Taking an Environmental Approach

Building Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

One of the things about the Smelter site is that with the changes to the operation over the years, and the development of sound rehabilitation measures, there remains a commitment to not only deal with long term environmental impacts from historical operations, but also to make every effort to minimize impacts from current activities.

A process was started to prioritize those areas of highest environmental risk and to develop management systems to both deal with them as they relate to environmental compliance but also to develop programs that will allow for "continual improvement".

Those areas having been determined as having the most potential for environmental impact are the following:

- Management of Potable water (Smelter and community of Falconbridge)
- Management of Sulphur dioxide
- Management of Particulate emissions
- Management of Energy
- Management of Waste
- Management of Wastewater
- Management of Spills and Emergency Response

As mentioned, all of these areas are now being management under the scrutiny of work of all Smelter employees, with a strong commitment to "Continual Improvement programs" (CIPs).

Similar to a number of other Falconbridge operations, the Smelter site will subject it's management systems to formal audits under ISO 14001 in order to achieve Certification by the end of 2003.

Sudbury Soils Study | Étude des sols sudburois

metals • health • environment
métaux • santé • environnement

Sudbury Soils Study

Falconbridge, as one of the main Mining companies in Sudbury, is now a partner in a comprehensive study to review the environmental and human health effects of air emissions from the smelter. In recent years, several studies have shown there are some areas in Sudbury with elevated metal levels (nickel, copper, cobalt and arsenic and others) in the soil.

These areas are generally close to the historic smelting sites of Coniston, Falconbridge and Copper Cliff.

Although these metals occur naturally in all soils, the studies assume that the higher amounts in surface soil (the top 5 cm. of soil) are the result of local mining, smelting and refining operations.

Previous studies have not determined the possible health risks to humans and the environment that might be associated with elevated metals in Sudbury soils.

Therefore, Falconbridge Limited volunteered to become a partner in the Sudbury Soils Study.

Six community partners, who are major stakeholders in maintaining a healthy environment in Sudbury, have been given the responsibility to oversee this rigorous soil study.

The community partners are Inco Limited, Falconbridge Limited, Ministry of the Environment, Sudbury & District Health Unit, City of Greater Sudbury, and Health Canada & First Nations & Inuit Health Branch.

The study is expected to be completed in 2005. ✷