about two dozen members of the public at one meeting.

5. *Summary of Themes Tabled with the PAC*

Topic	Group	Mtg Date
Progress Report	SARA	January 19
	SARA	March 10
	SARA	November 15
Process and Methods of the HHRA & ERA		
Soil Toxicity Testing	SARA	January 19
What is a risk assessment? What is a health study?	SARA	March 10
HHRA computer model	SARA	May 17
Study overview	TC	June 21
Human Health Risk Assessment for the City of Greater Sudbury: Understanding the Results	SARA	September 20
Ecological Risk Assessment for the City of Greater Sudbury	SARA	November 15
Public Communications		
Plans for Open House, Public questions via email or by telephone	SARA	January 19
Report on open house	SARA	March 10
Independent Expert Review Panel		
Overview of Selection Process	WG	January 19
Introduction and the Role of TERA	WG	April 14
Background and Experience of TERA in conducting independent panel reviews of risk assessments	TERA	April 14
Special Presentations:		
Results of Telephone poll	CSC	January 19
Results of Falconbridge Urinary Arsenic Study	Falc. Ltd.	May 17
TC Key Progress and Decision Summaries	TC	Tabled
Questions from members of public		at all meetings

Notes:

CSC = Communications Sub-committee
 IPO = Independent Process Observer
 MOE = Ministry of the Environment and Energy
 TC = Technical Committee
 TERA = Toxicology Excellence For Risk Assessment (www.tera.org)
 SARA = Sudbury Area Risk Assessment Group

6. *Summary of Major PAC Recommendations*

Topic	Mtg Date
Technical Committee minutes should be made available on the website.	Jan. 19
Scientific reviewers should attend the Open House.	Feb. 9
A request for a PAC member to sit as an observer at the Communications Subcommittee meetings.	Mar. 10
Request to see the first draft that is sent to the Panel.	Apr. 14
Suggestion that the TC define "acceptable risk" in advance of the final results.	May 17
Reimbursement of mileage and administrative expenses.	June 19
Opportunity for earlier involvement in the TERA group process.	June 19
Consider adding cadmium as a COC in the HHRA.	Sept. 20
Guidelines for making the answers to the public's questions public.	Nov. 15
The scientific reviewers should be brought back for their views of the study.	Nov. 15
More involvement in review of TC material prior to public release.	On-going
More input in review of communications prior to public release.	On-going

It speaks to the continued good working relationship that the PAC enjoys with the TC and the SARA Group, that all of the PAC's recommendations have been considered and, for the most part, addressed by the TC and the SARA Group.

7. *Concluding Remarks*

The Public Advisory Committee works to facilitate meaningful, 2-way communication between the people of the study area and the study principals, namely the Technical Committee and the SARA Group. As residents of the study area, the volunteer members of the PAC are keen to do their part to ensure the success of the study. As the study nears fruition, the PAC will continue to build on the strong professional relationship that they have with the TC and the SARA Group to help keep the lines of communication open and meaningful. In particular, the PAC will continue to work on the following issues:

- Help to clarify the roles of study participants to the public: For example: What are the roles and responsibilities of the PAC, the TC, the Working Group, the SARA Group, the scientific advisors, TERA and the independent expert review panel?
- Seek to understand public expectations and help to convey the questions and concerns of the public to the TC.
- Help to clarify the nature and process of the study. For instance: What questions will be answered with regard to human and ecological risk? What will happen after the final report is submitted?

8. *Acknowledgements*

The PAC would like to thank those members who served their two-year term and those who continue to serve on this voluntary committee. We appreciate the time and effort put forth by the Technical Committee, the SARA Group and various experts. The PAC appreciates the support and advice of Franco Mariotti, Independent Process Observer. We thank the members of the public for attending PAC meetings and Open Houses, and for contributing to the discussion. The PAC would like to thank the communities who hosted our meetings as we traveled to different Wards within the City of Greater Sudbury. We thank Julie Sabourin for her administrative support.