

Get involved with Falconbridge soils study, public urged

Independent observer recommends citizens become involved with two committees

By Carol Mulligan
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The independent process observer for the Sudbury Soils Study is urging Sudburians to take the time to find out what the study is all about.

And he's made some recommendations that will make that undertaking easier.

"Don't sit back and wait for the headlines," says Franco Mariotti, about the study to investigate levels of metal contamination in Sudbury

soils and the health risks they may pose.

The three-year, \$5-million study funded by Inco and Falconbridge Ltd. has come under fire by critics for not being conducted independently of the mining giants.

Mariotti's recommendations call for more citizen involvement in both the technical committee, which is making the decisions about the study, and the public advisory committee, which provides input from both its members and the general public.

Representatives from major unions in Sudbury had asked for a spot on the technical committee and that request was turned down, says Mariotti.

But union representatives will be

invited to observe those meetings, which have been held privately until now.

He is further recommending that the committee allow one hour at the end of its meetings to hear presentations from the public.

Mariotti is suggesting that someone from the Falconbridge Citizens' Committee sit on the public advisory committee.

The Falconbridge committee was struck as a result of concerns about the high level of arsenic in soils in that community.

Some of Mariotti's concerns will be dealt with tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the public advisory committee's January meeting at Cambrian College's Koski Centre.

The public is invited to attend.