





DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD

RALSTON, ALBERTA

SUFFIELD SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. 169



PUBLIC CONSULTATION DURING A  
CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENT DESTRUCTION PROJECT

by

J.M. McAndless

September 1993



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UNLIMITED

**DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD  
PO BOX 4000, MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA**

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Al Wakelin

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Don Colley

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UNCLASSIFIED**ABSTRACT**

In 1989, a three-year project was initiated to destroy old chemical warfare agent waste stored at the Defence Research Establishment Suffield. Chemical neutralization and incineration technologies were employed to destroy bulk agent stocks and contaminated scrap on-site using both in-house and contracted resources.

Prior to commencing destruction operations, a pro-active public consultation program was implemented to address initial concerns about the potential safety and environmental impacts associated with this project. A variety of approaches were employed including open information meetings in district communities, site visits, media presentations, newsletters and interaction with a volunteer citizens' advisory group.

In this Report, the scope of the public consultation program and the approaches which proved successful in gaining public acceptance for the project goals and methods are described. Concerns were effectively addressed by direct public input during project planning and participatory interaction with the citizens' advisory group during subsequent agent destruction operations.

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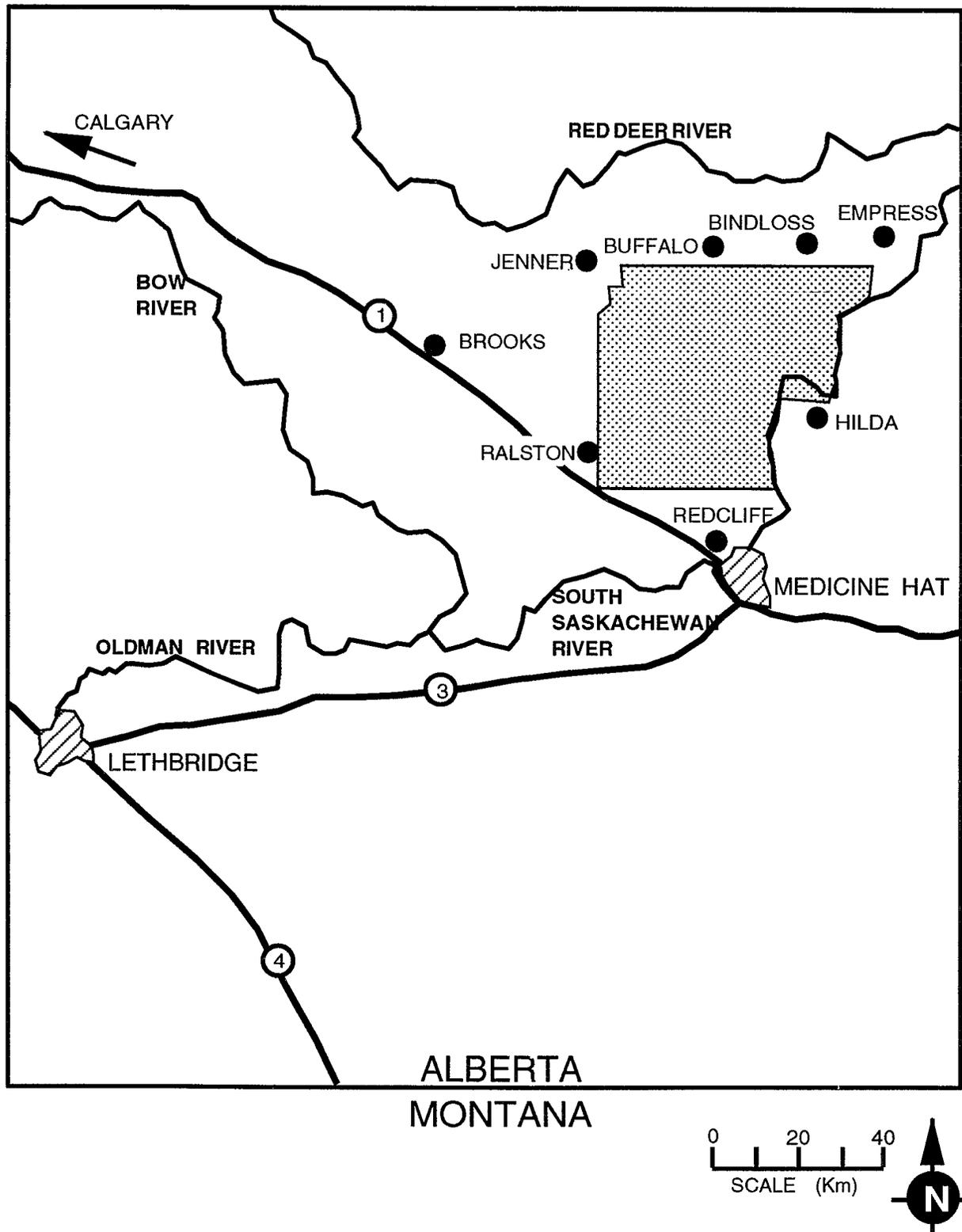


Figure 1. Regional Location Of Project Swiftsure

CFB Suffield incorporates a federal land reserve of 2600 square kilometres (Suffield Military Range) which is used primarily for mechanized training exercises conducted by the Canadian Forces and the British Army. The Experimental Proving Ground, which is located on the southern portion of the range, covers an area of approximately 450 square kilometres and is dedicated to field trials in support of DRES programs.

