

Final opportunity for radiological testing

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) has launched the last campaign of the Property Radiological Survey – Campaign 5 – by sending consent packages to property owners to ensure they will be included in the survey.

“Through this last campaign, we hope to fulfill our goal of surveying all 4,800 properties in urban Port Hope and a select few in the rural area for the presence or absence of historic low-level radioactive waste,” said Craig Hebert, General Manager of the Historic Waste Program Management Office (formerly the PHAI Management Office).

Approximately 4,000 property owners are already participating in some aspect of the survey, which is being conducted at no cost to residents. So far, the PHAI has issued about 400 Compliance Letters, assuring those owners that the testing indicated their properties already meet the PHAI Clean-up Criteria and

require no further investigations or radiological cleanup.

“The testing is a pivotal first step toward receiving a Compliance Letter,” said Hebert. “I encourage all



property owners, even those who don't think their property has historic waste, to return their signed consent forms. As important as it is to confirm where the waste is, it's equally important to confirm where it isn't.”

Having a Compliance Letter is significant, especially if an owner plans to sell or bequeath the property at any time. The PHAI expects to be able to issue Compliance Letters for about 90 per cent of properties once they have been tested. Properties that do not initially meet the PHAI Clean-up Criteria will be remediated – at no cost to the owner – after which a Compliance Letter will be issued. Clean-up work is scheduled to begin in 2018, when the Port Hope Project Long-Term Waste Management Facility, currently under construction, will be ready to receive waste.

For updates on other survey campaigns and facility construction, see pages 2-4.

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Property Radiological Survey: campaign update

Campaign 5 – the last campaign in the Property Radiological Survey – is now underway. Here is an update on all the campaigns:

CAMPAIGN 1 – Design

Surveying is complete; remediation and restoration designs are being developed and discussed with the owners of the approximately 45 properties in this campaign that will require a cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste (LLRW).

CAMPAIGN 2 – Radiological Results

Surveying is complete; Compliance Letters are being issued to owners whose properties meet PHAI Clean-up Criteria; owners of properties that do not meet that criteria and/or have non-LLRW contaminants above applicable criteria are being notified by letter.

CAMPAIGN 3 – Fieldwork

Interior and exterior gamma radiation scans and borehole drilling/soil sampling are ongoing.

CAMPAIGN 4 – Radon Monitoring

Radon monitors have been in place for six



Borehole drilling/sampling

months and are now being collected; radon monitoring results are expected to be mailed to property owners this summer.

CAMPAIGN 5 – Consent Agreements

Consent packages have been mailed to property owners; radon monitoring is set to begin mid-summer. **Please return your signed consent and schedule forms as soon as possible so we can schedule radon monitor placement.**

Do we know how to reach you?

If you no longer use the land-based phone number the PHAI has on file for you, please contact 905.885.0291 or propertysurvey@phai.ca to update your record with a cell phone number and/or email address. It is important that we have your current contact information so we can communicate with you as the work progresses.

Road allowance investigations motor on with the start of Phase 2

Many residents will remember the vehicle that recently traveled Port Hope roads, alleys and rights-of-way as it scanned and gathered gamma radiation readings. Now, based on those results, the PHAI is moving ahead with the second phase of the investigations to confirm the presence or absence of historic low-level radioactive waste in municipal road allowances. Throughout Phase 2, PHAI contractor Golder

Associates will conduct sub-surface drilling/soil sampling within road allowances where elevated gamma readings were recorded. The work is expected to get underway this spring and will be completed in early 2018. In total, approximately 160 road allowances will be drilled/sampled. No road closures are anticipated, and on-site sandwich boards will indicate that the work is being conducted on behalf of the PHAI.

Steps in designing a radiological cleanup for a property

STEP 1

The PHAI provides the results of the Property Radiological Survey to the design consultant.

STEP 2

The consultant schedules appointments with owners to map the property's key features, utilities and landscaping.

STEP 3

To determine the best approach to the cleanup of a property, the consultant first considers the individual property, then the adjacent properties, and finally the overall area. Whenever possible, cleanups will take place on a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood basis to minimize disruption to the community.

STEP 4

The consultant combines the information in a package – known as the Remediation and Restoration Agreement – and presents it to the property owner. The package provides the owner with a detailed description of the proposed work.

STEP 5

Once the Remediation and Restoration Agreement is finalized and signed, and the new long-term waste management facility is ready to receive waste, the cleanups begin. It is anticipated that remediation activities at the first group of properties will start in 2018.

Remediation in Action

Site preparation



Identify sensitive features and utilities

Clearing and Grubbing



Remove trees and hedges where necessary to facilitate cleanup

Excavation



Remove waste, address any related structural/building code issues

Restoration



Backfill with clean soil, replace features such as decks and trees that had to be removed

Project on track to begin cleanup next year

With this spring's upcoming award of the contract to complete construction of the Port Hope Project Long-Term Waste Management Facility and operate the facility during remediation, the PHAI is on schedule to begin cleaning up historic low-level radioactive waste in the community next year.

In addition to the construction of three storage cells and internal waste haul roads, the new contract includes the installation and operation of vehicle weigh scales and portal monitors to track waste volumes as trucks carrying waste enter the site, as well as a decontamination station for truck traffic leaving the site. The contractor will operate the facility, with PHAI oversight, during the receipt and placement of waste from other sites in Port Hope.

