



AECL seeks licence amendment for Port Hope Project

Port Hope, Ontario (October 24, 2012) – At a public hearing held in Ottawa today, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) presented its application before the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to amend its current Port Hope Project licence and authorize the remediation and construction activities required to complete the Project over the next 10 years.

“Our presentation outlined how the dedicated team at the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is well prepared to implement Phase 2 of this Project,” said Joan Miller, AECL’s Vice President and General Manager, Decommissioning and Waste Management. “AECL presented in detail the diligence of its environmental protection plans, the best-available technologies incorporated into the design of the long-term waste management facility, and how the remediation of properties will be conducted to assure public safety,” Ms. Miller said.

The one-day public hearing was held to consider the removal of the hold points in AECL’s current licence and to extend the term of the licence to December 2022. In defending its application, PHAI MO General Manager Christine Fahey told the Commission that the Project has made significant progress since the CNSC granted the licence in 2009. In the last three years, the PHAI MO has assumed responsibility for the operation of the existing Welcome Waste Management Facility, completed detailed designs and remediation plans, constructed a dedicated access road to the new long-term facility site and begun the radiological survey of public and private properties in Port Hope. AECL has also completed all of the required compliance and technical documents, ranging from occupational health and safety to radiation protection and emergency plans, while continuing to extensively engage the Municipality of Port Hope and the community at large.

“This hearing marks a pivotal point in our efforts to implement a safe, long-term solution to the management of the historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope,” said Ms. Fahey. “We are ready to proceed with the construction and clean-up phase – keeping health, safety and the environment as our top priorities.”

The CNSC will now consider the AECL and CNSC staff submissions, as well as 37 written interventions that were provided by the public – the majority in support of the Project. A decision is expected within 45 days.

ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental clean-up program. Its mandate is the remediation and local, long-term, safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and Port Granby. The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is a federal partnership between Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada that was created to carry out these projects.

ABOUT THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

The Port Hope Project involves the construction of an engineered, aboveground mound and supporting infrastructure for the safe, long-term management of the waste, the cleanup of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, and long-term maintenance and monitoring of the facility.

For more information, please contact:

Stakeholder and Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
905.885.0291
info@phai.ca

Licence Amendment Granted for the Port Hope Project

Port Hope, Ontario (November 15, 2012) – An amendment to the Port Hope Project licence was issued today by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), authorizing the remediation and construction activities required to safely clean up the historic low-level radioactive waste in the community. The CNSC decision on Atomic Energy of Canada Limited’s (AECL) application lifts the hold point in the licence that was originally issued in 2009 and extends its term through December 31, 2022. It follows a public hearing on AECL’s application that was held on October 24, 2012.

“The amended licence, together with federal funding approval announced at the beginning of 2012, will allow us to move forward in cleaning up the environment,” said Christine Fahey, General Manager for the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office. “The municipality and its residents strongly support the Port Hope Project, and we are pleased to have secured the final regulatory authorization needed to proceed.”

In delivering its decision, the Commission said that “AECL is qualified to carry on the activities that the licence will authorize” and will make “adequate provision for the protection of the environment and the health and safety of persons.”

At the October hearing, AECL presented the detailed designs that feature best-available technologies and incorporate global experience, as well as the plans that will assure the protection of health, safety and the environment. Ms. Fahey also highlighted the significant progress the Project has made since the CNSC granted the initial licence.

In making its decision, the CNSC considered submissions from AECL and CNSC staff, as well as 36 written interventions that were provided by the public – the majority in support of the Project.

“This decision marks a pivotal point in our efforts to implement a safe, long-term solution to the management of the waste in Port Hope and we appreciate the responsibility the CNSC has vested in us,” Ms. Fahey said.

-30-

ABOUT THE PHAI


The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental clean-up program. Its mandate is the remediation and local, long-term, safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and Port Granby. The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is a federal partnership between Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada that was created to carry out these projects.

ABOUT THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

The Port Hope Project involves the construction of an engineered, aboveground mound and supporting infrastructure for the safe, long-term management of the waste, the cleanup of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, and long-term maintenance and monitoring of the facility.

