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# **SCREENING REPORT**

## **The Port Granby Long-Term Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Project**

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Canada

# SCREENING REPORT – PORT GRANBY PROJECT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The federal environmental assessment of the Port Granby 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 Granby Project is a Government of Canada project based on local community concepts developed by the Municipality of Clarington. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office is the designated project proponent on behalf of Canada. The project involves the cleanup of the current low-level radioactive waste management facility. The waste would be transferred to a new facility that would be located just north of the current facility on land presently owned by Cameco Corporation. Contingent on receiving the necessary government approvals, it is expected that the proposed project construction would be completed in 2017 and would be followed by a long-term Monitoring and Maintenance Phase.

The environmental assessment of the Port Granby Project considered the environmental effects predicted to occur as a result of the project as well as measures to mitigate the 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 Granby 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 those 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 the feelings of well-being of members of the public.

The responsible authorities have concluded that the Port Granby 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 Granby Project and have identified the preliminary requirements for development of such a program.