



# Historic Artefact Recovery Program

## What is the Historic Artefact Recovery Program?

The Historic Artefact Recovery Program (HARP) is operated by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). The HARP provides technical advice, assistance, identification and management of radioactive artefacts found on public and private properties across Canada. Where necessary, the artefacts are transported to a licensed long-term storage facility located at CNL's Chalk River Laboratories in Chalk River, Ontario.

## What is a Historic Radioactive Artefact?

Historic radioactive artefacts are radioactive materials or products manufactured until the 1960s, prior to regulatory control of nuclear materials in Canada, which contain radium, uranium or thorium. These artefacts typically include radium-bearing dials, gauges, compasses, static eliminators and smoke detectors, thorium lamp mantles and coated camera lenses, uranium glazed ceramics or glassware and uranium ore samples.

Examples of Historic Artefacts:



Radium Luminous Dials

Radium Luminous Timepieces

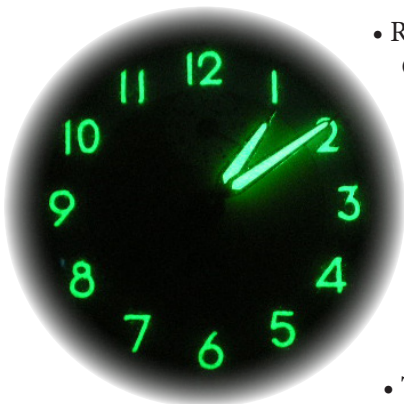
Thorium coated Aerial Camera Lens

Radium dials/gauges (Instrument panel)

Radium Static Eliminator

Request for advice or information about historic radioactive artefacts come from various sources including members of the public, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and other regulators, all levels of government, consultants, schools, museums, metal recyclers and landfill operators across Canada.

CNL has been asked to investigate historic artefacts such as:



- Radium luminous dials from the Canadian Museum of Flight in Langley, British Columbia
- Radium luminous deck markers from the Municipality of the District of Chester, Nova Scotia
- Radium luminous gauges and dials collected from a metal recycling facility in Contrecoeur, Quebec
- Thorium-coated lenses from aerial cameras at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, Ontario

# What is involved in the HARP process?

CNL follows a multi-step process to identify, recover and place radioactive artefacts into safe, long-term management:

**Step 1** – A requester contacts CNL to have an item assessed to determine if it does or does not qualify for recovery under HARP. This determination may be made immediately or may require further investigation.



**Step 2** – If further investigation is required, CNL asks the requester for additional detailed information about the item. Providing CNL with photographs of the item is very helpful in determining qualification. If a preliminary assessment confirms that the artefact is eligible for consideration under HARP, CNL asks for the requester's contact information and the location of the artefact.



**Step 3** – CNL arranges for a qualified contractor to conduct a further on-site assessment. If the assessment indicates that the artefact qualifies under HARP, the contractor identifies the radiological characteristics of the artefact and prepares it for shipment.



**Step 4** – Following Transport Canada's Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, the CNL contractor arranges for the safe transport of the artefact to a licensed long-term storage facility located at CNL's Chalk River Laboratories, Chalk River, Ontario.

---

For more information about historic radioactive artefacts and their recovery, please contact CNL at:

## Historic Waste Program Management Office

25 Henderson Street, Port Hope, ON L1A 0C6 • 905.885.0291 • [nationalprograms@cnl.ca](mailto:nationalprograms@cnl.ca)

Visit our website at [www.phai.ca/phai/national-programs/](http://www.phai.ca/phai/national-programs/)

For information on Radium Luminous Devices, please visit the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission website: [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca)



Canadian Nuclear  
Laboratories

Laboratoires Nucléaires  
Canadiens