For more information, please contact:

Judy Herod, Manager,
Stakeholder Relations & Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
905.885.0291
info@phai.ca

Canada 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHAI Tender for Small-Scale Site Surveys Posted on MERX

Port Hope, Ont. (August 23, 2012) – The contract to complete the property radiological surveys for the small-scale sites component of the Port Hope Area Initiative’s (PHAI) Port Hope Project has been posted on MERX, the website for all Canadian public tenders.

The tender and award of this contract, which has an estimated value of \$4 to \$5 million and closes Sept. 25 at 2 p.m., is being managed by Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) on behalf of the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO).

Contractors are invited to submit bids to complete the radiological testing of approximately 450 residential properties in Ward 1 Port Hope. The first phase of the survey - testing for interior radon gas in summer conditions - is already underway. The MERX posting covers the next phase, which involves testing for interior radon gas in winter conditions, interior and exterior gamma radiation and soil sampling.

Over the next four years, the PHAI property radiological survey will test all Ward 1 and a few Ward 2 Port Hope properties for the presence of historic low-level radioactive waste. In total, 4,800 public and private properties will be tested.

The survey will identify which properties will require cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste. For those requiring remediation, these investigations will permit the PHAI MO to plan the clean-up and restoration work on a property-by-property basis. Waste excavation and transportation to the new long-term waste management facility will begin in 2015. For properties not requiring cleanup, the property radiological survey will permit the PHAI MO to notify owners that their property meets PHAI clean-up criteria and will require no further investigations for historic low-level radioactive waste.

All property owners will ultimately receive letters indicating that their properties are compliant with the Port Hope Area Initiative clean-up criteria.

“This contract is a central component of the Port Hope Area Initiative,” said Walter van Veen, Port Hope Project Director. “The property radiological surveys will give the people of Port Hope peace of mind that every property has been carefully tested and – if necessary – cleaned up, once and for all.”

PWGSC and AECL will co-host a site visit and bidders conference on September 12, 2012. For further information, visit www.merx.com.

Public Works and Government Services Canada is required to award contracts to the lowest compliant bidder.

ABOUT THE PHAI MO

The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is responsible to carry out the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

ABOUT THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

The Port Hope Project involves the construction of an engineered aboveground mound and supporting infrastructure at the site of the existing Welcome waste management site. The cleanup of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste at various sites within Port Hope is expected to begin around 2015 after the infrastructure is in place. The waste will be transported along three designated routes to the new facility, where it will be safely managed for hundreds of years.

For more information, please contact:

Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
(905) 885-0291
info@phai.ca



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHASE 2 FUNDING MOVES PHAI FORWARD

Port Hope, Ont. (January 13, 2012) – The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) today received confirmation of funding from the Government of Canada, which will allow the clean-up project to move forward into Phase 2.

The Honourable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources, announced the \$1.28 billion federal commitment at a media briefing at the PHAI MO, joined by Rick Norlock, M.P. for Northumberland-Quinte West, and the mayors of Port Hope and Clarington. The announcement formalizes the 10-year funding commitment for the cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste.

"This funding announcement marks our official move into Phase 2 and allows us to move forward with the Port Hope and Port Granby projects," said Christine Fahey, PHAI project director. "This investment reinforces the Government of Canada's commitment to the Port Hope Area Initiative and to the future of these communities."

The PHAI MO will continue to work closely with the two municipalities throughout Phase 2, ensuring that community residents and other stakeholders are aware of plans and progress.

"Today's funding announcement confirms the federal government's ongoing commitment to the Port Hope Area Initiative," said Mayor Linda Thompson. "It is good news for the project and good news for Port Hope."

"The Municipality of Clarington is pleased with the Government of Canada's continuing commitment to the successful completion of the Port Granby Project," said Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster. "These funds will ensure that the Project can be constructed and implemented safely and with minimal impact on our residents, while enhancing environmental protection along the lakeshore."

The PHAI was established in 2001 through a legal agreement between the Government of Canada and the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington, to develop and implement a safe, long-term solution for the management of historic low-level radioactive waste within the two communities. The historic waste resulted from radium and uranium refining operations of the former Crown Corporation Eldorado Nuclear, which, with its private sector predecessors, operated from the 1930s to 1988.

ABOUT THE PHAI MO

The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is responsible to carry out the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

ABOUT THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

The Port Hope Project involves the construction of an engineered aboveground mound and supporting infrastructure at the site of the existing Welcome waste management site. The cleanup of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste at various sites within Port Hope is expected to begin around 2014 after the infrastructure is in place. The waste will be transported along three designated routes to the new facility, where it will be safely managed for hundreds of years.

