

## **Licence Amendment Granted for the Port Hope Project**

**Port Hope, Ontario (November 15, 2012)** – An amendment to the Port Hope Project licence was issued today by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), authorizing the remediation and construction activities required to safely clean up the historic low-level radioactive waste in the community. The CNSC decision on Atomic Energy of Canada Limited’s (AECL) application lifts the hold point in the licence that was originally issued in 2009 and extends its term through December 31, 2022. It follows a public hearing on AECL’s application that was held on October 24, 2012.

“The amended licence, together with federal funding approval announced at the beginning of 2012, will allow us to move forward in cleaning up the environment,” said Christine Fahey, General Manager for the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office. “The municipality and its residents strongly support the Port Hope Project, and we are pleased to have secured the final regulatory authorization needed to proceed.”

In delivering its decision, the Commission said that “AECL is qualified to carry on the activities that the licence will authorize” and will make “adequate provision for the protection of the environment and the health and safety of persons.”

At the October hearing, AECL presented the detailed designs that feature best-available technologies and incorporate global experience, as well as the plans that will assure the protection of health, safety and the environment. Ms. Fahey also highlighted the significant progress the Project has made since the CNSC granted the initial licence.

In making its decision, the CNSC considered submissions from AECL and CNSC staff, as well as 36 written interventions that were provided by the public – the majority in support of the Project.

“This decision marks a pivotal point in our efforts to implement a safe, long-term solution to the management of the waste in Port Hope and we appreciate the responsibility the CNSC has vested in us,” Ms. Fahey said.

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### **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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