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**PORT HOPE AREA
INITIATIVE**

Port Granby Project Public Attitude Survey Research Report - Summary

February 2019

Prepared by:



Summary

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

As part of the Port Granby Project, periodic public attitude research is commissioned to monitor area residents' level of knowledge and awareness about historic low-level radioactive waste and the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) projects, identify issues and concerns, determine the communication needs of the public, and provide data regarding public attitudes and preferences.

The most recent iteration of the Port Granby Project Public Attitude Survey in the Fall of 2018 was conducted by CCI Research Inc. (CCI Research) on behalf of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). Survey packages containing an introduction letter explaining the project, a survey questionnaire booklet, and a postage-paid return envelope were mailed to approximately 600 area property owners in October, 2018. Respondents had the option of completing the questionnaire booklet and returning it by letter mail, completing the survey online, or calling CCI Research toll-free to complete their survey by telephone. Additionally, subsequent to the initial mailing, a reminder letter and a reminder postcard were mailed to all households encouraging homeowners to complete their questionnaire before the survey deadline in November. The deadline was then extended to the beginning of December and an additional reminder postcard was mailed out encouraging homeowners to submit their responses. In total, 117 respondents completed the survey: 86 questionnaire booklets were returned by mail, 29 were completed online, and two surveys were completed by telephone. The confidence interval for the Overall Port Granby sample is approximately +/-8.1%, 19 times out of 20.

CNL was particularly interested in examining survey responses from property owners within Zone 3, Clarington, as this is the area that contains the current and proposed historic low-level radioactive waste management sites. Therefore, survey findings are presented in this report for the Overall Port Granby sample, as well as separately by proximity, where "Close Zone" represents households within Zone 3, Clarington, and "Far Zone" represents households from all other geographical zones combined. In total, 22% of survey respondents were from the Close Zone, and the remaining 78% were from the Far Zone.

This report presents the findings for the 2018 Port Granby Project Public Attitude Survey, and where applicable, compares the results to those from similar previous studies conducted within the past 10 years, in 2016, 2014, and 2011.

KEY FINDINGS

Satisfaction with Living in the Community

Overall satisfaction with living in the community has remained high over time, with almost all respondents (98%) indicating they are "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied". Reported satisfaction was high throughout Port Granby, with no significant differences between the levels of satisfaction with living in the community for Close Zone and Far Zone respondents.

Important Community Issues

When asked about the most important issues facing the community in an open-ended format, the issues mentioned by the largest proportion of respondents were about

“maintaining / lacking community services – police, schools, roads, transit” (20%). A greater proportion of respondents mentioned issues concerning community services on this survey than those who responded to previous surveys. Issues concerning the “Port Granby Project / relocation / moving waste / radioactive waste cleanup” were mentioned by 15% of respondents, making it the third most mentioned theme in 2018. A smaller proportion of respondents identified this theme on the current survey as compared to 2011 and 2014, although results are similar to those from 2016.

The area of concern identified by the largest proportion of respondents living in the Close Zone was “Port Granby Project / relocation/moving waste / radioactive waste cleanup” (35%); therefore, this was more likely to be mentioned by respondents in the Close Zone as compared to the Far Zone (35% vs. 9%).

Awareness and Knowledge about Historic Low-Level Radioactive Waste in Area

Most respondents indicated that they rarely think about living in a community with a historic low-level radioactive waste management facility; specifically, about three-quarters (77%) of respondents think about it “not very often” or “never,” which is comparable to previous years.

Self-assessed knowledge about the presence of historic low-level radioactive waste in the community is similar to previous years, with 80% of respondents indicating that they are “very knowledgeable” or “somewhat knowledgeable” about this topic. Close Zone respondents in particular reported a high level of knowledge about the historic low-level radioactive waste (85%) and reported being “very knowledgeable” more often than Far Zone respondents (35% vs. 12%).

Familiarity with the Port Granby Project

The large majority of respondents have heard about the Port Granby Project (85%), the Port Hope Area Initiative (83%), and the new Port Granby long-term waste management facility (74%). Most respondents also had heard about the legacy Port Granby waste management facility (64%), however, a smaller proportion of respondents reported being aware of the legacy facility this year compared to 2014 and 2016. In addition, about three-quarters of respondents (76%) Overall were aware that the new Port Granby long-term waste management facility is currently under construction. Self-reported knowledge about the PHAI and aspects of the Port Granby Project was similarly high among those from the Close and Far Zones.

