

Moving waste safely in 2018

In less than a year, Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) trucks will begin moving historic low-level radioactive waste along the project’s designated transportation routes in Port Hope. Proven practices to protect people and the environment will be used to safely transport waste from clean-up sites to the new long-term waste management facility located south of Highway 401 and west of Baulch Road.

The waste is primarily contaminated soil, the result of the refining and processing of radium and uranium, from the 1930s to the 1950s, by the former Crown corporation Eldorado Nuclear Limited and its private sector predecessors. The designated transportation routes were chosen in consultation with the community during the project’s Environmental Assessment phase (see page 2).

“Safety of the public, our workers and the environment is our number one priority, and that extends to the project’s transportation

practices,” said Craig Hebert, General Manager of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories’ (CNL) Historic Waste Program Management Office. CNL is undertaking the PHAI on behalf



Trucks will be closely monitored for contamination

of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation.

Strict controls will ensure no truck is released from a work site onto a public roadway until it has been closely monitored for contamination and to verify its contents are securely covered. Truck traffic will be tracked as it moves through the community. Information about each truck,

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You’re invited to a PHAI public information session

Learn more and ask questions about the next steps involved in the Port Hope Project for the cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste.

Thursday, October 19, 2017 • 4:00–8:00 p.m.
Port Hope Lions Centre • 29 Thomas Street

For more information: 905.885.0291 • info@phai.ca



MOVING WASTE continued from page 1...

including the licence plate number, driver's name, date and times of departure and arrival, and quantity of material loaded and unloaded, will be documented for every shipment.

“Our drivers will be specially trained, and our trucks subject to a rigorous safety protocol,” said Hebert. “The PHAI name and phone number will be clearly displayed on the vehicles, and I encourage anyone with a question or concern when they see our trucks on the road to call us.”

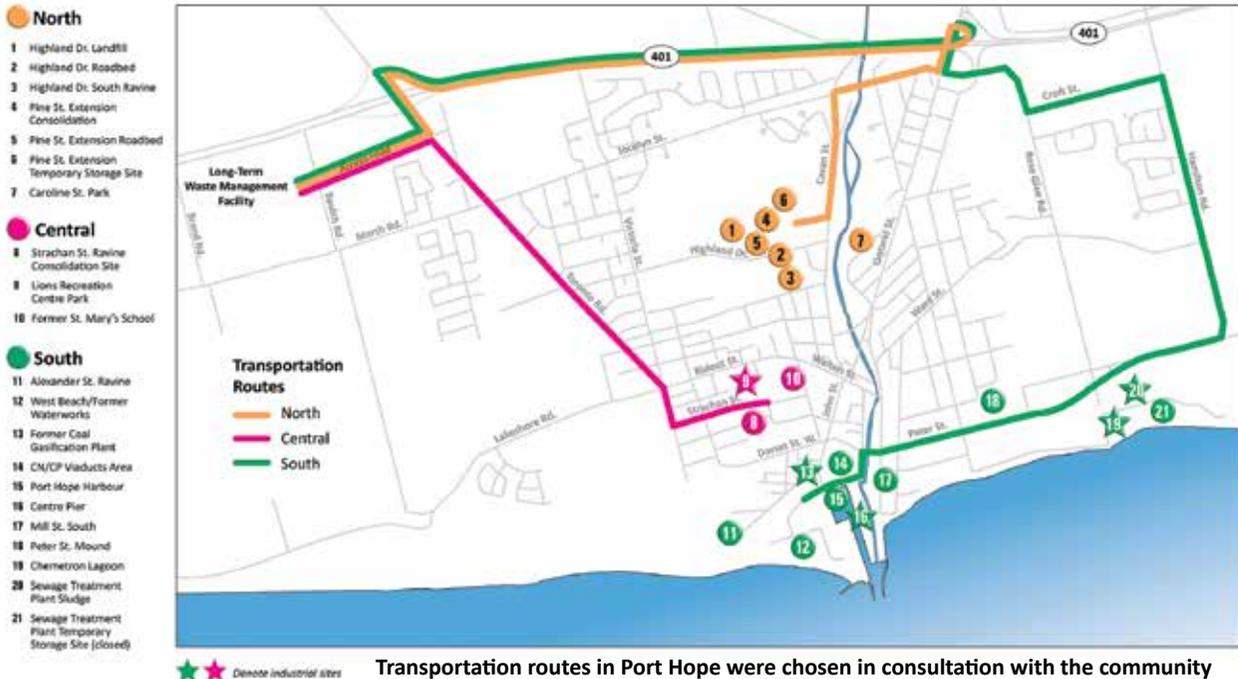
Designated project transportation routes

