

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Public Attitude Survey shows awareness of PHAI
and Property Radiological Survey remain high**

Port Hope, Ont. (February 28, 2017) – Results of the 2016 Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Public Attitude Survey indicate that awareness of the PHAI and Port Hope Project Property Radiological Survey remains high. The large majority of residents – 92 per cent – say they have “heard of the Port Hope Area Initiative,” and 87 per cent say they are aware of the plans to transport contaminated soil to the new long-term waste management facility along designated routes. At 78 per cent, awareness of the Property Radiological Survey also remains high, with more than 4,000 properties involved in the survey to test all 4,800 properties in Ward 1 and a few properties in Ward 2 for the presence of historic low-level radioactive waste.

Marty Kapitan, Manager, Legal Agreement Programs, said the survey feedback is a vital element of the PHAI’s public information program. “The input provided by residents gives us helpful insight into the strengths and areas for improvement in the PHAI’s community outreach approach and identifies any topics of concern,” Kapitan said. “Public input is invaluable to the project, and we thank everyone who took the time to take part in the survey.”

The random telephone survey was conducted on behalf of the PHAI by CCI Research Inc., an independent Canadian research firm. Responses were gathered over a one-month period in the fall of 2016 from 323 Urban Ward and 147 Rural Ward Port Hope residents.

When asked about their confidence in the PHAI to respond to public concerns, four out of five respondents (80 per cent) indicated they were “very confident” or “confident” that the PHAI will respond to any concerns they may have. Additionally, the proportion of Urban Ward respondents who expressed confidence that the PHAI will respond to their concerns increased compared to 2014 (81 per cent vs. 74 per cent), and Rural Ward confidence remains stable.

In 2014, when asked to specify concerns about the project’s impact on the natural environment, the most common response was related to the effects on “water/run-off/groundwater/leaching into water.” As a result of that feedback, community engagement opportunities were developed to allow the public to learn more about how the PHAI mitigates impacts on the environment. In the 2016 survey, the level of concern regarding water was lower at 24 per cent (vs. 32 per cent in 2014), indicating that the engagement was effective.

Other survey findings include:

- Satisfaction with living in Port Hope remained strong, with 96 per cent of respondents indicating they are “very” or “somewhat” satisfied
- Brochures/newsletters through the regular mail remains top choice of respondents for receiving information about the Port Hope Project (70 per cent)
- Overall, 84 per cent of respondents felt that the Port Hope Project Citizen Liaison Group is important in helping with communication between the community and the project, a result similar to the 2014 survey
- When asked to identify the benefits of the Port Hope Project, the most common responses were the “cleanup and containment of the radioactive waste” (44 per cent) and the “improvement of the town image” (21 per cent)

The confidence interval for the overall Port Hope sample is +/-4.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20 (at the 95 per cent confidence level, assuming a random and representative sample).

An executive summary of the 2016 survey report is available on the PHAI website at www.phai.ca. Copies of the complete survey report are available in print from the PHAI Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road, Port Hope, 905.885.0291, or by email at info@phai.ca.

-30-

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.

ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental clean-up program for 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.

Through its Historic Waste Program Management Office (HWP MO), Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) implements the PHAI, on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation.

For further information, please contact:

Port Hope Area Initiative
(905) 885-0291