

Port Granby Project Complete



With the capping and closure of the engineered aboveground storage mound at the Port Granby Long-Term Waste Management Facility, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) has completed one of the two projects under the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI). This significant milestone includes the safe removal, transportation and storage of over 1.3 million tonnes of low-level radioactive waste in the hamlet of Port Granby.

The last layers of topsoil and grass were placed on the storage mound in September 2021, following the final transfer of the waste excavated from the Lake Ontario shoreline in Southeast Clarington to the engineered facility almost a year before in November 2020.

“This challenging and complex project, the first of its kind in Canada, could not have happened without the collaboration, problem solving, and technical expertise of our municipal partners, contractors and staff,” said Joe McBrearty, CNL President and CEO.

Construction of the storage mound began in 2016 and involved the installation of multi-layered base liner and cover systems to safely isolate the waste from the environment. The contaminated soil and industrial waste that had been located on an unstable site on the shoreline of Lake Ontario for decades is now in safe, long-term storage where it is being carefully monitored as part of Phase 3 activities.

“Dedicated systems within the mound and around the perimeter of the facility will allow maintenance and monitoring of the facility’s safety and performance for years into the future,” said Mark Hughey, CNL’s General Manager with responsibility for the PHAI.

Final landscaping of the site will be completed this summer, with Phase 3 – long-term monitoring and maintenance – fully in place by fall of this year.

CNL enhances Indigenous engagement

Indigenous engagement is a critical component of the PHAI and all CNL projects. CNL and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), the Crown corporation that provides federal government oversight of CNL, are committed to open and transparent communication with Indigenous rights and interest holders. Both organizations seek to advance reconciliation through meaningful actions.

CNL recognizes that including Indigenous knowledge systems – particularly in the areas of environmental protection and sustainability – in the life cycle of projects can complement and improve the operations and activities carried out at its sites. Last fall, CNL hired a Director of Indigenous Relations to establish and lead a corporate-wide approach to building relationships with Indigenous Peoples. The PHAI team has also been expanded to include a role dedicated to Indigenous engagement.

When the PHAI moved to the implementation phase in 2012, the Mississaugas of the Williams Treaties First Nations asked to receive regular updates about the project. CNL staff met at least annually with representatives from Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and Alderville First Nation to share project updates and engage in discussions on topics including environmental protection, economic opportunity and heritage resource protection.

In recent years, CNL has also shared PHAI updates with representatives from the Anishinabek Nation and Métis Nation of Ontario. Based on their proximity to the PHAI sites and interest in other projects in the area, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and local Métis Councils have been sent project information and invitations to special events such as Industry Day, career fairs and information sessions.

In 2021, at the request of Curve Lake First Nation, CNL's Indigenous engagement team established monthly meetings with representatives from the Mississauga



First Nations and Chippewa communities including staff from Beausoleil First Nation, Georgina Island First Nation and Rama First Nation. Discussion topics are mutually determined and focus on CNL environmental remediation projects and/or interests identified by these Nations. Valuable feedback from Indigenous engagement is supporting CNL's efforts to use more balanced language and inclusive perspectives in project documentation.

CNL is committed to recognizing Indigenous rights and interests as we continue to build relationships with Indigenous communities through ongoing learning about their history and values. For more information on Indigenous communications and engagement visit [PHAI.ca](https://phai.ca).

