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SURVEY RESULTS HIGHLIGHT CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN PORT HOPE WASTE CLEANUP

Port Hope, ON. January 26, 2011 – Port Hope residents continue to show a high degree of confidence regarding the management of the cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste in their community. This is one of the key findings in the ninth annual Public Attitude Survey conducted recently on behalf of the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO).

The survey, conducted by Intellipulse Marketing, involved more than 350 local residents who were contacted by telephone in the first two weeks of November. Participants were asked questions aimed at finding out their level of knowledge about efforts to clean up and manage the historic low-level radioactive waste and their level of confidence that this work can be done safely. The survey questions remain largely consistent with previous years to allow for year-over-year comparisons.

“We’re grateful to those local residents who, when contacted, agreed to take part in our survey,” says Bob Neufeld, Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Relations. “The information they’ve provided will help inform the way we communicate with the public about our activities.”

Interesting findings from the 2010 survey include:

- 88 percent –the highest percentage recorded since surveying began– are aware of the Port Hope Area Initiative;
- 81 percent of those questioned expressed confidence that Port Hope’s waste can be successfully managed for the long-term at the new waste management facility. (This compares with 78 percent in 2009);
- 93 percent are satisfied with their quality of life in Port Hope, virtually unchanged from the previous year; and
- 76 percent of those questioned rarely or never think about the presence of low-level radioactive waste in their community. This is virtually the same result as was recorded in 2009.

An executive summary of this and previous years’ survey results are posted on the PHAI’s website at www.phai.ca. Copies of the full surveys are available at the Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road in Port Hope.

The Port Hope Area Initiative is dedicated to the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

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