

Independent Process Observer



**Sudbury
Soils
Study** | **Étude
des sols
sudburois**
metals • health • environment
métaux • santé • environnement

Quarterly Report

January 13, 2008

Re: Process Observer Report

Dear Citizens;

It has been six months since I have last written a Process Observer Report for the Sudbury Soils Study. My last report was #20, which covered the period from April to June of 2007.

Once again I will not be submitting my quarterly PO Report for the simple reason that there are no new issues to deal with. Discussions among the Technical Committee members are ongoing.

I am very conscious of the interest and the anxiety some Sudburians must feel in wanting to know the results of the Human Health Risk Assessment. You are aware of the delays that have occurred. I continue to attend Sudbury Soils Study meetings that are focused on the science of the study. The reasons for the delays have been based primarily on the scientific methodology used. I can assure you that it is not because data or information or results are being withheld. It is not my role to write about who is arguing about what, I believe to do so would be counterproductive for the Study and to Sudburians. What is important are the results and the decisions being made in the Human Health Risk Assessment. My role is to ensure that these results have been reached in an honest, fair and transparent manner. To date I have not witnessed anything that contradicts these parameters.

This is the beginning of the sixth year of the study. To date all aspects and major decisions of the Sudbury Soils Study have been made by consensus by every member of the Technical Committee. What is of utmost importance is that after these six years the results should be attained by the same unanimous consensus. This is what the ongoing discussions by the Technical Committee are working towards.

After all this time Sudburians deserve from the Technical Committee nothing short of unanimous support for the final Human Health Risk Assessment.

I am optimistic that this will occur and in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

Franco Mariotti
Independent Process Observer

The process observer for the Sudbury Soils Study is independent of any organization or group involved in the study. He is impartial and his role is to advise on matters related to the study's Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment processes, both of which are managed by the study's Technical Committee with input from the Public Advisory Committee. As the observer, Franco Mariotti is required to report to the public on the study process four times each year.