IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 17, 2010

FLIN FLON SOILS STUDY SHOWS LOW HUMAN HEALTH RISK

A comprehensive assessment of exposure and health risks related to metals in soil in Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan has concluded that the likelihood of adverse health effects among area residents from exposure to these metals is negligible to low.

The results of the study were shared today with community residents at an open-house in Flin Flon.

The study was conducted in follow-up to a 2007 report by Manitoba Conservation which concluded that the soil levels of some metals likely related to air emissions from the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelter (HBMS) operation in Flin Flon were elevated. HBMS retained the services of Intrinsik Environmental Sciences Inc. (Intrinsik) to conduct the comprehensive investigation of potential human health risks related to residents' exposures to these metals.

"We wanted an independent agency to provide comprehensive, reliable and scientifically defensible data because as a responsible corporation HBMS is committed to ensuring residents have all the information they need to feel safe and healthy in their community," HBMS Senior Vice President Tom Goodman said.

"Overall, the findings from our studies are reassuring. For several metals, we found negligible or no risks to human health, while for some other metals, the risks to health are in the low range," stated Elliot Sigal, Executive Vice-President of Intrinsik. The study recommended reducing air emissions of metals, continued monitoring and some additional precautionary measures to minimize residents' exposure to metals.

The HBMS Flin Flon smelter ceased operations on June 11, 2010, which is expected to markedly improve air quality and reduce exposure to metals.

The exposure study of blood lead levels in children in the area showed an average well below current acceptable Canadian limits, although slightly above the average for U.S. children of a similar age. To ensure even further reduction in potential risk, a public education strategy to reduce lead exposure as well as ongoing monitoring and surveillance was recommended.

"Our community health assessment of the Flin Flon/Creighton area in 2008 showed that the overall health status of the population is as good as if not better than the provincial averages for most indicators looked at, but Saskatchewan and Manitoba health departments will continue to work together to ensure ongoing monitoring of health risks," Northern Saskatchewan Population Health Unit Medical Health Officer Dr. James Irvine said.

"These researchers conducted a very detailed study that was independently peer-reviewed by some of the leading experts in environmental health in North America. As medical officers of health concerned with the protection of the health of the area's residents, we are reassured by the study's findings, and support its precautionary recommendations to ensure health is protected," said Dr. Lawrence Elliott, Medical Officer of Health for the NOR-MAN region of Manitoba.

Detailed information on the studies and findings are available on a number of websites including www.flinflonsoilsstudy.com. Study experts will continue to be available to answer questions at open houses at Flin Flon City Hall on Friday June 18th, Saturday June 19th, and Monday June 21st.

For more information, contact:

Elliot Sigal
Executive Vice President
Intrinsik Environmental Sciences Inc.
Phone: (416) 522-3047 or (204) 271-3792

Tom Goodman
Senior Vice President, Operations
HBMS
Phone: (204) 687-2380

Karen Hill
Communications Branch
Saskatchewan Health
Regina
Phone: (306) 787-4083

Paul White
Communications Services
Government of Manitoba
Winnipeg
Phone: (204) 945-8124