PHAI.ca has a brand new look



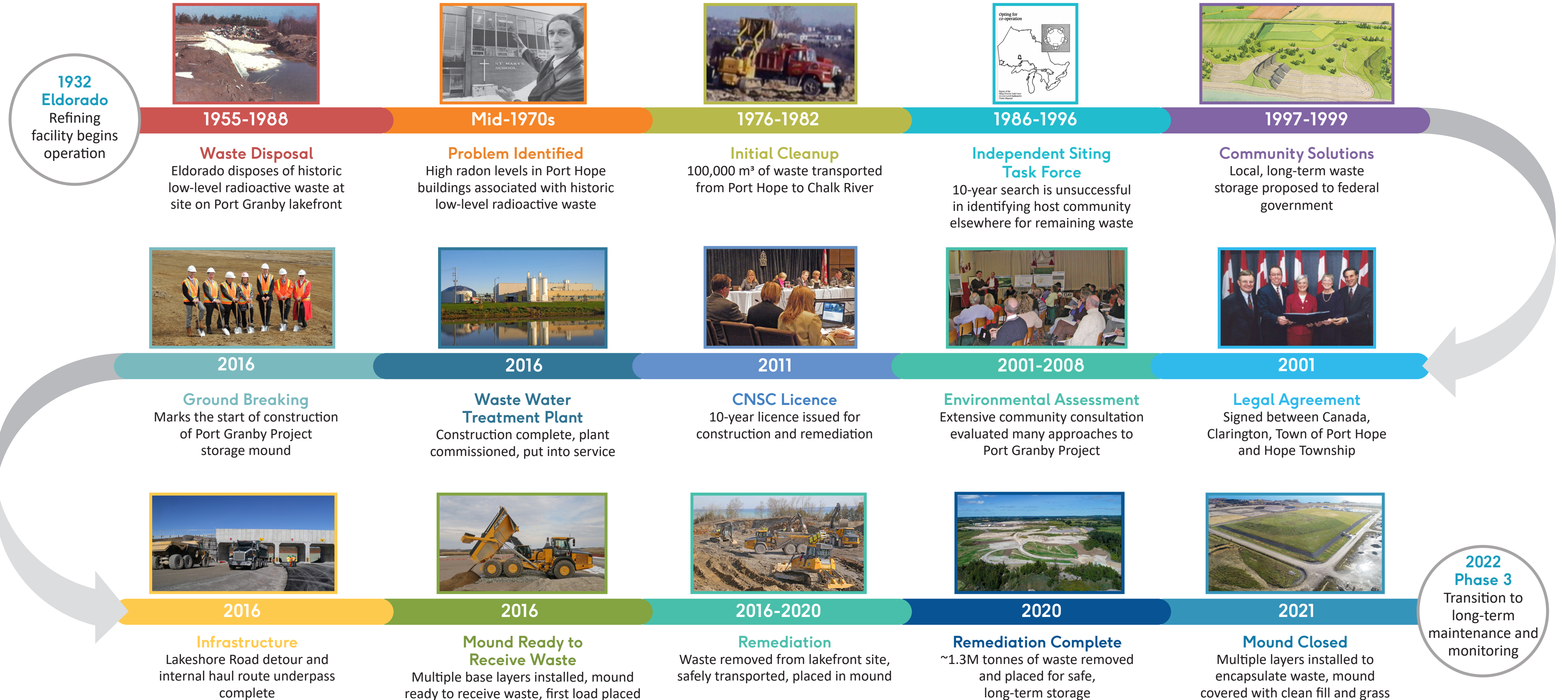
CNL recently relaunched the PHAI website with a fresh format and engaging new content highlighting up-to-date information on the Port Hope and Port Granby projects.

Front-page links provide quick access to key topics, and several new features have been added including a detailed Indigenous history of the Port Hope area, an interactive project sites map and online registration for CNL events.

Visit [PHAI.ca](https://phai.ca) and let us know what you think by emailing info@phai.ca.

Port Granby Project Milestones

Visit PHAI.ca for a detailed history of the Port Granby Project



CNSC Licence Applications - Have Your Say!

In 2022, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will consider two CNL licence applications

PHAI Licence Consolidation

In conjunction with an application to the CNSC to renew the Port Hope Project's 10-year licence, CNL has requested consolidation of the Port Granby and Port Hope licences to streamline administrative and reporting procedures. The hearing date is November 22, 2022. Visit PHAI.ca to participate in the process.

Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) Licence Application

CNL has applied to the CNSC for a licence to construct and operate the NSDF at its Chalk River Laboratories site in the Ottawa Valley area. Similar to the Port Granby storage mound, the NSDF is a long-term, environmentally sound solution for soils and materials contaminated with low-level radioactive waste. The design technology specific to the NSDF has been tested extensively to ensure that it will be protective of people and the environment. The facility will use natural and synthetic barriers that work together to isolate the waste from the environment for generations. The next hearing begins May 30, 2022. Visit ENGAGewithCNL.ca/nsdf to learn more.

Port Granby Nature Reserve Proposal

AECL has been working in collaboration with the Mississaugas First Nations, the municipalities of Clarington and Port Hope, and the SouthEast Clarington Ratepayers' Association to create a nature reserve on surplus lands surrounding the Port Granby site. Located within the Johnson-Butler Purchase 1787-88, or "Gunshot Treaty," the lands are the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg (Mississauga People).

Based on a community-driven proposal submitted to the Government of Canada in 2015, the group is focused on establishing a collective vision for the nature reserve. This includes the development of a co-management model and the renewal of the original stewardship plan to integrate Indigenous knowledge, values and rights into planning, operating and caring for the lands and waters within the nature reserve.



In December 2021, AECL held a meeting with representatives from all parties to support relationship-building and discuss considerations for the proposed nature reserve.

The event opened with a sharing circle. Participants then traveled to Port Granby for a walking tour of the lands west of Elliott Road and north of Lakeshore Road. Discussions focused on stewardship plans and governance options.



CNL's Historic Waste Program Management Office and the Port Hope Area Initiative projects are situated on the traditional and treaty lands of the Mississauga Nations. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work on all of these lands and near traditionally and culturally significant waterways, which have been the home of Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial.