PORT HOPE AREA INITIATIVE

Port Granby Project NEWS

SPRING 2018

Restoration of waste site begins as cleanup progresses

The process is underway to restore the Lake Ontario shoreline site where historic low-level radioactive waste has been contained for the last half-century.

With over half of the 450,000 cubic metres of historic waste excavated and safely transferred to the Port Granby Project's new engineered aboveground mound for long-term storage, previously contaminated areas of the legacy site are now being backfilled with clean soil. Prior to the backfilling, the areas had undergone intensive soil testing to ensure stringent PHAI Clean-up Criteria had been met.

"The soil testing is a critical step in the clean-up process," said Bryan Tyers, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) Director of PHAI Project Delivery. "We will test each area of the legacy site, as the remaining waste is removed, to verify that the site meets the agreed-upon criteria."

Following completion of waste movement, scheduled to happen later this year, the installation of the mound cover system will begin at the new Long-Term Waste Management Facility. The multi-layered cover system is constructed with natural and manufactured materials and is designed to isolate the waste from the environment.

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The placement of historic waste in the engineered mound is on track for completion this year.

"As we continue to move closer to completing the solution to this long-standing environmental issue, the safety of workers and the public will remain our top priority." said Tyers. "We have been able to advance the project schedule without compromising safety, and that has been the goal of everyone working on this project."

CNL is undertaking the Port Granby Project on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation. The historic waste at the legacy site is the result of past uranium refining and processing operations of the former Eldorado Nuclear Limited.

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories | Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens

Proven technology ensures cleanup meets stringent requirements for Lake Ontario site

The PHAI Clean-up Criteria were developed in consultation with scientific specialists, federal and provincial government agencies, the host municipalities and members of the public. The criteria establish the levels to which each contaminant found in soil will be cleaned up.

Here's a look at some of the techniques being used to meet the clean-up criteria and restore the Lake Ontario shoreline site, which includes a variety of chemical waste, industrial refuse and contaminated soil.

Track-mounted vehicles equipped with ScanPlot technology are used to scan remediated areas of the legacy waste management facility for gamma radiation. The units capture GPS locations of any areas where gamma readings are detected. The results provides an indication if remediation has been completed in specific portions of the site or if further excavation is required to meet PHAI Clean-up Criteria.

Walkover surveys are conducted on an ongoing basis as areas of the site are remediated. Trained specialists operate the scanning equipment, which looks for indications of remaining contaminants from historic low-level waste. Soil sampling is the final step in the process to verify that the remediated area meets PHAI Clean-up Criteria.

Clean soil is delivered to remediated areas of the site along designated clean internal haul roads. Articulated rock trucks place the clean fill, in a controlled manner, for spreading and grading. Remediated areas of the site are separated by physical barriers from future excavation zones to prevent cross-contamination.

Managing water remains top priority during wet season

Successfully managing and treating waste water during the construction phase of the Port Granby Project is a critical aspect of the project's enhanced protection of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. PHAI water management plans have been enhanced to address the increased potential for extreme weather events, applying the lessons learned from the exceptionally wet conditions experienced last summer.

As a result, CNL has been steadily increasing water storage capacity on site over the last six months. Measures taken include the installation of four large "lake tanks" (*right*) and a number of smaller tanks (*below*) to store water and direct it to the Waste Water Treatment Plant on site for treatment.

"As the project evolves, we continue to adapt and respond to changing conditions," said Mark Galanter, CNL's Port Granby Project Manager. "The steps we are taking to control and direct water on our licensed sites are about prevention. This is how we are meeting our overriding goal to ensure the environment is protected every single day."

PHAI announces 2018 Port Granby Project CLG

CNL has named its 2018 PHAI Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group (CLG), after a public recruitment campaign.

Newly appointed members Gordon Whealy and Susan Clearwater join four returning CLG members. The volunteer group is part of the PHAI Public Information Program and provides CNL with community perspectives on the cleanup and safe long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Granby.

"We are pleased to see the ongoing interest in the CLG and look forward to working with our new and returning members as they provide input that will benefit the community and the PHAI," said Alex Mahabir, CNL Communications Manager. "We would also like to recognize and thank outgoing members Ken Hargreaves and Bonnie Wrightman for their valuable contributions to the CLG."

The 2018 term is set to kick off on March 28 with an orientation session for new members, including a project site tour, presentations and discussions about the role of the CLG. In addition, two meetings of the volunteer group will be held this year.

PHAI Engagement – by the numbers...

93 Public Engagement Activities in 2017

CNL responded to requests for information on planning, design, implementation and environmental monitoring of the Port Hope and Port Granby projects. In 2017, more than 2,300 public interactions took place in person, at the Project Information Exchange and by phone, email and letter.

2,364

46,691

The PHAI website and social media feeds provide 24/7 access to up-to-date, accurate project information. In 2017, there were almost 47,000 visits to the website and 50,000 views on Facebook.

Port Hope Area Initiative

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