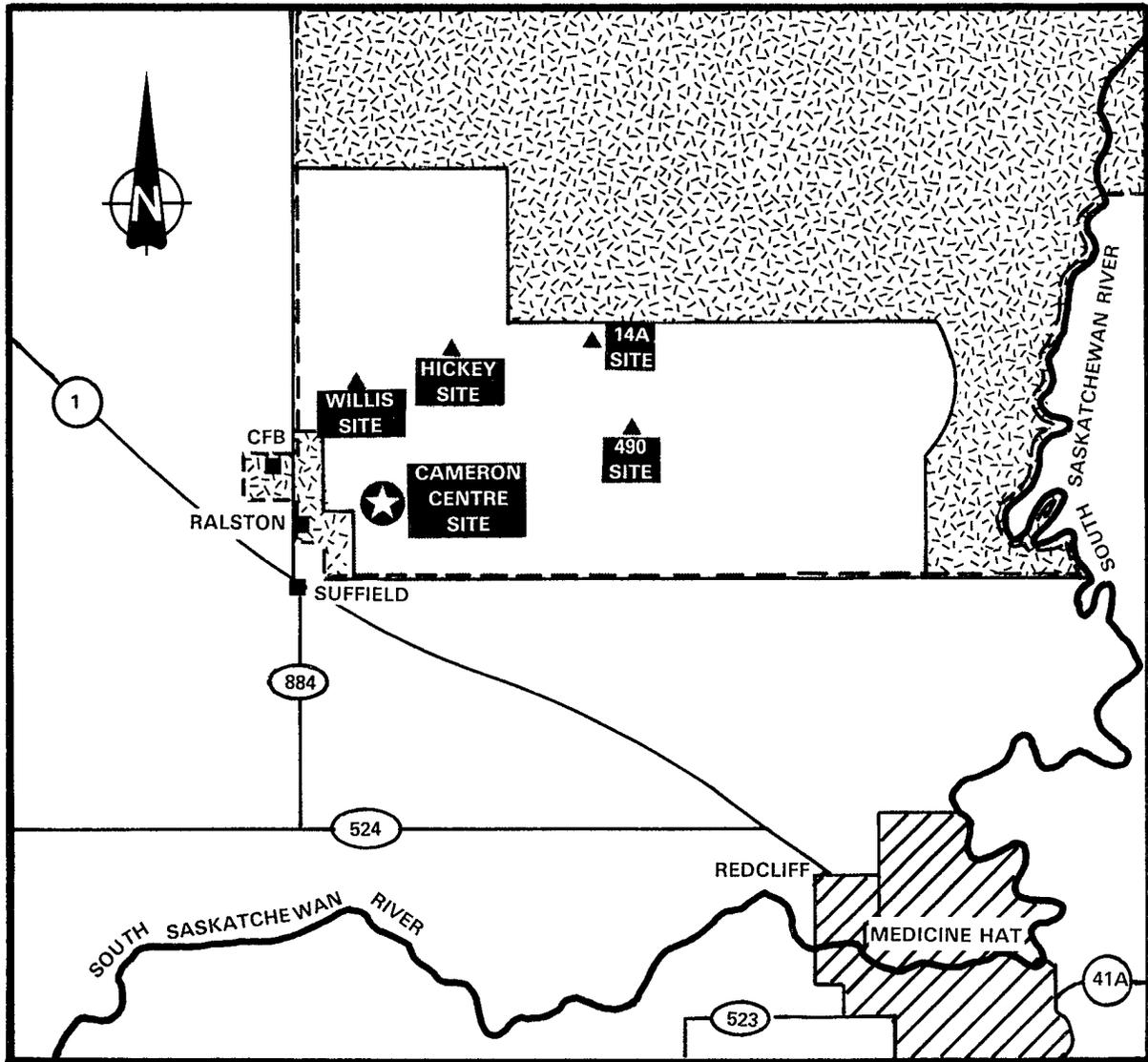
Project Swiftsure operations were carried out on the DRES EPG at specific sites as indicated in Figure 2. Incineration operations were located at the Cameron Centre, a well-developed site, located approximately 3.5 km east of DRES. In general, project-related activities took place in an area characterized as arid, flat and featureless short-grass prairie terrain which presented minimal sensitive environmental components [2]; i.e. an area suitable for carrying out destruction of hazardous materials. The district communities located near and around the DRES EPG are listed in Table I. The closest community not on DND property is the village of Suffield, located approximately 5 km to the southwest of the Cameron Centre. The largest community in the area is the city of Medicine Hat with a population of approximately 42,500.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

During the early stages of Project Swiftsure, DRES identified the need for a strong, pro-active public consultation program to provide for information exchange and communications between the project proponents and the public in the district communities surrounding the DRES EPG. Despite the inherent controversial nature of the project, the possibility existed that public support could be gained through this program, given the demonstrated openness of DND with respect to the results of the Barton Report [1]. In addition, many area residents regard DRES as a vital part of the community, especially in Medicine Hat where most DRES staff live.

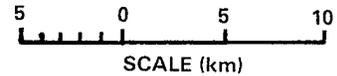
The general approach taken was to determine the important project-related issues, address these to the satisfaction of the public before proceeding, and develop participatory relationships to strengthen public confidence in project plans and operations. This approach embodied public consultation objectives recommended by the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO), namely [5]:

- ◆ informing interested parties in the project area;



**LEGEND:**

- BOUNDARY OF CANADIAN FORCES BASE (CFB) SUFFIELD
-  MILITARY TRAINING AREA
-  EXPERIMENTAL PROVING GROUNDS (EPG)
-  CAMERON CENTRE: THERMAL DESTRUCTION
-  WASTE HOLDING SITES



**Figure 2. Project Swiftsure Site Locations**

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**TABLE I**  
**DISTRICT COMMUNITIES IN THE VICINITY**  
**OF THE DRES EXPERIMENTAL PROVING GROUND**

COMMUNITY	POPULATION <sup>1</sup>	DISTANCE <sup>2</sup> (km) FROM INCINERATOR
Ralston	422	3.5
Suffield	169	5
Redcliff	3834	32
Medicine Hat	42290	40
Jenner	<50	55
Brooks	9464	64
Buffalo	<50	69
Bindloss	<50	80
Hilda	65	81
Empress	229	92

<sup>1</sup> Population based on 1989 Province of Alberta census.

<sup>2</sup> Straight-line distance from the Cameron Centre incinerator site to the centre of the community.

◆ initiating a dialogue and exchange of information throughout all phases of the project, but particularly during planning and destruction activities;

◆ soliciting views and input into project plans, particularly the Environmental Protection Plan, to avoid unforeseen developments or adverse reactions.

Initially, the National Defence Headquarters agency, Director General Information<sup>1</sup> (DG Info), led the public consultation program with support from DRES

<sup>1</sup> DG Info is now Director General Public Affairs (DGPA)

and Chem-Security Ltd. Subsequently, Maureen Payne Associates, a public relations firm, was hired under DND contract to assist in development of the program. After the contract with Maureen Payne Associates had expired, the responsibility for managing the day-to-day public consultation activities was transferred to DRES. Venture Communications Ltd. was hired through the competitive bidding process to assist DRES in the area of public consultation.

### **Public Consultation Program Development**

The planned public consultation program continued to evolve in response to and through interaction with the public as the project progressed. Several different methods were utilized (see Consultation Methods, below) with varying degrees of success. The program covered five distinct phases which coincided with different activities associated with Project Swiftsure planning and implementation. These phases included:

- ◆ Phase I (late 1989 to mid-March 1990): planning and public information meetings to introduce the district communities and local staff to Project Swiftsure. This phase was implemented through National Defence Headquarters; DRES became the lead agency for the subsequent phases.

- ◆ Phase II (mid-March to October 1990): formation of a volunteer citizens' committee and public workshops held to review the project Environmental Protection Plan.

- ◆ Phase III: (November 1990 - April 1991): installation and successful commissioning of the agent destruction technology as well as implementation of environmental monitoring programs.

- ◆ Phase IV: (May - December 1991): Implementation and completion of agent waste destruction and environmental monitoring programs;

- ◆ Phase V: (January - September 1992): removal of incinerator technology and completion of the consultation program and citizens' committee involvement.

During initial planning for the public consultation program, several target audiences were identified:

- ◆ Local Communities:- Project Swiftsure was recognized primarily as a local issue. Gaining acceptance in the district communities was, therefore, crucial to

successfully undertaking and completing the agent destruction activities. Of importance was the need to inform local citizens, political leaders, and the media of the project objectives and the positive benefits of destroying the chemical agent waste compared to other options such as permanent storage.

◆ Federal and Provincial Politicians:- At the Provincial level, the local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Medicine Hat and Deputy Premier of Alberta (Hon. Jim Horsman) as well as the Alberta Minister of Environment (Hon. Ralph Klein) and MLA from the Bow Valley riding (Hon. Tom Musgrove) were to be kept aware of Project Swiftsure, its progress, and associated issues so that informed and knowledgeable responses could be provided as required to all interested parties. Federally, the Minister of National Defence and the local Member of Parliament (MP) from Medicine Hat (Mr. Bob Porter) were also to be kept fully informed in the event the project became a national issue or if timely, local support was required.

◆ Media:- The media was considered to be an important vehicle for informing the local communities and was considered the key element regarding dissemination of information at the provincial and national levels. The approach was to keep the local media fully informed on a pro-active basis.

◆ DRES and CFB Suffield Staff:- The most credible spokespersons for any given National Defence project are the Department's own employees. Thus, it was vital to inform fully the staff at DRES and CFB Suffield regarding Project Swiftsure so that they could carry timely, appropriate messages to the surrounding communities.