Trucks carrying waste to the new long-term waste management facility will use three designated transportation routes that were developed in close consultation with the community through the PHAI's Environmental Assessment process.

The routes were chosen to minimize the use of residential streets and make use of existing truck routes, Highway 401 and the dedicated road built to access the new facility, while avoiding the heritage downtown, residential and school areas whenever possible. Special considerations

have been given to sharing the roads with school buses, and truck movement will be limited during morning and afternoon school bus pick-up and drop-off schedules.

Each route is expected to be in use for about two to three years as the cleanup, scheduled to begin in the waterfront area in 2018, progresses through the community. Whenever possible, trucks carrying waste from residential property cleanups will take the shortest route along residential streets to access the closest designated transportation route.



Spotlight on the cleanup: Port Hope Harbour

The remediation and restoration of the Port Hope Harbour and Centre Pier is scheduled to begin in 2018 and will take approximately three years to complete. The work in the harbour includes rehabilitating approximately 1.5 km of aging harbour walls, isolating the work area using a wave attenuation structure, and then suction dredging the approximately 120,000 m³ of sediment contaminated with historic low-level radioactive waste in the inner harbour and approach channel.

On the Centre Pier, the work sequence will begin with the removal of the approximately 17,000 m³ of contaminated soil currently in temporary storage and the drums containing Cameco legacy waste stored in buildings on the pier. The buildings will be demolished, per the direction of the Municipality of Port Hope, and the pier will then be used as a staging area to dewater the dredged harbour sediment. Once the harbour remediation is complete, the approximately 40,000 m³ of historic low-level radioactive waste and comingled industrial waste present on the Centre Pier will be cleaned up.

Restoration plans for the Centre Pier, developed in consultation with the Municipality of Port Hope, include installing a berm required for Ganaraska River flood control, installing utilities from the north end to halfway along the pier, and landscaping in a park-like manner. Once restored, the Centre Pier will be returned to the municipality for its use.



The first to move: Temporary Storage Sites



The historic low-level radioactive waste at the three temporary storage sites (TSS) in Port Hope is scheduled to be the first offsite waste delivered to the newly constructed long-term waste management facility. The sites are used to store waste cleaned up during an earlier program, and through the Construction Monitoring Program currently provided for any building work where historic waste may be found in Port Hope.

Beginning in 2018, waste from the sites located at the Centre Pier, near the municipal sewage treatment plant and at the Pine Street North Extension in the Highland Drive Landfill area will be loaded in a controlled manner into specially lined and covered dump trucks and transported along designated routes to the new facility.

Progress report: Long-Term Waste Management Facility

With the first cell of the engineered aboveground mound about to be completed this fall, the new long-term waste management facility will be ready to receive waste in 2018. Work on the base liner system this past summer included the installation of the high-density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane that covers the compacted clay liner in the cell. The components in the multilayer base liner system are designed to work together to prevent contaminants from entering the environment.

Work has begun to prepare for the construction

of the mound's three remaining cells and internal waste haul roads, as well as the installation of vehicle weigh scales and portal monitors to track volumes and radiation levels of waste carried by trucks entering the site.



Installation of HDPE liner in Cell 1



Get involved in the PHAI - Join the CLG!

Are you interested in learning more about the Port Hope Area Initiative? Could you play a role in increasing community awareness? Why not join the CLG!

The Port Hope Project Citizen Liaison Group provides a forum to exchange information about the cleanup and long-term safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste. The CLG meets four times a year.

We are currently accepting applications for new members.

As a volunteer member you will suggest ways to improve communication and promote community understanding of the project. We are particularly interested in attracting residents who are active in a community group or local professional association and will share that perspective.

The deadline for applications is December 8, 2017.

For application forms or to observe the next CLG meeting on September 26, please call 905.885.0291.



Get an inside look through demonstrations and tours



Participate in meetings with project leaders

Property Radiological Survey: UPDATE *Final campaign underway – sign up today!*

To date, 4,300 properties have been involved in some aspect of the Property Radiological Survey, which is testing approximately 4,800 properties in Port Hope for the presence or absence of historic low-level radioactive waste.

With radon monitor placement for Campaign 5 – the final campaign – now underway, the window of opportunity to participate in the survey remains open, but for a limited time only.

If you haven't yet provided the PHAI with consent to have your property tested, act now and contact us at 905.885.0291 or propertiesurvey@phai.ca.

Providing results to property owners

The results of all tests – radon monitoring, interior and exterior gamma surveying, borehole drilling/soil sampling – are made available to the property owner through either a Compliance Letter indicating that the property meets PHAI Clean-up Criteria or a Notification Letter indicating that the property has waste that will be cleaned up through the PHAI (after which a Compliance Letter will be issued). The complete suite of tests takes approximately two years from start to finish, after which the results are analyzed, a final report is produced for each property, and the Compliance/Notification Letters are issued.

In some cases, there can be a longer period of time between the completion of radiological testing on a property and the issuing of a Compliance Letter to the property owner. If, for example, one or more adjacent properties has not yet been tested, CNL will not issue Compliance Letters to that group of owners until all testing is complete and results for all properties are available. This is done to provide additional confidence to property owners and the broader community that all historic waste, which does not always stop at property boundaries, has been identified and will be cleaned up.

Identifying properties with waste

Based on a review of historic property files and anecdotal evidence, approximately 375 properties were identified as likely having historic waste above PHAI Clean-up Criteria. Through the additional rigour of the survey investigations, waste has now been confirmed on approximately 600 properties, with a total of approximately 800 properties projected by the completion of the investigations. These properties will be cleaned up and restored, at no cost to the owner, beginning in 2018.

Road allowance radiological investigations

Working on behalf of CNL, Golder Associates Ltd. is conducting utility locates and borehole drilling/soil sampling within municipal road allowances, right-of-ways and laneways throughout Port Hope to determine which road allowances have historic low-level radioactive waste requiring cleanup.

- Approximately 160 road allowances, alleys and laneways will be investigated; all other road allowances were surveyed in 2001.
- No road closures are anticipated.
- The work began this summer and is expected to take between nine and 12 months to complete.

First Nations engagement session highlights project waterfront sites

CNL staff met with representatives of the Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations on June 26 to receive updates from each of their communities and share information about current project activities managed through CNL's Historic Waste Program. Held annually, this year's session focused on PHAI water quality monitoring programs and the Port Hope Harbour remediation, as well as CNL's remediation plans for the Northern Transportation Route in Canada's Far North. The discussions included a walking tour of the PHAI clean-up sites along the Port Hope waterfront.

CNL is committed to engaging First Nations and Indigenous communities to understand



Representatives of local First Nations discuss the significance of the Ganaraska River in Port Hope

their areas of interest and provide timely information updates. As project activities increase, CNL staff will remain in close communication with these communities to exchange information on a regular basis.

Port Hope students learn about the PHAI

Last spring, CNL staff visited a Grade 6 class and three Grade 4 classes at Port Hope's Ganaraska Trail Public School to share details about the PHAI's Port Hope Project.

The presentation explained that historic low-level radioactive waste is the result of past refining and processing practices and described how it will be cleaned up, safely transported and stored at the long-term waste management facility being constructed in the community. Students then had an opportunity to "build" the engineered storage mound using a model, while learning that both natural and synthetic materials will be used in the multi-layered

design to safely store the waste for hundreds of years.

The presentation aligned with the fourth grade science curriculum focusing on rocks and minerals and is being offered to all Port Hope elementary schools.



Sample materials help students learn about constructing the multi-layered engineered storage mound



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