



## **AECL seeks licence amendment for Port Hope Project**

**Port Hope, Ontario (October 24, 2012)** – At a public hearing held in Ottawa today, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) presented its application before the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to amend its current Port Hope Project licence and authorize the remediation and construction activities required to complete the Project over the next 10 years.

“Our presentation outlined how the dedicated team at the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is well prepared to implement Phase 2 of this Project,” said Joan Miller, AECL’s Vice President and General Manager, Decommissioning and Waste Management. “AECL presented in detail the diligence of its environmental protection plans, the best-available technologies incorporated into the design of the long-term waste management facility, and how the remediation of properties will be conducted to assure public safety,” Ms. Miller said.

The one-day public hearing was held to consider the removal of the hold points in AECL’s current licence and to extend the term of the licence to December 2022. In defending its application, PHAI MO General Manager Christine Fahey told the Commission that the Project has made significant progress since the CNSC granted the licence in 2009. In the last three years, the PHAI MO has assumed responsibility for the operation of the existing Welcome Waste Management Facility, completed detailed designs and remediation plans, constructed a dedicated access road to the new long-term facility site and begun the radiological survey of public and private properties in Port Hope. AECL has also completed all of the required compliance and technical documents, ranging from occupational health and safety to radiation protection and emergency plans, while continuing to extensively engage the Municipality of Port Hope and the community at large.

“This hearing marks a pivotal point in our efforts to implement a safe, long-term solution to the management of the historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope,” said Ms. Fahey. “We are ready to proceed with the construction and clean-up phase – keeping health, safety and the environment as our top priorities.”

The CNSC will now consider the AECL and CNSC staff submissions, as well as 37 written interventions that were provided by the public – the majority in support of the Project. A decision is expected within 45 days.

## **ABOUT THE PHAI**

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental clean-up program. Its mandate is the remediation and local, long-term, safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and Port Granby. The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is a federal partnership between Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada that was created to carry out these projects.

## **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 the waste, the cleanup of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, and long-term maintenance and monitoring of the facility.

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