◆ Special Interest Groups:- A negative initial reaction to the project was expected from local environmental and peace groups. It was important, therefore, to inform these groups of positive aspects associated with the project; for example, improving the EPG environment, performing chemical agent "demilitarization", and instituting safeguards which would provide health protection.

### **Consultation Methods**

In general, the public was given opportunities to "buy into" the project by participating directly in the planning process and with the project proponents in monitoring its progress and eventual outcome. The philosophy adopted was to consider

the public as "part of the solution, not part of the problem". The consultation program was relatively low-key and aimed at keeping issues focused at the local or regional level without raising the project to national status.

The program incorporated the following methods:

- ◆ Open public meetings and workshops;
- ◆ Small group meetings, presentations and site visits;
- ◆ Media presentations;
- ◆ Information brochures;
- ◆ A Community Information Newsletter;
- ◆ A toll-free telephone information service, and
- ◆ A citizens' advisory committee.

While each method contributed in some degree to the overall program, the most significant methods which shaped the project and defined its success were the open public meetings and the participation of a volunteer citizens' group known as the "Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee - Project Swiftsure" (CEPC).

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

### **Information Meetings**

Project Swiftsure was formally introduced to district residents through a series of open meetings held during February 1990 in several communities surrounding the CFB Suffield range. A special briefing, open to all DRES and CFB Suffield staff, was given on February 12-13, 1990 in the Ralston Community Theatre. Public meetings were held in the communities of Buffalo, Medicine Hat, Ralston, Suffield, and Empress. Residents from other nearby communities such as Brooks, Redcliff, Jenner, Patricia, Idlesleigh, Bindloss, Hilda, and Schuler also attended one or more of these meetings. In each case, the venue was the local Community Hall, except in Medicine Hat where the meeting was held in the Travelodge Motel banquet/conference room. The mayor of Medicine Hat (Mayor Ted Grimm) was present at the Medicine Hat and Suffield meetings; Mayor Jean Franklin of Brooks attended the Suffield meeting.

Advance notice of the meetings was given primarily through newspaper advertising (Figure 3) and, in the case of Empress, through direct mail notice to all community residents. For example, advertisements were placed in the following local newspapers beginning two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting dates:

- ◆ Medicine Hat News
- ◆ Bow Island County Commentator
- ◆ Brooks Bulletin

A news release was prepared and issued February 1, 1990 to radio stations CHAT (Medicine Hat), CJCY (Medicine Hat), Q13 (Brooks) and to the newspapers listed above. Empress was added to the schedule following a request from residents who attended the meeting in Buffalo.

A team consisting of a moderator from DG Info (Major Laszlo Tollas), the Project Swiftsure director and manager, and representatives from Chem-Security Ltd., Western Research, and Maureen Payne Associates were present at each meeting. Typically, the format included introductions by the moderator, a project overview presented by DRES (Dr John McAndless), a brief description of the incinerator technology by the CSL representatives (John Clay and Tom Kinderwater), and a discussion of the proposed contents of the project Environmental Protection Plan from the Western Research representative (Dr Gordon Brown). The public was invited to ask questions following the presentations. Fact sheets describing Project Swiftsure were distributed to all present. Maureen Payne Associates personnel documented all questions and answers using written notes as well as electronic recording equipment. Attendance at each of the meetings is summarized in Table II.

During the meetings, the public raised a number of concerns regarding uses for the incinerator following completion of the agent destruction operations. Of prime concern was the notion that CFB Suffield might become a permanent hazardous waste disposal site for Southern Alberta or a site for disposing of Canadian military wastes. To mitigate this concern, a written policy statement was provided by the National Defence Associate Deputy Minister of Materiel which stated that the incinerator would be dismantled and removed following completion of Project Swiftsure [6]. Only agent-related waste and contaminated materials as listed in the EPP were to be destroyed during the course of the project.

# Swiftsure Public Meetings

During the past few years, Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES) has been carrying out the destruction of old chemical stocks and the clean-up of its physical site. During the next 18 months the remaining chemicals and contaminated materials will be destroyed by neutralization and incineration. The project is known as Operation Swiftsure.

The development of an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) is the first phase in the process to clean up Suffield.

An information meeting will be held in:

**Buffalo:**

Monday, February 12, 1990 at the Buffalo Community Hall

**Time:**

7:00 p.m.

**Medicine Hat:**

Tuesday, February 20, 1990 at the Medicine Hat Travelodge

**Suffield:**

Wednesday, February 21, 1990 at the Suffield Community Hall

This meeting is to explain the project and the steps being taken to ensure a safe and environmentally responsible clean-up program.

*Coffee and light refreshments  
will be served.*

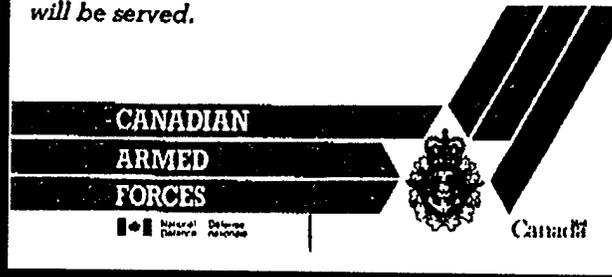


Figure 3. Advertisement For Public Information Meetings

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**TABLE II**  
**ATTENDANCE AT PROJECT SWIFTSURE PUBLIC MEETINGS**

A. PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

LOCALE	DATE 1990	ATTENDANCE
Buffalo	12 February	23
Ralston <sup>1</sup>	12,13 February	162
Ralston <sup>2</sup>	13 February	9
Medicine Hat	20 February	65
Suffield	21 February	29
Empress	22 February	21

<sup>1</sup> Two separate Project Swiftsure briefings for DRES and CFB Suffield Staff.

<sup>2</sup> Open meeting for Ralston community residents.

B. EPP REVIEW MEETINGS

LOCALE	DATE 1990	ATTENDANCE
Suffield	31 July	28
Empress	1 August	13
Medicine Hat	2 August	34

Related DND policy statements which prohibited importing of wastes into the project as well as the plan to conduct a complete on-site destruction operation addressed other concerns regarding the off-site transportation of Swiftsure-related wastes.

The Project Ploughshares organization made a group presentation at the Medicine Hat meeting. While this peace group was in favour of the proper destruction of the chemical warfare agents, they requested that Project Swiftsure be subjected to a full

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public (panel) review in accordance with the federal Environmental Assessment Review Process (Stage III, EARP). This view was supported by a Greenpeace representative and by members of the Grasslands Naturalists, a Medicine Hat environmental group. In response, DND distributed the registered initial environmental screening document [7] and invited the groups to participate in the development of the project Environmental Protection Plan.

In general, the concerns raised at the February 1990 public meetings fell into the following six categories:

◆ Policy

The public was concerned about the fate and usage of the incinerator following Project Swiftsure, whether stated DND policy would change, and whether a full panel review according to the EARP guidelines was needed.

◆ DRES Historical Activities

The public raised concerns regarding potential health and environmental impacts from previous mustard and nerve agent destruction operations and waste disposal activities such as the land farming of mustard hydrolysate sludge. There was some concern that military activities and DRES research and development programs might be responsible for certain illnesses or diseases in the district communities.

◆ Public Consultation

The public was interested in how they could participate in the development of the EPP and the project plans. As well, they wanted information on the roles assumed by other government agencies such as Environment Canada and Alberta Environment.

◆ Environment

The public raised concerns regarding possible contamination of soil and surface water at the storage sites and what impact incinerator emissions would have on the environment. The public requested that environmental monitoring be carried out by an independent agency and that an independent consultant be hired to review the EPP.

