

April 4, 2016



Port Hope Area Initiative launches Campaign 4 of the radiological testing

Port Hope, ON (April 4, 2016) – Hundreds of information packages have been sent to Port Hope property owners encouraging them to sign up to participate in Campaign 4 of the Port Hope Area Initiative’s (PHAI) Property Radiological Survey.

Campaign 4 will test 1,250 properties and is the second-to-last campaign in the Property Radiological Survey, which will test all 4,800 properties in urban Port Hope and a few in the rural area for the presence of historic low-level radioactive waste.

“This new campaign brings us very close to fulfilling our goal to survey every property in urban Port Hope,” said PHAI General Manager Craig Hebert. “With the launch of Campaign 4, approximately 4,000 Port Hope property owners will be participating in some aspect of the radiological testing, which is a benefit to them and to the community.”

Each information package contains access consent and scheduling forms, a step-by-step guide explaining the testing and a map that outlines the areas within the municipality that are included in Campaign 4. Property owners are being asked to complete these forms and return them to the PHAI Management Office so an appointment can be scheduled to begin the first test, radon monitoring. In total, four types of radiological testing will be conducted at each property.

The tests are being conducted at no cost to residents. Over 90 per cent of properties are expected to meet the PHAI Clean-up Criteria and not require further investigations or cleanup. These owners will receive a Compliance Letter once all of the testing is complete. If historic low-level radioactive waste is found on a property, the PHAI will cover the cost of the cleanup and restoration. A Compliance Letter will then be issued.

The initial Campaign 4 test will see contractors – working on behalf of the PHAI Management Office – place radon monitors (small hockey puck-like devices) in the basement and/or the lowest living area of a house or building. The monitors will remain in place for six months and be picked up by the contractors. As a personal security measure, each property is issued a Site Identification Number that will be used during all communications between the resident and the survey team.

For the 10 per cent of properties expected to require some degree of cleanup, remediation activities are anticipated to begin in 2018, when the new long-term waste management facility is ready to receive waste.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental clean-up program. Its mandate is the remediation and local, long-term, safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and the Port Granby area of Southeast Clarington. The PHAI Management Office, led by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, is implementing these projects on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation.

ABOUT THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

The Port Hope Project involves the construction of an engineered aboveground mound and supporting infrastructure for the safe, long-term management of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste, cleanup of the waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, located south of Highway 401 and west of Baulch Road. Ongoing maintenance and monitoring will continue for hundreds of years after the facility is capped and closed. The historic waste resulted from radium and uranium refining operations of the former Crown corporation, Eldorado Nuclear, and its private sector predecessors, which operated from the 1930s to 1988.

For more information, please contact:

Judy Herod
Manager, PHAI Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
905.885.0291
info@phai.ca