

Description: INCO NICKEL INDUSTRY

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SUDBURY SOIL STUDY

KERRY ASSINIWE : Sudbury mining union representatives are up in arms over the membership of a committee overseeing a soil study of Sudbury. At a meeting last night, many voiced opposition claiming the process and results of the study will be biased. With more on the heated concern, here's Channel 10 news reporter, Lynn Bulloch.

LYNN BULLOCH: Can Sudburians trust INCO and Falconbridge to conduct a study into soil contamination and human health? That was one of the big questions brought to the table, last night, by mining union members during a public meeting of the Sudbury soil study. And this response, from INCO spokesperson, Cory McPhee.

CORY MCPHEE: There are enough checks and balances in the system that it's impossible for us to control the outcome. But more importantly than that, there's no desire on our part, to control the outcome.

LYNN BULLOCH: The Sudbury Soil Study is a three-year \$5 million project to assess what harmful minerals are in the soil and what impact they may have. The Ministry of the Environment ordered the tests and told INCO and Falconbridge to foot the bill, after higher than recommended levels of soil contaminants have been found in the region. Technical and public advisory committees were formed to oversee the massive study into human health risks and metal contamination in area soils. The technical committees' membership is proving to be controversial. Voting members include the City of Greater Sudbury, Sudbury and District Health Unit, the Ministry of the Environment, Health Canada First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, INCO and Falconbridge. Also, on the technical committee, are non-voting members like Franco Mariotti, the process observer, and INCO Communications Manager, McPhee. After observing another soil study and processing Port Colborne, another mining town, lawyer Eric Gillespie brought more issues to the table.

ERIC GILLESPIE (LAWYER): The public is in a position where it needs to be able to select its own experts. The issue for example here, would be that one of the individuals that was identified, by the technical committee, is actually somebody that two weeks ago, I was standing in a hearing room in Port Colborne, and he was working for INCO.

LYNN BULLOCH: INCO says that the expert scientists at the committee's disposal are unbiased and that the company should be given some credit.

CORY MCPHEE: If you judge us by our track record in Sudbury, and you look at news that came out this week, we celebrated 25 years of re-greening the Sudbury landscape. Re-greening the Sudbury landscape is a start of dealing with soils.

BULLOCH: The study committee is holding an open house, November 18th at Science North. For more information visit Channel10news.ca and click on the link to the

soil study website. For Channel 10 News, the new place for local news, I'm Lynn Bulloch.

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