◆ Health and Safety

The public requested further information on the short- and long-term potential health effects related to incinerator emissions and what emergency response plans were in place to protect workers and the general public in case of accidents.

◆ Technical Issues

Questions were raised on how process residues would be disposed of, how the incinerator was configured and operated, how emissions would be monitored, and what could be expected during emergency situations arising during incineration of chemical agents. The public also wanted assurance that wastes, other than those specified in the project plan, would not be incinerated.

The issues raised as described above were addressed during the subsequent development of the EPP, with specific questions and responses provided in the document submitted for public review in July-August 1990.

The public reaction to Project Swiftsure at the information meetings varied widely and tended to be locale-dependent. For example, in communities close to DRES such as Ralston and Suffield, overall support for the project aims and approaches was evident. This likely reflected the fact that many of the residents were knowledgeable of DRES programs and, in some cases, were retired DRES or CFB Suffield employees. In Medicine Hat, the larger audience provided a forum for special interest groups to express their philosophies which included mistrust of government, military and environmental regulatory agencies. In the more distant communities such as Empress, the residents were less informed regarding DRES and CFB Suffield. They were particularly concerned about possible health effects resulting from past and present activities carried out by these "secretive" organizations and were highly mistrustful of a government-sponsored project such as Swiftsure.

**EPP Review Meetings**

Following the public information meetings, the Project Swiftsure Environmental Protection Plan was developed and copies of the plan placed in district libraries in June 1990. Public meetings were again held 31 July - 2 August, 1990, in Suffield, Empress and Medicine Hat to review the EPP. Again, advance notice was given to the public through a series of newspaper advertisements (Figure 4) and news releases to the local media.

The EPP review meetings differed significantly from the earlier public information meetings in that a "workshop" format was used where issues could be raised and

discussed in a small group setting as opposed to a general panel discussion. As shown in Table III, a number of resource personnel were present at the meetings to facilitate the EPP review process. Information hand-outs and source reference materials were made available to meeting attendees, as follows:

- ◆ Information Summary/Project Swiftsure Environmental Protection Plan;
- ◆ Copy of an open letter from the Minister of National Defence (Hon. Bill McKnight) stating that the incinerator would be removed upon project completion [8];
- ◆ A brochure describing the role of the Project Swiftsure Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee;
- ◆ Copies of Environment Canada and Alberta Environment letters requesting information from the project proponents to assist in the official review of the EPP, and
- ◆ List of resource personnel available for consultation at the EPP workshops.

Each EPP review meeting took the following form:

- ◆ The first third of the meeting included presentations by DRES, Western Research, and Cantox Inc. representatives to provide an overview of Project Swiftsure, the Environmental Protection Plan, and the health risk studies which had been conducted, respectively;

- ◆ The presentations were followed by small group discussions in a workshop setting. Here, the audience was free to move about to discuss issues and consult with resource personnel stationed at three separate locations within the meeting room. Each location featured a key field covered in the EPP such as incineration technology, health risk assessments, or safety and environmental monitoring programs. Incinerator display models and schematic diagrams were available to assist the discussions. Questions raised by the public and answers provided by resource personnel during the small group discussions were recorded (on flip charts).

- ◆ During the final third of the meeting, the results of the small group discussions were reported to the entire audience. This included briefings on what issues had been resolved, what outstanding issues remained, and how the EPP would be further developed with the input received. The meeting was then opened for general discussion to ensure all points-of-view had been covered.

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# Project Swiftsure

## Environmental Protection Plan

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### An Open Invitation

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Interested area residents are invited to attend and discuss environmental and public protection measures to be incorporated into Project Swiftsure.

Project Swiftsure has been proposed by Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES) as a safe method of destroying chemical agents and waste materials stored at DRES.

The Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) prepared for the project was made available publicly in late June and copies are now available to area residents at the following libraries:

- Medicine Hat Public Library
- Redcliff Public Library
- Brooks Public Library
- Ralston/Suffield Library in the Canex Centre
- Bow Island Public Library
- Irvine Town Hall Office
- Medicine Hat College Library
- Brooks Campus of the Medicine Hat College Library

Summaries of the EPP have also been prepared and are available through the libraries listed above.

At the meetings which will be held July 31 and August 1 and 2, representatives of DRES, Western Research, Chem-Security Ltd. and CanTox Inc. will present information about the Environmental Protection Plan and be available to answer questions.

Suffield Community Hall  
July 31 7:00 p.m.

Empress Community Hall  
August 1 7:00 p.m.

Medicine Hat Travelodge  
Kodiak Room  
August 2 7:00 p.m.

#### Project Swiftsure Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee

Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee members will be present. The committee is currently conducting a review of the EPP with the assistance of an outside, independent consultant and solicits your concerns.

For further information on Project Swiftsure,  
please call the toll-free line

**1-800-661-6510**

or write to

Defence Research Establishment Suffield  
Box 4000  
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8K6

Figure 4. Advertisement For EPP Review Meetings

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**TABLE III**  
**RESOURCE PERSONNEL FOR EPP REVIEW MEETINGS**

NATIONAL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS

Eugene Belovich, Project Director Swiftsure  
Major Laszlo Tollas, Public Information Officer

DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SUFFIELD

Dr John McAndless, Project Manager Swiftsure

WESTERN RESEARCH

Dr Gordon Brown, EPP Project Manager  
Kurt Hansen, Senior Environmental Engineer  
Mike Schroeder, Senior Meteorologist  
Don Colley<sup>1</sup>, General Manager Environmental Engineering

CANTOX INC.

Dr Bob Willes, Senior Toxicologist

CHEM-SECURITY LTD.

Tom Kinderwater, Site Superintendent  
Al Matheson, Safety Supervisor  
Al Wakelin<sup>1</sup>, Project Manager

VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS LTD.

Brian McCutcheon, Community Relations Consultant

<sup>1</sup> Medicine Hat meeting only

The EPP meetings were facilitated by Mr. Brian McCutcheon (Venture Communications Ltd.) who introduced resource personnel and moderated the general discussions.

Table II lists the attendance at each of the three EPP review meetings. Attendees included the general public, municipal officials, members of the Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee, and news media representatives from the region. At Empress, the second and third portions of the proceedings were combined as there were not enough people present to make the separate small group discussions practical.

The workshop format proved effective for focusing and covering the important issues related to the project EPP and for creating awareness of true public participation in the development of project plans. Special interest groups did not actively dominate the proceedings, as the format did not provide an opportunity to address a large, uninformed audience.

The issues covered during the meetings were considered in the development of the EPP Supplementary Information document (EPP Volume III) which was subsequently approved by National Defence in September 1990 [2]. As before, this volume of the document was distributed to district libraries to complete the EPP.

Both the information meetings and EPP review meetings received extensive media coverage in local newspaper, radio, and television. CBC Radio (Calgary) also covered the Medicine Hat and Suffield information meetings.

### **SMALL GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND SITE VISITS**

Starting in February 1990 and continuing throughout the project, on-site tours and briefings were held at DRES for provincial, regional, and municipal officials, local community groups, and other interested parties, as summarized in Table IV. The local media were usually invited and, in many cases, attended and reported on these visits.

In July 1990, DRES arranged a special visit to the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre, Swan Hills, for members of the Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee to give them an appreciation of waste destruction technology comparable to that proposed for Project Swiftsure. In addition, the Project Swiftsure manager gave presentations at the request of community groups in Medicine Hat, as listed in Table V.

