

Independent Process Observer



Sudbury Soils Study | Étude des sols sudburois
metals • health • environment
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Quarterly Report

REPORT #16

April, May and June 2006

By Franco Mariotti

Four years and six months ago, I assumed my role as the Independent Process Observer for the Sudbury Soils Study (SSS).

This report, like the previous three Process Observer Reports, is shorter than usual because the Technical Committee of the Sudbury Soils Study is primarily consumed with reviewing the draft reports. Once reviewed by the Technical Committee, these reports are sent to the TERA Group (Toxicological Excellence for Risk Assessment – the broker chosen to assemble the Independent Expert Review Panel). TERA will then send these reports to the International Expert Review Panel for their scientific review.

No key issues that warrant comment have arisen in the last three months.

Independent Process Observer reports are divided into two sections. The first section, *Past Issues and Recommendations*, is intended to be an update on matters discussed in my previous report (#15). The second section, *Current Issues and Recommendations*, deals with any new issues that have arisen since my last report.

PAST ISSUES and RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPORTANT NOTE: The following piece of information was mentioned in my last report and is worth repeating.

I stated earlier that much of the Technical Committee members' time is being spent on reviewing draft reports for the Human Health Risk Assessment and the Environmental Risk Assessment. These reports are written by the SARA Group (scientific consultants to the Sudbury Soils Study). It should be noted that during the writing of a report if any analysis demonstrates a danger to public health, the SARA Group will **immediately** notify the Sudbury & District Health Unit and/or the Ministry of the Environment. In other words, if there is any evidence of an immediate public health threat, the SARA Group will not wait to complete the report but will notify the Health Unit and/or the Ministry of Environment immediately! The Health Unit and/or the Ministry of Environment will, in turn, respond as mandated by their respective legislated guidelines.

1. **ISSUE:** The Technical Committee is concerned about the lack of comments to date by Health Canada on any Technical Committee decisions or on the draft reports.

RECOMMENDATION: The Technical Committee and Health Canada should be quite clear as to Health Canada's position and stance on the Sudbury Soils Study when the Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment Reports are released to the public.

RESULT: There has been no comment from Health Canada although the Technical Committee has been informed that all draft reports have been forwarded to the appropriate authorities by the Health Canada representative.

CURRENT ISSUES and RECOMMENDATIONS

No new issues or *concern* have arisen in the last three months.

Note that there will be no Public Advisory Committee meetings in July or August and that the next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for August 10th. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for members of the public to ask questions regarding the upcoming Human Health Risk Assessment and Environmental Risk Assessment Reports. Members of the public have the first hour of each Technical Committee meeting to question members of the Technical Committee or to simply listen in to proceedings. If a member of the public cannot attend during this time period but would like to address the Technical Committee, the committee will accommodate that person at another time that is mutually agreeable to both parties. Inquiries should be made through the Sudbury Soils Study website or phone number listed below.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULES

Technical Committee Meetings for 2006

Provincial Tower, Boardrooms C and D, Tom Davies Square

August 10

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14

Public Advisory Committee Meetings for 2006

(Location to be determined. Notification will appear in the local newspapers prior to the meeting.)

September 19 (The TERA panel will also be available to meet with the public at the Public Advisory Committee Meeting on this date)

November 14

If you have any questions regarding the SSS, please contact our toll free number: (866) 315-0228 or e-mail: questions@sudburysoilsstudy.com