



Public information office, PVP move downtown

The Port Hope Area Initiative Project Information Exchange (PIE) and Property Value Protection (PVP) Program have joined the Port Hope Area Initiative Project office at its 5 Mill Street South location in downtown Port Hope.

The public is invited to drop by the office, located at the foot of Walton Street, to talk with staff or pick up information about the Port Hope and Port Granby projects.

Recently released project information includes the Port Hope Project licence related documents and the

newly issued Port Granby Project Environmental Assessment (EA) Screening Report. The public can also review Port Hope health studies, the Port Hope Project EA and the federal Public Registry, which records public comments to the federal authorities.

The office is open Monday through Friday, however, if you can't visit us in person, please feel free to contact us at:

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Port Hope Area Initiative

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The PIE is
on the move
see page 8

News



Port Hope Chamber of Commerce president Jeanine Huffman (second from left) speaks in support of the Project at the CNSC hearing in Port Hope Aug. 26. To her right are the project team and CNSC staff.

CNSC licenses Port Hope Project!

It's on to the detailed design phase!

On October 16, 2009, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) granted Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) a five-year licence to undertake the Port Hope Project.

This important decision means the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) can now move closer to actual construction of the long-term low-level radioactive waste management facility and cleanup of contaminated sites in Port Hope.

The CNSC decision came after a public hearing in Port Hope on August 26-27, 2009. The Commission considered more than 100 oral and written interventions submitted by Port Hope and area residents, with the overwhelming majority supporting the licence application.

"The licence decision is an important step forward for both the community and the Port Hope Project," said Christine Fahey, PHAI Project Director. "It allows us to move ahead with not only the development of the design of the new facility, but also with a number of other activities that will help move the Project towards the goal of remediating and ensuring the safe long-term storage of historic low-level waste."

For details on what will happen next, see page 3.

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PHAI MO named lead federal agency for the Port Hope Area Initiative

Responsibility for management of the Port Hope Area Initiative is now in the hands of a new organization – the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO).

The PHAI MO continues on from the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO), which managed the Port Hope Area Initiative from 2001 until this past winter.

The PHAI MO management team draws from a depth of experience and expertise needed to lead the Port Hope Project and Port Granby Project through the next phases by bringing together the combined resources of Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) and Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC). NRCAN sponsors the Project and provides the funding, AECL manages the Port Hope and Port Granby projects and regulatory processes and PWGSC tenders and manages the major contracts.

Over the next several months, the PHAI MO Port Hope office will grow, as it adds staff to assume the increased activities associated with the Port Hope Project. These activities include advancing the detailed design, environmental follow-up programs and preconstruction planning.



Port Hope Project management team (seated): Andy Choate, Christine Fahey (back left to right) Jim Walker, Glenn Case, Bob Neufeld. Missing from this photo are Joe Grossi and Marcia Blanchette.

Members of the PHAI MO Management Team are:

- Christine Fahey – Director, PHAI MO
- Glenn Case – Manager, Project Engineering
- Jim Walker – Manager, Regulatory Affairs
- Andrew Choate – Manager, Planning, Control & Operations
- Bob Neufeld – Manager, Stakeholder Relations & Communications
- Joe Grossi – Major Contracts Program Manager
- Marcia Blanchette - Client Advisor

The PHAI MO office is located at 5 Mill Street South in Port Hope. The LLRWMO still operates from 196 Toronto Road in Port Hope and will continue to provide Interim Waste Management Programs, including environmental and construction monitoring and radiological status letters.

What Happens Next?

Many Port Hope and area residents are asking “What happens next?” in the wake of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission’s decision to grant a licence for the Port Hope Project.

The short answer is lots - including preparation for construction and cleanup, environmental and regulatory work and community consultation.

Glenn Case, Manager of Project Engineering, says that from a technical perspective, much of the focus for the Port Hope Project over the next 18 months to two years will centre on the scheduling, costing, engineering and tendering necessary to prepare for the project construction phase. This includes preparations to have the

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Monitoring, tracking and minimizing project effects

Build on the past but focus on the future. This was a message from community representatives who attended a PHAI-sponsored workshop on developing a plan that will guide the Port Hope Project to ensure effects of the Project on the social and economic environment are monitored, tracked and minimized.

The work is part of the follow-up to the Port Hope Project Environmental Assessment and will look at minimizing effects on the community’s way of life by focusing on areas such as real estate, traffic and transportation services, tourism and culture. The plan will also address potential project effects on traditional land uses as well as heritage and archaeological resources.



Mark Peacock of the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority: “Our group focused on transparency, promotion and local economic stimulus.”

The September 23 workshop was the first in a series of sessions organized by the MMM Group, which has been hired by the PHAI MO to develop the program by first gathering the opinions of the local community. Open communications, transparency and community consultation were key project aspects that must be continued, according to workshop participants.