**TABLE IV**  
**SUMMARY OF PROJECT SWIFTSURE SITE VISITS**

DATE	VISITORS	SITES VISITED
18 July 89	USSR Delegation	Willis Centre <sup>1</sup> EPG Sites
12 Feb 90	Local Politicians, Community Leaders	DRES Cameron Centre <sup>1</sup>
13 Feb 90	Media	DRES Cameron Centre
7 June 90	CEPC, Media	EPG Sites Cameron Centre
5 July 90	CEPC	ASWTC Swan Hills
14 May 90	Environment Canada Officials	EPG Sites Cameron Centre
4 Dec 90	Media	Cameron Centre
13 Dec 90	CEPC	Cameron Centre
29,30,31 Jan 91	Community Disaster Services Officials, Politicians, Media	DRES Cameron Centre
5 June 91	DRES Employees	Cameron Centre
20 June 91	Alberta Health Inspectors (meeting)	DRES Cameron Centre
21 Aug 91	Media	Cameron Centre
6,7 Sept 91	General Public	DRES Open House Cameron Centre
8 May 92	Commercial Firms	Cameron Centre
2 July 92	Commercial Firms	Cameron Centre
23 July 92	CEPC	DRES Cameron Centre
4 Sept 92	Environment Minister MLA Bow Valley	Cameron Centre

<sup>1</sup> Nerve agent neutralization was conducted at the Willis Centre. The incinerator facility was located at the Cameron Centre.

**TABLE V**  
**PRESENTATIONS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

DATE	ORGANIZATION
28 March 90	Medicine Hat Optimist Club
2 April 90	Medicine Hat Rotary Club
25 April 90	APEGGA <sup>1</sup>
22 May 90	Beta Sigma Phi International Sorority
24 May 90	Saamis Rotary Club
17 September 90	Alberta Energy Company Ltd.
24 September 90	Wives of Medicine Hat Rotarians
12 February 91	Redcliff Town Council
22 April 91	Beta Sigma Phi International Sorority
1 October 91	Brooks Town Council
27 January 92	Beta Sigma Phi International Sorority
27 April 92	Beta Sigma Phi International Sorority

<sup>1</sup> Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta

Formal reports [3,9-13] on Project Swiftsure were also presented by the project manager to several scientific/engineering conferences or to special international meetings, including the following:

- ◆ USSR Visiting Delegation, DRES (July 1989);

- ◆ HAZTECH Canada (West) Conference, Calgary (November 1990);
- ◆ United Nations Special Commission, Advisory Committee On Chemical Agent Destruction, New York (May 1991);
- ◆ United Nations Meeting, Specialist On Chemical Agent Destruction Methods, Geneva (October 1991);
- ◆ Alberta Environmental Services Association, Spring Convention, Banff (March 1992);
- ◆ US Academy of Sciences, Committee on Alternative Chemical Demilitarization Technologies, Washington D.C. (June 1992), and
- ◆ Air & Waste Management Association, 85th Annual Convention, Kansas City (June 1992).

## **MEDIA PRESENTATIONS**

Project Swiftsure was first announced on 25 January 1989 during a nationally-televised briefing by the Minister of National Defence (the Hon. Perrin Beatty) to outline the results of the Barton Report. Additional details on project plans were provided in news releases starting in July 1989 and continuing throughout, especially when key activities such as installing and testing the incinerator were imminent. Project news releases to September 1990 were collated and included for reference in the Environmental Protection Plan. A summary of the project-related news releases issued by DND is given in Table VI.

On 13 February 1990, a special briefing and site tour was held at DRES for news media. This tour attracted local newspaper, radio and television representatives as well as media representatives from Calgary (CBC Radio) and Lethbridge (CFCN Television).

Throughout Project Swiftsure, the local media regularly reported on project-related issues by attending Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee meetings (see below). Local newspaper reports were effective in disseminating timely information to the general public. On more controversial issues, interviews with the project manager and with CEPC members were conducted by the local radio and television stations in Medicine Hat or by CBC Radio in Calgary.

**TABLE VI****SUMMARY OF PROJECT SWIFTSURE FORMAL NEWS RELEASES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>DATE ISSUED</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
1	25 Jan 89	National Defence project announcement
2	01 Jul 89	USSR Delegation visits DRES
3	01 Feb 90	Public information meetings
4	17 Jul 90	EPP public review meetings
5	03 Oct 90	Acceptance of revised EPP
6	22 Oct 90	EPP available in public libraries
7	02 Nov 90	Independent air monitoring contractor
8	16 Jan 91	Community air monitoring program
9	04 Apr 91	DRES EPG air monitoring program
10	09 Apr 91	Revised waste inventory estimate
11	02 May 91	Contractor field operation safety review
12	08 May 91	Resumption of field operations
13	06 Jun 91	Trial Burn results announced
14	12 Jun 91	Lead problem in incinerator scrubber
15	13 Jun 91	Citizens' Committee satisfied with progress
16	01 Aug 91	Project Swiftsure progress report
17	02 Aug 91	Environment Canada Trial Burn approval
18	18 Sep 91	Mustard incineration completed
19	05 Nov 91	Agent destruction operations completed
20	27 Nov 91	Project Swiftsure operations completed
21	20 Mar 92	Sale and removal of incinerator announced
22	06 Jul 92	Incinerator sale completed

**INFORMATION BROCHURES, SURVEYS AND NEWSLETTERS**

Figure 5 illustrates some of the important documents prepared for public information purposes, including the Project Swiftsure EPP, examples of brochures, and the Community Information Newsletter.



**Figure 5. Project Swiftsure Documents And Information Hand-Outs**

A hand-out prepared by DRES which outlined the project policy, aims, technical approaches, and schedule, including a questionnaire, was distributed at the February 1990 public information meetings. Only two completed questionnaires were returned. This poor response was believed to reflect general agreement-in-principle for the need to carry out destruction of the chemical agent waste. This conclusion was supported by the results of the 1990 "Annual Spring Questionnaire" distributed to all (approximately 10,000) households in Medicine Hat by the Honourable Jim Horsman, MLA. This questionnaire, which was designed to elicit response on a number of current Medicine Hat issues contained eight questions, including the following:

"Do you approve of the plan to neutralize and destroy chemicals and contaminated materials at Canadian Forces Base Suffield?"

Approximately 1000 questionnaires were returned to the MLA constituency office. The following responses were recorded for the Swiftsure-related question:

Yes	73%
No	18%
Don't Know	9%

The constituency office issued a letter to DRES which stated that this response "indicates solid support for your project".

Following the February public meetings, DRES prepared a second hand-out which further outlined the project and described the proposed contents of the Environmental Protection Plan. This hand-out was distributed at the EPP review meetings held in July-August 1990. As well, Venture Communications Ltd. prepared two separate six-page brochures which were available as hand-outs at public meetings, site tours, open houses, and special presentations. These explained the technology to be employed during the project. The first, entitled "Hazardous Waste Incineration For Project Swiftsure", described the incinerator equipment, its operating capability, and safeguards to ensure emission standards set for the project would be met. The independent monitoring program established to verify environmental compliance was described in the second brochure entitled "Air Monitoring For Project Swiftsure".

Starting in November 1990, Venture Communications, with the assistance of DRES, produced a monthly Community Information Newsletter which was distributed widely by mail to community leaders, libraries, special interest groups, media, government officials at all levels, and to DRES, CFB Suffield, and National Defence headquarters staff. The Newsletter covered timely issues such as installation, testing and operation of the incinerator, monitoring programs, project support activities, special events, and issues covered by the citizens' committee. Included were interviews with key project personnel as well as photographs of project-related equipment and activities. By December 1991, fourteen separate issues of the Newsletter had been produced and distributed. A final Newsletter was issued in September 1992 to complete the public consultation program. This last Newsletter reported on the removal of the incinerator technology and the disbanding of the citizens' committee.