Under an existing contract, construction of the first of four cells in the highly engineered aboveground storage mound is nearing completion. Work on Cell 1 began last summer and will resume – weather permitting – in late



Cell 1 excavation in fall 2016

March, following a planned shutdown over the winter months. Final compaction of the high quality clay liner will be followed by the installation of additional manufactured layers to isolate the waste from the environment, as well as a leachate collection system to direct contaminated water to the new waste water treatment plant on site.

“The PHAI remains on track to begin the cleanup in Port Hope next year,” said Bryan Tyers, Director of Project Delivery. “This is a highly complex project in which we put safety of the public, workers and the environment first, every step of the way.”

While work is underway, contractors must adhere to stringent PHAI requirements under the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission licence for the Port Hope Project. All workers receive training that includes occupational health and safety, radiation protection and safe work practices. On-site personnel in active work areas, where contaminated material is present, wear Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing such as coveralls, gloves, hard hats and eyewear. Vehicles, equipment and worker clothing are monitored and decontaminated before leaving the site.

Work on Cell 1 will resume this spring



Milestones and memories: Glenn Case retires

It wasn't surprising to anyone who knows Glenn Case that the President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission took time during a public meeting in Port Hope last November to recognize Glenn's long-standing contributions in the field of environmental and radioactive site remediation.

During a career that has spanned more than four decades, Glenn – who retires from his role as the PHAI's Senior Technical Advisor in April – has earned a reputation as the “Go-to-Guy.” He has traveled worldwide to investigate and clean up sites in South Africa, Madagascar, the Northwest Territories, Alberta, British Columbia and throughout Ontario.

In Port Hope, Glenn is now known as the face of the PHAI, having come to the area in 1976 to work on the initial cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste, after which he and his wife decided to make the town their family's home. He's very proud of his contributions to the process that took community concepts for the cleanups in Port Hope and Port Granby and turned them into reality.

Doug Chambers, Vice-President of ARCADIS, has worked with Glenn for more than 40 years, first when Glenn was a student, then a colleague, and now a client. “Glenn has always shown great dedication to ensuring his work, and that of his colleagues, is of



the highest quality,” he said.

Glenn is particularly proud of the investigative work he undertook on what would become known as the Northern Transportation Route, along which ore was transported through the Northwest Territories and Alberta on its way to the Eldorado refinery in Port Hope from the 1930s to the 1950s.

“What started out in 1991 as a contamination survey of an abandoned boat and wooden dock in Great Bear Lake led to the investigation of the 2,000 kilometre water-based route used to transport the uranium/radium ores from the mine site at Port Radium to the railhead in Fort McMurray,” Glenn said. “For the next three years I investigated the route by helicopter, fixed-wing and float plane, runabout and jet boat, ATV, car and truck to identify the 15 locations where the ore had been spilled during transit.”

Asked to describe him, Glenn's past and present colleagues use words like problem-solver, patient and accessible. Craig Hebert, General Manager, Historic Waste Program

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PHAI's
Mr. Safety



Resident awareness of PHAI and Property Radiological Survey remains high

Key findings from the 2016 PHAI Public Attitude Survey reveal that awareness of the PHAI and the Port Hope Project Property Radiological Survey remains high. The vast majority of residents – 92% – say they have “heard of the Port Hope Area Initiative,” and 91% are aware of the plans to clean up residences and other sites contaminated with low-level radioactive waste.

With the construction of Cell 1 of the storage mound well underway, 87% of respondents indicated that they are aware of plans to transport contaminated soil to the new long-term waste management facility along designated routes. When asked about confidence in the PHAI to respond to public

concerns, 80% of respondents reported being “very confident” or “somewhat confident,” an increase from 74% in 2014.

The survey also asked respondents to identify specific areas of concern, information that is used to enhance PHAI communications efforts about these topics. The random telephone survey was conducted by CCI Research Inc., an independent Canadian research firm, on behalf of the PHAI and gathered responses from 470 urban and rural Port Hope residents in the fall of 2016.

Full survey results are available at the Historic Waste Program Management Office (formerly PHAI Management Office), and the Executive Summary is posted at www.phai.ca.

Glenn Case continued from pg. 5

Management Office, adds “Mr. Safety” to that list. “Glenn sets an example at the office and on job sites everyday by living the words “Safety of the public, workers and the environment are our Number One priority.”

Sharon Pickering has worked with Glenn on the Port Hope cleanup since the 1970s. “Always the voice of reason, a strong mentor, a supportive manager, co-worker and friend, Glenn’s historic knowledge and our daily interactions with him will be missed greatly by his colleagues,” she said.

Craig Hebert echoed those sentiments. “Glenn probably knows more about the historic waste

in this area than anyone. He has big shoes to fill. However, he has made subject matter experts of everyone he has worked with and has passed on the knowledge required to help make the project a success. We thank Glenn for a job well done and wish him and his wife Cathy nothing but the best in retirement,” he said.

As for his future, Glenn plans to take that long overdue vacation, beginning with a visit to the East Coast for Canada’s 150th birthday. Although next year will mark Glenn’s 40-year anniversary with the Port Hope Fire Department, he’s not leaving that post quite yet. “I will still have those important responsibilities to keep me busy.”



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