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SCREENING REPORT

The Port Hope Long-Term Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Project

December 2006

Canada

SCREENING REPORT – PORT HOPE PROJECT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This screening report contains the findings and conclusions of the federal responsible authorities on the environmental assessment of the Port Hope Long-Term Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Project (the Port Hope Project). The responsible authorities for the assessment are Natural Resources Canada, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The screening report is based on information provided in the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office's Port Hope Project Environmental Assessment Study Report and its supporting documents, and the analysis of the information by federal technical reviewers.

The federal environmental assessment of the Port Hope Project was initiated in late 2001 and the scope of the assessment was released in July 2002. The environmental assessment is a screening under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* but the assessment has been scoped by the federal responsible authorities to include the same factors as a comprehensive study.

The Port Hope Project is a Government of Canada project based on local community concepts developed by the former Town of Port Hope and the former Township of Hope, now amalgamated as the Municipality of Port Hope. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office is the designated project proponent on behalf of Canada. The project involves the cleanup of sites contaminated with low-level radioactive waste and specified industrial wastes in the Municipality of Port Hope and transportation of the wastes by truck for consolidation in a single long-term waste management facility. The new facility would be located at the site of the existing Welcome Waste Management Facility in Ward 2 of the Municipality. Contingent on receiving the necessary government approvals, it is expected that proposed project construction would be completed in 2013, followed by a long-term monitoring and maintenance phase.

The environmental assessment of the Port Hope Project considered the environmental effects predicted to occur as a result of the project and measures to mitigate adverse effects. It then evaluated the significance of the predicted residual, or remaining, adverse effects once mitigation had been applied. Environmental effects of the project were considered for the following environmental components: atmospheric; geological and groundwater; aquatic; terrestrial; socio-economic; Aboriginal interests; human health and safety; accidents and malfunctions; and cumulative effects. The assessment has also considered alternative means of carrying out the project, and the effects of the environment on the project.

The environmental assessment predicts that overall the Port Hope Project would result in many environmental benefits. The project is predicted to cause adverse effects in some components of the environment although application of mitigation measures would largely address the effects. Minor residual adverse effects, however, are predicted to occur during the construction phase for some aspects of the socio-economic environment and with respect to human health, the latter **resulting from project-related changes to people's feelings of well being.**

The responsible authorities have concluded that the Port Hope Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. The responsible authorities also consider that a follow-up program would be needed for the Port Hope Project and have identified the preliminary requirements for development of such a program.