The Community Information Newsletter proved effective in providing reference information, progress reports, introducing project personnel, and demonstrating DND's commitment to addressing various public issues to a wide audience.

### **TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE LINE**

In February 1990, a toll-free "information hot-line", which included a message recorder, was installed at DRES to facilitate direct public contact on project-related issues. The date, time, caller identification, and topic raised for discussion were logged for all incoming calls. The project manager, assisted by the DRES Canadian Forces Liaison Officer, fielded all enquiries. The telephone system was removed in December 1991 following completion of waste destruction operations.

A total of 68 calls were received on this hot-line, 6 of which were considered directly relevant to project-specific issues. For example, these latter callers expressed concern that unreported accidents were triggering the (perceived) unexpected appearance of the Project Swiftsure Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory in district communities or else registered complaints about medical conditions which were thought to be related to agent destruction operations. The remaining calls were of an administrative or general information nature and included a few "crank" calls from unidentified sources.

The telephone line symbolized the accessibility of the project to the general public. It was also potentially useful as a communications tool in emergency situations. In practical terms, however, the toll-free telephone proved less effective than the other approaches employed during the public consultation program.

### **CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

#### **Formation**

DND recognized from the outset that periodically holding large, open public meetings, aside from the logistics problems, was an inefficient way to generate public trust and support for the aims of Project Swiftsure. Experience gained during the DND Goose Bay PCB destruction project [15], showed that an approach which involved

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consultation with a citizens' advisory group tended to focus issues, allowed for effective public participation in the decision-making process, and potentially could engender some trust amongst the various parties involved. Therefore, this public consultation approach was also adopted for Project Swiftsure.

Following the February information meetings, DRES initiated contact with approximately 40 public officials, citizens, and special interest groups, inviting volunteers to form a liaison committee for Project Swiftsure. Those contacted primarily were individuals who had raised rational concerns at the public meetings or who had spoken on behalf of their community interest. The committee was invited to examine all aspects of the proposed project, to initiate an independent review of the plans and technological approaches, and to plan for on-going public participation and consultation in the development and implementation of the Project Swiftsure Environmental Protection Plan.

Of those contacted, 11 people initially agreed to volunteer their time to participate in a citizens' committee for the project. The initial organizational meeting was held at DRES on 7 March 1990. The name Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee - Project Swiftsure (CEPC) was unanimously selected by its members to reflect the primary focus of the committee's efforts and activities. The committee also selected a chairman at this time and began development of its own terms of reference. Although the participants were somewhat polarized in their views, a strong consensus existed with regard to the project objective, *viz*: the safe destruction of the chemical agent waste stored at DRES. With the mutual consent of the members and to assist the Committee undertake its work, DRES agreed to cover project-related out-of-pocket expenses; for example, travel costs to attend meetings and long-distance telephone charges.

The CEPC membership represented a broad cross-section of backgrounds and interests. The members included ranchers, a chemical engineer, a chemistry professor, a registered nurse, a housewife, a physician, and members of special interest groups. Over the course of Project Swiftsure, the composition of the Committee changed occasionally; however, a core group remained which maintained the original diversity. All members who served on the CEPC are listed in Table VII.

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**TABLE VII****CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ALBERTA RESIDENCE</b>
<b>Core Members</b>	
Mr Harold Fieldberg (Chairman)	Bindloss
Mr Norm Bauer, B.Sc.	Hilda
Mrs Hazel Carlson	Brooks
Dr Ted Cowtan, M.D.	Medicine Hat
Ms Dawn Dickinson, M.Sc.	Medicine Hat
Dr Brian Lloyd, Ph.D.	Medicine Hat
Mr Brian McNally, P.Eng.	Medicine Hat
Ms Veronica Swan	Medicine Hat
Ms Evelyn Tate, R.N.	Medicine Hat
Ms Nancy Tripp	Medicine Hat
<b>Short-Term Members</b>	
Ms Yvonne Haase	Suffield
Dr Tom Jones, M.D.	Medicine Hat
Mr Jim Ridley	Medicine Hat
Mr Brent Skidmore	Medicine Hat
Ms Debra Solberg	Brooks
<b>Technical Consultant</b>	
Mr Brian Stuckert, P.Eng	Calgary

**Meetings**

Between 7 March 1990 and the final meeting on 23 July 1992, the CEPC held over 40 public meetings. Most of these were held in the evenings at the Medicine Hat College (see Figure 6), while others were held at DRES or in district communities. Initially, meetings were held on a bi-weekly basis then on a three-week or monthly basis as the project progressed and issues were dealt with.

The Committee adopted a philosophy of holding open meetings and invited the local media to attend. At least one media representative attended every meeting. DRES representatives were also present at all meetings with various project contractors, special guests or government officials invited to attend as required. At the request of CEPC, the Project Swiftsure manager prepared meeting minutes which were distributed to Committee members, invited attendees as well as to the local media and contacts at Environment Canada and National Defence.

From time-to-time, special CEPC meetings were held in conjunction with other events such as site visits to DRES (see Figure 7), the tour of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre, or demonstration of the Swiftsure Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory to the Brooks town council.

**Terms Of Reference**

On 1 June 1990, the CEPC developed and issued the following terms of reference which became the basis for on-going work:

- ◆ Ensure that safety to people and complete protection for the environment remain paramount during the development and implementation of Project Swiftsure;
- ◆ Ensure that the incinerator and components are dismantled and removed from CFB Suffield within 3 months of project completion or by 31 December 1991, whichever comes first;
- ◆ Seek written affirmation from the Minister of National Defence that the incinerator removal shall take place;



**Figure 6. Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee Meeting**

- ◆ Determine total quantities, identify and analyze all starting materials and reactants being disposed of (i.e. inventory), including all emissions and residues after incinerator trial burns and throughout the duration of the project;
- ◆ Produce recommendations for the disposal of final waste products;
- ◆ Conduct random monitoring by an appointed representative of the Citizens' Committee of emissions and of products being disposed of;
- ◆ Ensure safe shut down of operations if emission standards are exceeded;
- ◆ Produce on-going reports to the communities and immediate reporting to the media of project-related activities, and
- ◆ Provide a short written report to be made public following the final stages of Project Swiftsure.

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**Figure 7. Citizens' Committee And Media Visit The Swiftsure Incinerator Site**

### **CEPC Technical Consultant**

The Project Swiftsure EPP described many different, sophisticated technologies which were proposed for mitigating or eliminating potential health risks and environmental impacts. Initially, the Committee was concerned that members would need to devote much time and effort simply to acquire sufficient knowledge to deal competently with the complex technical issues. Therefore, the Committee requested that the services of an independent technical consultant be provided. In agreeing with this proposal, DRES requested that the CEPC be responsible for selecting their consultant while the necessary financial support and contracts to provide such services would be arranged through DND. In June 1990, after review of several candidates, the Committee chose Mr Brian Stuckert of Calto Industries Inc., Calgary, to serve as the CEPC Technical Consultant. Although funded by DND, the consultant reported to the Committee and

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worked in their best interest. This approach fostered trust amongst the parties involved and demonstrated DND's commitment to the public consultation process. The consultant continued to advise the CEPC until their final meeting in July 1992.

The mandate of the Technical Consultant initially involved an independent detailed review of the EPP. This was later expanded to include monitoring the chemical warfare agent destruction operations to ensure compliance with the approved EPP. This active role included the acquisition of random process samples for analysis. Furthermore, the Technical Consultant addressed and discussed CEPC and public concerns, assessed responses provided by DRES and by CSL, and debated issues as they arose. The overall role was to facilitate communications while ensuring that all concerns were appropriately covered. The Technical Consultant generally reported first to the CEPC on any project-related issues under review.