Confidence and Concerns Regarding the Port Granby Project

About three-quarters (76%) of survey respondents Overall expressed confidence (“very confident” + “somewhat confident”) that waste can be safely managed at the new long-term waste management facility. This represents an increase in confidence compared to previous surveys in 2011, 2014, and 2016.

When asked to volunteer what concerns they had about the long-term waste management facility, there were a wide range of diverse issues or concerns identified by respondents. The most common concerns were contamination of the environment (32%), managing / monitoring long-term effects (21%), and safety and security of the site (19%). Close Zone residents identified the same top three issues (but in a different order).

Significantly more respondents from the Close Zone mentioned issues concerning the safety and security of the site compared to 2016.

When asked to specify what actions or decisions would make them more confident about the safety of the facility, the most commonly reported themes were to have long-term testing / monitoring (29%) and to better inform the public (24%). Additionally, Close Zone respondents were more likely than those in the Far Zone to identify long-term testing or monitoring as an action that would make them feel more confident about the safety of the facility.

When asked to identify the benefits of the Port Granby Project, the majority of the survey respondents (63%) identified one or more benefits to the project. The most commonly mentioned benefit was the cleanup and containment of the radioactive waste (40%), followed by a cleaner environment (13%), and improved health and safety in the community (11%). Additionally, no respondents reported that there was “no benefit” to the project. Similar responses were given by Close Zone respondents.

Almost two-thirds of respondents indicated that no one in their household had been directly affected by the Port Granby Project (63%). An additional 14% felt they had been negatively affected by the Project, and 6% indicated they had been positively affected. Respondents from the Close Zone were more likely than those from the Far Zone to report that they or someone in their household had been negatively affected by the Port Granby Project. The most commonly mentioned negative effect overall was decreasing property value.

Overall, the majority of survey respondents reported that they were confident (“very confident” + “somewhat confident”) that the Port Granby Project can minimize potential impacts, specifically light pollution (79%), and the effects of noise (77%), traffic (75%), and dust (63%). Compared to 2014 and 2016, confidence in the Project’s ability to minimize effects of noise, traffic, and dust has increased.

Additionally, almost two-thirds of respondents (64%) were confident (“very confident” + “somewhat confident”) in the ability of the Port Granby Project to contain and treat contaminated groundwater and surface water at the Port Granby Project sites.

Property Value Protection Program

About half of the survey respondents (52%) reported that they owned property within the Property Value Protection (PVP) Program zone. However, only 28% Overall reported being “very familiar” or “somewhat familiar” with the PVP program. Respondents from the Close Zone were more likely than those from the Far Zone to indicate they were familiar with the PVP Program.

Only 25% of respondents indicated that they were confident overall (“very confident” + “somewhat confident”) that the PVP Program will compensate for decrease of property value in 2018. This is a significant increase from the 2016 result (13%), but similar to the findings in 2011 (22%) and 2014 (20%).

Communications

Independent qualified scientists were most often chosen as a source for receiving accurate and complete information about the Port Granby Project (46% first choice and 62% first,

second or third choice), followed by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories staff (19% first choice and 44% first, second, or third choice).

With respect to PHAI communication, 72% of respondents reported being satisfied overall with the PHAI's efforts to provide information about the Port Granby Project, while 60% expressed confidence that the PHAI would respond to any concerns they may have. More than four out of five respondents (85%) felt that the Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group is important in helping with communication.

Brochures or newsletters through the mail were the top choice of respondents for receiving information about the Port Granby Project Overall (50% "first choice"), and for Close Zone respondents in particular (54% "first choice"). Less than half of respondents (40%) indicated that they read the Port Granby Project Newsletter "always" and about one-third (35%) read it "sometimes," while 19% did not recall receiving the newsletter. Frequency of reading the Port Granby newsletter was similar among Close Zone respondents.

With respect to primary sources of local news, the survey respondents most often relied on Clarington this Week (84%), followed by Orono Weekly Times (34%) and Global News/CHEXtv (27%). These results are similar to those from the last survey.