

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Dr. Powers School Redevelopment Spurs Further Radiological Investigations

Port Hope, Ont. (September 16, 2010) – Extensive investigations have been carried out through the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office's (LLRWMO) Construction Monitoring Program (CMP) at the former Dr. L. B. Powers School. Analysis of all soil samples collected from boreholes drilled under the building showed concentrations well below the LLRWMO CMP and Port Hope Area Initiative cleanup criterion of 0.29 Bq/g for Radium-226 and confirmed that the building is safe for all uses.

The property of the former Dr. Powers School at 64 Ward Street is being redeveloped by the TVM Group and Habitat for Humanity. The renovation of the old school building triggered the radiological testing at the school building site, which is normal procedure under the Construction Monitoring Program. The LLRWMO operates the program in cooperation with the Municipality of Port Hope. The LLRWMO retained the services of MMM Group Limited in May 2010 to undertake an investigation which involved drilling 42 boreholes to sample soil for Radium-226 under the building and within three metres around the perimeter.

Gamma radiation readings were collected from surface level to a depth of three metres (9.8 feet) in each borehole. Through this sub-surface testing, a small amount of historic low-level radioactive waste was identified some 30 cm (one foot) below the ground at the exterior of the building's northwest corner. Further testing showed that the waste material is covered by clean soil and, therefore, does not present a health risk. This contaminated soil will be excavated and transported to the Pine Street North Extension Temporary Storage Site under the supervision of the LLRWMO as development proceeds.

Under the CMP, soil testing will continue on the property as required to permit the TVM and Habitat for Humanity developments to proceed. Any portion of the 64 Ward Street property not included in the CMP investigations will be surveyed during Phase 2 of the Port Hope Area Initiative.

The former Dr. Powers School was the subject of numerous radon gas investigations dating back to the mid 1970s. Previous test results showed that radon levels in occupied areas of the school met Health Canada criteria for safe occupancy.

See the accompanying Backgrounder and Fact Sheet for a complete list of the investigations and their findings.

ABOUT THE PHAI MO

The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is responsible to carry out 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, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

For more information, please contact:

Stakeholder Relations and Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
(905) 885-0291
info@phai.ca