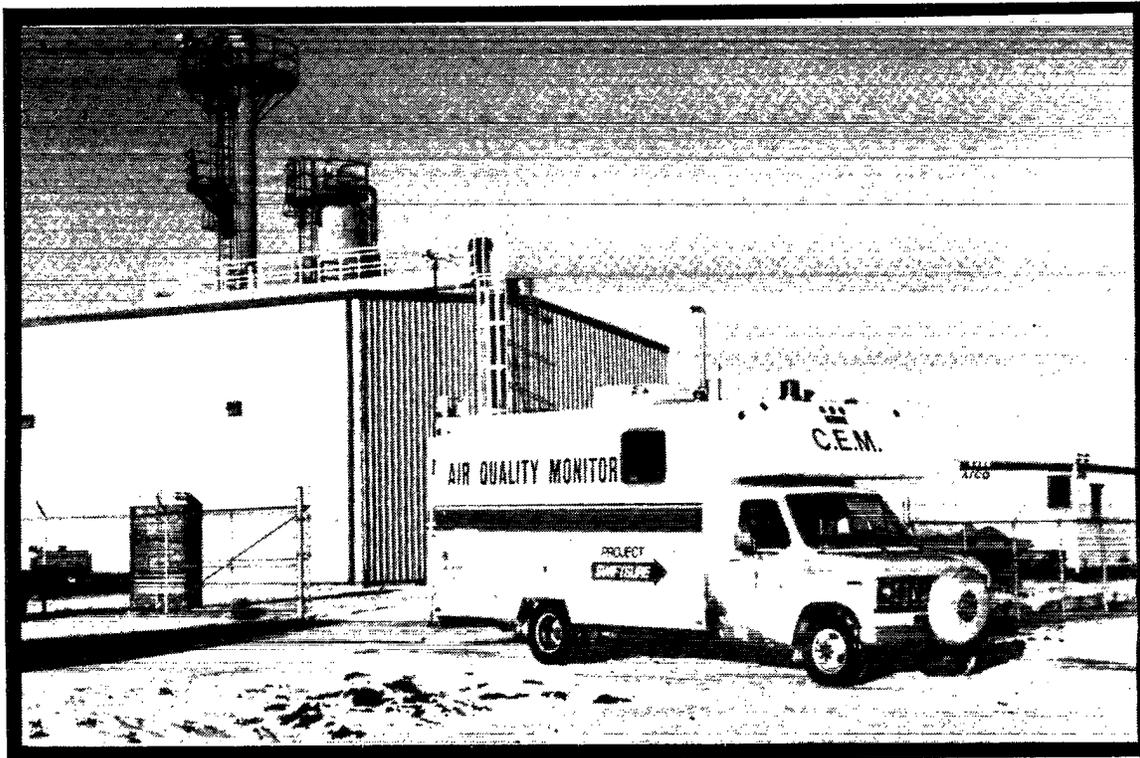
The Technical Consultant's review of the EPP, as well as project operations, involved addressing the rationale for technology and process selection, as well as specific concerns regarding potential impacts on the project workers, the public, and the environment. Some of the key factors examined and addressed were as follows:

- ◆ The rationale for selecting incineration as the process of choice for all waste streams was questioned. For lewisite, it was subsequently determined that destruction by neutralization/solidification was a more appropriate approach than neutralization followed by incineration;

- ◆ Although the incinerator equipment and operating conditions were designed to prevent the formation of chlorinated dioxins/furans, concerns were raised regarding the potential production of these compounds during the incineration of mustard. Consequently, dioxins/furans were included in the overall monitoring program as a supplement to the stack sampling program that was undertaken during trial burns. DRES proposed and developed a novel method to routinely screen the incinerator scrubber fluid for dioxins. This screening method was used in turn to signal the requirement for implementing a detailed stack sampling program should a specified "trigger" level of dioxins be detected.

- ◆ The original program to monitor incinerator emissions and any impacts on ambient air quality was essentially "self-policing" (i.e. carried out only by DRES and CSL). To address this, DRES implemented a separate air monitoring program which was

carried out by a contractor using a mobile laboratory (Figure 8). In addition to providing supplementary data, this program component was viewed as a valuable addition to the emergency response capability for the project by providing timely impact and plume mitigation data in the event of an accident. A member of CEPC participated in the process to review proposals and select the contractor to carry out the separate air monitoring program.



**Figure 8. Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Laboratory**

◆ As a result of concerns regarding the limited number of incinerator trial burns, additional stack sampling, fixed-station air sampling and scrubber fluid particulate analysis were added to the overall monitoring program [15]. These additional components were used to monitor potential emissions from any waste materials which had not been processed during trial burns (e.g. neutralized nerve agent solution and standard waste resulting from laboratory operations).

The Technical Consultant proved invaluable in assisting the Committee to understand the complex issues involved which, in turn, enabled members to make

informed recommendations for project improvements. The Consultant also acted as a credible focal point through which DRES, contractors and members of the Committee could establish common ground when dealing with controversial technical matters.

### **Specific Highlights Of CEPC Activities**

The following highlights in chronological order some of the important CEPC activities undertaken during Project Swiftsure:

- ◆ June 1990: The terms of reference of the Committee are issued;
- ◆ June 1990: CEPC members tour the DRES EPG waste storage sites with local news media;
- ◆ July 1990: CEPC members visit the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre, Swan Hills, to view comparable incinerator technology and waste disposal practices, as well as to confer with members of the Swan Hills citizens' advisory committee;
- ◆ July 1990: In reply to a letter received from the CEPC Chairman, the Hon. Bill McKnight, Minister of National Defence, provides written assurance to CEPC and the district public that the incinerator equipment will be removed upon completion of the project;
- ◆ August 1990: Committee members participate in the public workshops to review the project EPP and, through their technical consultant, prepare a report on the EPP for consideration by government reviewing agencies.
- ◆ November 1990: At CEPC request, an independent air monitoring program is established to monitor air quality on the EPG and in district communities during the course of Project Swiftsure. A CEPC member participates in the contractor selection process;
- ◆ December 1990: CEPC members tour the incinerator building and equipment installed at the DRES Cameron Centre site;
- ◆ February 1991: CEPC reviews and concurs with the DRES proposal to monitor dioxins/furans formation by incinerator scrubber fluid sampling and analysis as opposed to implementing an expensive, time-consuming stack sampling program for these materials;
- ◆ April 1991: CEPC reviews the incinerator trial burn data prior to approval of

the trial burn results by Environment Canada;

- ◆ May 1991: CEPC recommends a change in the scrubber fluid sampling protocol to further improve the method with respect to acquiring representative samples for analysis;

- ◆ Summer 1991: CEPC reviews all process control, air monitoring and stack emissions data during course of agent destruction operations;

- ◆ November 1991: CEPC reviews and concurs with the DRES plan to sell the incinerated scrap metal for recycling purposes.

- ◆ January 1992: CEPC examines proposed options for the sale and removal of the incinerator equipment;

- ◆ Spring 1992: CEPC, with DRES and Venture Communications Ltd. assistance, prepares a report on the Committee's activities and achievements for distribution to the public;

- ◆ July 1992: CEPC holds their final meeting at DRES, inspects the incinerator removal progress and issues their final report [16].

