

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Port Hope Property Radiological Survey starts this summer**

**Port Hope, Ontario (May 7, 2012)** – The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is set to begin the first phase of the Port Hope property radiological survey to check for the presence of historic low-level radioactive waste at all properties in Ward 1 Port Hope and select properties in Ward 2. The extensive testing will be done in phases, starting this summer with 450 properties in six different areas of Ward 1.

To explain how and why this work will be done, the PHAI Management Office is hosting information sessions on Saturday, May 12, at the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit at 200 Rose Glen Road, Port Hope (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and Wednesday, May 16, at the Port Hope Lions Recreation Centre, 29 Thomas Street, Port Hope (2 p.m. – 8 p.m.). PHAI technical specialists will be available to answer questions and provide detailed information about the survey.

“We are committed to ensuring residents are well informed about the process because we need to work together to make it successful,” said Walter van Veen, Port Hope Project Director. “When it’s all said and done, the people of Port Hope will have peace of mind that every property has been carefully tested and – if necessary – cleaned up, once and for all.”

Property owners in the six selected areas will receive information in the mail about the radiological testing including a Property Survey Access Consent Form that will permit the PHAI to conduct investigative work on the property. Owners must review, sign and return the consent form to the PHAI by May 25 so appointments to visit the property can be scheduled. For each property, several visits will be required to complete the necessary work.

Although the survey program is getting underway this year, the removal of historic low-level radioactive waste at sites in Port Hope will not begin until 2015 when the long-term waste management facility is ready to receive waste.

Over the next five years, homes, buildings and parcels of land will be tested for indoor radon and indoor and outdoor gamma radiation using highly sensitive and sophisticated equipment. Soil samples will also be taken. The survey will identify which properties will require cleanup of low-level radioactive waste. For those requiring cleanup, the investigations will permit the PHAI to plan the work on a property-by-property basis. For those not requiring cleanup, it will permit the PHAI to notify these property owners that their property meets the PHAI clean-up criteria and will require no further investigations.

Of the approximately 4,800 properties to be surveyed, about 10 per cent are expected to need some degree of cleanup. This could range from a small amount of contaminated soil to a more extensive exterior cleanup or the removal of contaminated building materials from inside a house.

## **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.

For more information, please contact:

Communications & Stakeholder Relations

905.885.0291

[info@phai.ca](mailto:info@phai.ca)