



PORT HOPE AREA
INITIATIVE

Public Attitude Research Regarding the Port Hope Area Initiative

Port Hope Project

Wave 4

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington each have a legal agreement with the federal government to complete the cleanup and safe long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste and, in the case of Port Hope, some industrial wastes. The proposed projects include engineering and environmental assessment studies, public consultation, a property value protection program, compensation to municipalities, construction of facilities, and ongoing monitoring. The Port Hope Project is part of the Port Hope Area Initiative and is being conducted on behalf of the federal government by the Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Office.

After twenty months of study and community consultation, the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office has recommended the relocation of all the Port Hope waste to one new modern waste management facility located just south of Hwy 401 and west of Baulch Rd.

As part of the Port Hope Area Initiative, the Low Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO) has commissioned periodic public attitude research to monitor public awareness of the PHAI, identify issues and concerns, determine communications needs of the public, and provide data regarding public attitudes and behaviours. This report presents the findings of a fourth wave (W4) of telephone surveying carried out among the general public in Wards 1 and 2 of Port Hope during October 2005. The first wave (W1) was undertaken among area residents in February 2002, the second (W2) in April 2003, and the third (W3) in May 2004.

Key findings from the 2005 survey include:

- Over three-quarters of respondents claim to know at least something about the presence of low-level radioactive waste (79%) in their community. However, living in a community dealing with radioactive waste management facilities is not something people dwell upon. Over seven-in-ten respondents (71%) either 'never' or 'not very often' think about this fact. (Tables 4.1-1 and 4.2-2)
- A majority of respondents are aware of the Port Hope Area Initiative (82%), the Highland Drive Temporary Storage Site (75%), Welcome Waste Management Project (71%), and the Port Hope Project (69%). Slightly fewer respondents, however, are aware of Project details:
 - ◆ Two thirds (66%) are familiar with the various studies carried out over the past three years to determine the most appropriate ways to clean up the low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope.
 - ◆ Almost half (47%) have heard of the Property Value Protection program. Eighty-three percent (83%) believe that the program "completely" or "somewhat" protects residents against losses in property value. The ways in which residents believe they may not be protected by this program include: it doesn't fully cover the property value (10%), a lack of awareness of the program (8%), and it doesn't cover everyone (8%). (Tables 4.3-1, 4.3-3, 4.3-7, 4.3-8)

- As in previous years, topics related to radiation remain the most frequently mentioned issue facing the community (29%) comprised of: radioactive waste (19%), relocation of the low-level radioactive waste (2%), and radioactivity / radiation without attributing a source (8%). A similar percentage (29%) name the presence of radioactive waste as something that negatively affects the community's image, and 10% volunteer it as the community characteristic they like the least. (Tables 3.2, 3.3-1, 3.3-3)
- About two-thirds of the respondents (62%) provide a "very good" or "good" assessment of the manner in which the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office is addressing questions about its activities, with assessments improving significantly over time. Respondents who are able to assess the various studies are satisfied with accessibility of the information (81% satisfied) and the manner in which they were able to provide input (78%), and believe that community input was considered at least "partially" in the conclusions (85%). (Tables 6.1-1, 4.3-4, 4.3-5, 4.3-6)
- Respondents were asked about the information they receive about the PHAI:
 - ♦ The most frequent method of receiving information about the project is from brochures / newsletters mailed to them (35% up from 14% in 2002), and
 - ♦ 68% are familiar with the Port Hope Project newsletter, and of these people 35% "always" and 44% "sometimes" read it.
 - ♦ LLRWMO staff (20%) or consultants and independent qualified scientists (24%) are most frequently cited as the most accurate and complete sources of information. (Tables 6.1-3, 6.1-4, 6.2-1)
- Brochures / newsletters mailed to them (56%) continue to be the preferred sources of information about the Port Hope Initiative. (Table 6.2-2)
- Three-quarters (73%) are at least "somewhat" confident that the waste can be safely managed at the recommended facility for the long term. The issues of most concern are transporting the waste (16%) and public safety / health (12%). Keeping the public informed (28%) and facility management issues (18%) are key issues that would assist in improving confidence. (Table 5.1-1, 5.2-1, 5.2-2)
- Satisfaction with living in the community is high, with 63% expressing the highest level of satisfaction, "very satisfied". (Table 3.1)

2 INTRODUCTION

The Municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington each have a legal agreement with the federal government to complete the cleanup and safe long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste, slightly contaminated soils and, in the case of Port Hope, some industrial wastes. The proposed projects include engineering and environmental assessment studies, public consultation, a property value protection program, compensation to municipalities, construction of facilities, and ongoing monitoring. The Port Hope Project is part of the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) and is being conducted on behalf of the federal government by the Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Office.