### **Committee Recommendations**

For reference, the Committee published a series of guidelines and recommendations in their final report [16] to assist other citizens' groups and project proponents in dealing with issues involving potential impacts on public safety and/or the environment. Many of these recommendations were based on the lessons learned and approaches adopted by the CEPC, DRES, and contractors during Project Swiftsure. The recommendations are summarized as follows:

- ◆ Public involvement in project planning should occur at the earliest possible stage. The Committee noted that, with Project Swiftsure, planning and contractual arrangements were well advanced before involving the public. During public consultation, the plans required substantial changes which might have been more readily accommodated at an earlier stage in the project (e.g., the requirement to remove the incinerator technology).

- ◆ A citizens' committee is an effective means of establishing an early dialogue with project proponents, for determining the important issues, and for providing the forum

for resolving problems;

- ◆ Citizens' committee meetings should be open to the public with the media and project proponents invited to attend. This approach, which was used for CEPC meetings, proved effective for widely disseminating information about project progress and the resolution of issues of interest to the general public;

- ◆ Well-defined terms of reference and goals should be established early and maintained by citizens' committees during their involvement in a project;

- ◆ Members of citizens' committees should have a broad range of backgrounds and views of the project and be willing to dedicate the time necessary to fully represent their community interests. In the case of Project Swiftsure, committee members were volunteers rather than appointed by project proponents or special interest groups.

- ◆ For complex projects, the committee should engage the services of an independent technical consultant. In the case of Project Swiftsure, a consultant was selected by the committee and reported first to the committee on all technical matters. To show good faith in this process and by mutual consent, DND funded but did not control the activities of the technical consultant.

- ◆ Minutes of citizens' committee meetings should be recorded and distributed to all interested parties;

- ◆ Whenever possible, citizens' committees should be invited to view the proposed technology and operations sites during different stages of a project. During Project Swiftsure, DRES provided photographs during CEPC meetings which proved effective for progress reporting in the interim between scheduled on-site visits.

- ◆ Project proponents should offer and cover legitimate out-of-pocket expenses for committee members when the committee is amenable to such an offer;

- ◆ Committee members should endeavour to gain as much knowledge as possible about a project so that informed decisions can be made. As well, project proponents should adopt an open approach and provide to the fullest extent possible any information requested by the committee;

- ◆ Committee decisions on project-related issues should be reached by a consensus approach rather than by voting;

- ◆ Citizens' committees should document their activities, achievements, and recommendations in the form of public reports at various stages of their involvement in

a project and especially at project conclusion.

In addition to the above general recommendations, the CEPC recommended that the strict emission levels achieved during Project Swiftsure be adopted as standards by government regulatory agencies and applied to other incineration projects. The CEPC also recommended that, for expensive projects like Swiftsure, information on operating costs should be made available on a regular basis. A project expense summary, as shown in Table VIII, was provided to CEPC for inclusion in their final report.

### **CEPC Achievements**

The Committee enhanced the credibility of the public consultation program through its commitment to achieving the common goal of destroying the chemical agent waste in a safe and environmentally-responsible manner and by their direct participation in the development of project plans, the EPP and operational activities. Through this process and media reporting of Committee activities, the CEPC quickly became the recognized focal point and interface for representing community interests in the project.

Important documents such as the EPP and Trial Burn Reports were examined by the Committee in parallel with reviews conducted by government agencies. CEPC consensus reached on issues and acceptance of the documents tended to expedite the overall approval process. In several cases, the Committee provided input which resulted in significant modifications to project plans, leading to approaches which achieved a higher degree of environmental protection.

As the project progressed, members gained a good working knowledge of the project technologies and processes which enabled informed decisions to be made on various technical issues. As the CEPC became more informed, the concerns raised became smaller in number and focused on the more complex, difficult-to-resolve issues. Through continued interest and input, the stringent limits set for incinerator emissions and waste water discharge were achieved during destruction operations. The Committee also provided the impetus which led DRES to develop a novel and efficient scrubber fluid sampling and analysis method for the detection of dioxin/furans during the mustard incineration process. This method may prove to be a viable alternative to stack sampling methods for detecting specific combustion products during commercial waste incineration.

**TABLE VIII**  
**PROJECT SWIFTSURE EXPENSE SUMMARY 1989-1992**

<b>PROJECT SWIFTSURE</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST (\$K<sup>1</sup>)</b>
Project Operations Management <sup>2</sup>	1040.5
Temporary Duty Travel	73.2
<b>Contracts:</b>	
Hazardous Waste Disposal System (CSL/WR)	14374.0
Shredder Development/Construction (Shred-Tech)	755.0
EPG Soil Survey (RMC)	741.4
Independent Air Monitoring (RWDI)	535.0
Public Consultation (MPA/Venture)	222.8
Citizens' Committee -- Total	82.9
Archived Literature Survey	55.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>17879.8</b>

<b>CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST (\$K)</b>
Technical Consultant	68.0
Out-Of-Pocket Expenses	4.0
ASWTC Trip	2.1
CEPC Hand-Out Brochure	0.8
CEPC Final Report	8.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>82.9</b>

CEPC Total as a percentage of total project cost: 0.46%

<sup>1</sup> \$K = \$1000. For example, \$73.2K = \$73,200

<sup>2</sup> Project operations management included direct equipment purchases, maintenance and staff overtime costs associated with DRES support of Project Swiftsure.

The Committee established a network of contacts with government authorities at all levels which assisted in gaining acceptance for certain project initiatives such as recycling the processed scrap metal. As the project progressed, a cooperative working relationship was established with DRES and the contractors involved which led to the development of a certain degree of trust. Ultimately, this cooperative approach and direct involvement amongst project proponents, contractors, and the CEPC led to successful communication and the achievement of the aims of all parties.

In general, the Project Swiftsure Citizens' Environmental Protection Committee demonstrated that citizens' groups can be an effective means by which government organizations and the public can communicate and maintain dialogue on controversial projects. The interaction between citizens' groups and the Department of National Defence during the Goose Bay PCB destruction project achieved similar results [14].

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

As a result of the consultation program employed, public acceptance for the project goals was gained, effective dialogue was maintained, and timely information was disseminated to show that operations were conducted in a safe, environmentally-responsible manner. This program embodied approaches which allowed direct public participation during project planning and implementation. Examples of this include public review of the Environmental Protection Plan and interaction with a volunteer citizens' advisory group during destruction operations. An "open" philosophy was adopted for the program which proved effective in disseminating information and creating trust. For example, the citizens' group meetings were open to the public and attended by the media.

In general, public consultation proved to be a key element in the overall success of Project Swiftsure. The program ultimately produced a positive image for DRES in the district communities.

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(highest classification of Title, Abstract, Keywords)

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<p>4. AUTHORS (Last name, first name, middle initial. If military, show rank, e.g. Doe, Maj. John E.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>McANDLESS, J.M.</b></p>		
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In 1989, a three-year project was initiated to destroy old chemical warfare agent waste stored at the Defence Research Establishment Suffield. Chemical neutralization and incineration technologies were employed to destroy bulk agent stocks and contaminated scrap on-site using both in-house and contracted resources.

Prior to commencing destruction operations, a pro-active public consultation program was implemented to address initial concerns about the potential safety and environmental impacts associated with this project. A variety of approaches were employed including open information meetings in district communities, site visits, media presentations, newsletters and interaction with a volunteer citizens' advisory group.

In this report, the scope of the public consultation program and the approaches which proved successful in gaining public acceptance for the project goals and methods are described. Concerns were effectively addressed by direct public input during project planning and participatory interaction with the citizens' advisory group during subsequent agent destruction operations.

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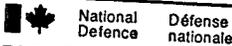
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