Additional workshops will engage citizens more specifically on how effects on the social and economic environment will be monitored and reported to Port Hope citizens and other stakeholders. Similar plans for tracking and managing the project’s effects on the natural environment will be developed during the next year.



Consulting residents



Monitoring weather patterns



Atmospheric monitoring



Checking harbour walls and sediment



Assessing recreational effects

EA follow-up helps move Project forward

Confirming the Port Hope Project Environmental Assessment's predicted effects on the environment is the job of the EA follow-up program. Now, with the Project moving ever closer to the construction phase, this work has begun.

As the pictures on these pages show, the follow-up programs will update baseline data on all aspects of the environment including the quality of the air, water, groundwater, soil, sediment and vegetation. Data from environmental monitoring will be used to evaluate effects on the health and safety of workers and the public.

Currently, the Port Hope Area Initiative is consulting the community about follow-up plans to monitor project effects on the community's way of life (socio-economic environment) — see story page 3. Next, the Project will develop follow-up plans to monitor the physical environment (air, water, soil, vegetation and wildlife) including human health and safety.

Current follow-up activities include an archaeological survey at the new facility site, additional studies on Sculthorpe Marsh and other activities designated in the Screening Report.



Surface water monitoring



Monitoring traffic impacts



Vegetation and wildlife monitoring



Predicting project effects on tourism, commerce and community enjoyment



Considering heritage resources

You asked?

Will local companies be able to compete for government contracts for the Port Hope Project?

Yes. The PHAI MO will handle contracts for design and construction of the Port Hope Project, and local companies will be given every opportunity to bid. On November 25th, the Port Hope Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the PHAI MO, organized a supplier seminar that was delivered by the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME). The seminar outlined how local companies

can participate in the Project and other federal contracts. More information sessions for businesses and contractors are planned over the next two years. To learn more about the Government of Canada's contracting opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses, call the OSME Ontario Region Office at 1-800-668-5378, visit www.contractsCanada.gc.ca and watch www.phai.ca for updated details.

What will be done to keep dust and other contaminants from becoming airborne during the cleanup?

Stringent dust control measures will be required during the cleanup and

transportation of the waste. Excavation areas will be kept as small as possible, and soil and unpaved roads will be kept moist to prevent dust. Water will be captured and treated. Fences and other barriers will also be installed where necessary, and work will be suspended during periods of bad weather. To ensure the safe transportation of the waste, all trucks will be tightly covered, cleaned and monitored before leaving work sites. Throughout the construction, environmental monitoring will be conducted to detect and assess any changes in air quality and provide for early action if the need arises.

Have enough studies on the health of Port Hope residents been conducted by the government authorities?

The health of Port Hope residents has been studied extensively over the past several decades. In April 2009, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) released its Health Synthesis Report, which looked at the results of more than 40 environmental and epidemiological studies on the health of local residents. The CNSC concluded "no health effects have been identified in Port Hope as a result of the operations of the nuclear industry in the community." The study can be found at the CNSC Web site at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca.



What Happens Next? *continued from page 3*

Government of Canada assume responsibility for the existing Welcome Waste Management Facility, which is currently operated by Cameco Corporation.

"We've got a lot on our plate in the coming months," says Case. "These actions bring us one step closer to our ultimate goal, which is the successful remediation and the safe long-term storage of the historic low-level radioactive waste."

Activities underway this fall include tree planting along the future access road from Toronto Road to the new facility site, dismantling of obsolete buildings adjacent to 196 Toronto Road and contracting of the detailed design for the new facility.

For updated information on the Port Hope and Port Granby projects, please visit the PHAI Web site at www.phai.ca.

PVP working behind the scenes

The overwhelming majority of houses sell normally in Port Hope, without any impacts caused by the Port Hope Area Initiative. But when a property shows signs of a project effect, the Property Value Protection (PVP) Program can help.

Sellers or Realtors typically contact the PVP Program when a property located close to a clean-up site, the future long-term waste management facility or along a project transportation route takes longer to sell than expected. PVP Program staff works closely with owners by offering tools to facilitate the sale and provide compensation if the property ultimately sells for less than its *unaffected* fair market value, that is, what the property would sell for if the Port Hope Project did not exist.

By engaging an independent certified appraisal on the owners' behalf, the PVP



Program can confirm that the property is competitively priced. The appraised value also gives the owners a good idea about how much compensation they might receive if they file a claim with the PVP Program once the house sells.

Selling a house doesn't happen overnight, but the PVP Program has experience in helping owners and Realtors meet with success. If you would like to know more about the PVP Program, please phone 905-885-0291 or visit our Web site at www.phai.ca.