As part of the Port Hope Area Initiative, the Low Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO) has commissioned periodic public attitude research to monitor public awareness of the PHAI, identify issues and concerns, determine communications needs of the public, and provide data regarding public attitudes and behaviours to be used as part of the socio-economic impact assessment of the projects. Prior to this fourth wave (W4) of surveying commencing, Port Hope and Ward 4 Clarington residents had been sent a Newsletter outlining the recommendation to relocate the Port Hope and Port Granby waste to two facilities, one in each community, and there had been coverage of the recommendation in the local media. In the case of Port Hope after twenty months of study and community consultation, the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office has recommended the relocation of all the Port Hope waste to one new modern waste management facility located just south of Hwy 401 and west of Baulch Rd.

Two separate reports of the survey results were prepared, one for the Port Hope Project and one for the Port Granby Project (Clarington). This report presents the findings of the fourth wave telephone survey carried out among the general public in Wards 1 and 2 in Port Hope during October 2005. The first wave (W1) was undertaken among area residents in February 2002, the second (W2) in April 2003, and the third (W3) in May 2004.

The primary objectives of the current wave of research were to:

- Identify area residents' attitudes towards and perceptions of their community including: major issues facing their community, things or issues that most negatively affect the image of the community, and what they like most and least about their community;
- Identify levels of knowledge about the presence of low-level radioactive waste in their community;
- Assess levels of familiarity with, and attitudes toward the various PHAI programs and the Port Hope Project studies and findings;
- Gauge people's confidence in the ability of the PHAI to safely manage the waste at a location specifically designed for that purpose over the long-term;

- Determine the main concerns people have with the PHAI and the actions that can be taken to make them more confident about the safety of the facility;
- Identify awareness and assessments of the Property Value Protection Program;
- Gauge the success of the LLRWMO in addressing questions people have about its activities;
- Examine communications needs including the most accurate, complete and preferred sources of information, familiarity with the Port Hope Project Newsletter; and
- Identify changes in knowledge, attitudes and information needs regarding low-level radioactive waste and the PHAI over the past four years.

A questionnaire was developed for telephone administration that took approximately 15 minutes to administer and contained 30 questions, including 7 open-ended questions. A copy of the questionnaire is included in the Technical Appendix. Only adult resident 18 years of age or older qualified for the survey. The sample was evenly split between men and women.

A total of 351 interviews were completed in Port Hope during the period October 15 - 20, 2005. The sample was drawn disproportionate to the population distribution such that 251 interviews were completed in Ward 1 Port Hope, and 100 were completed in Ward 2 Port Hope. The confidence interval for 251 interviews is $\pm 6.3\%$, 19 times out of 20 (also referred to as the 95% significance level), and for 100 interviews is $\pm 10\%$. The weighted sample of 351 for the Municipality of Port Hope yields results that are accurate within $\pm 5.4\%$, 19 out of 20 times. The Technical Appendix contains the sample details.

The analysis examined the data to determine whether there were differences between two or more samples or respondent segments:

- The independent z-test was used to determine significant differences between two or more samples for the 2005 data. This included a determination of whether there were significant differences between Ward 1 and Ward 2. The significance level of 95% was used. The report notes when there are significant differences.
- The same statistic was used to determine whether there are difference for the total Port Hope sample and the Ward 1 and Ward 2 samples over time. Two significance levels were used –
 - ◆ 95%. Where there are significant differences at the 95% level, these changes in percent are reported as a "significant difference".
 - ◆ 90%. This significance level is less stringent than the 95% level and hence the conclusion of a significant difference over time is more prone to error. Percentage changes at this lower level of 90% are noted as "directional"