ABOUT THE PORT GRANBY PROJECT

The Port Granby Project involves the relocation of approximately 450,000 cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste, located at an existing site on the shoreline of Lake Ontario, to a new, engineered aboveground mound. The waste will be managed at the new site about 700 metres north of the current site – away from the lake – for hundreds of years.

For more information, please contact:

Stakeholder Relations and Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
(905) 885-0291
info@phai.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transfer of land and facility are milestones for Port Granby Project

Port Hope, Ontario (March 30, 2012) – The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) has achieved a milestone for the Port Granby Project with the assumption of responsibility for the operation of the existing Port Granby Waste Management Facility (WMF).

In November 2011, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission approved Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's licence application for the Port Granby Project – providing approval for the relocation and safe, long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste currently located on the shore of Lake Ontario in Southeast Clarington. The licence decision also enabled the Government of Canada to acquire 275-hectares (680 acres) of land from Cameco Corporation, which includes the existing WMF, and for the PHAI MO to assume responsibility for the facility's operation from Cameco.

“The PHAI MO is committed to the safe operation of the Port Granby WMF,” said Dave Smith, Port Granby Project director. “We have a highly qualified and dedicated staff in place to work collaboratively with Cameco to ensure the transfer of responsibility takes place seamlessly and efficiently.”

The Port Granby Project includes the construction of an engineered aboveground mound to isolate the waste from the environment using a multi-layered baseliner and cover system. This new facility will require approximately 95 hectares (235 acres) of land and is located about 700 metres north of the current site – away from the lake. The remaining lands will be held by the federal government until the Port Granby Project is completed.

Supporting infrastructure will be built over the next two years, including roadway improvements and a new water treatment plant. The construction of the new mound and transfer of low-level radioactive waste from the existing location to the new site is scheduled to begin in 2014 and take approximately six years.

“Assuming responsibility for the Port Granby WMF is a first step, allowing us to move forward in cleaning up the environment, while providing a solution for the community and future generations,” said Smith. “Throughout the Project, we will continue to work closely with the residents and the Municipality of Clarington to minimize community impacts.”

ABOUT THE PHAI

The PHAI was established in 2001 through a legal agreement between the Government of Canada and the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington, to develop and implement a safe, long-term solution for the management of historic low-level radioactive waste within the two communities. The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is responsible to carry out these projects. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

ABOUT THE PORT GRANBY PROJECT

The Port Granby Project involves the relocation of approximately 450,000 cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste, located at an existing site on the shoreline of Lake Ontario, to a new, engineered aboveground mound. The historic waste resulted from radium and uranium refining operations of the former Crown Corporation Eldorado Nuclear, which, with its private sector predecessors, operated from the 1930s to 1988.

Contact:

Stakeholder Relations and Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
(905) 885-0291
info@phai.ca



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory

Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office Hosts Career Fair

Port Hope, ON. (September 14, 2012) – The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is looking for qualified candidates to fill a wide variety of rewarding career openings. These full-time job opportunities span the breadth of engineering, environmental remediation, project management and other professional fields required by the PHAI projects.

“Over the past year, the PHAI Management Office has added nearly 50 employees to our staff as we enter into a new phase of construction and project implementation. We have a strong and motivated team, but we still have key vacancies to fill,” said Andrea Denby, PHAI MO Director of Business Operations. “This is an excellent opportunity for skilled professionals who are interested in contributing to one of the largest environmental restoration projects in Canadian history.”

The Professional Career Fair will provide the opportunity for job seekers to meet with the managers responsible for staffing the current vacancies about the necessary skills and kinds of expertise the PHAI MO is looking for. Anyone interested in attending should first review the career opportunities posted on the PHAI website at www.phai.ca where 20 vacancies are listed.

So drop into the IDEAHUB in Port Hope to learn more about the professional employment opportunities and to speak with PHAI MO staff.

What: PHAI MO Professional Job Fair

When: Thursday, September 27, 2012
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: IDEAHUB
260 Peter Street
Port Hope, ON

ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental cleanup program. Its mandate is the remediation and local, long-term, safe management of historic, low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and Port Granby. The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO), a partnership between Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada, is the federal agency created to carry out these projects.

ABOUT THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

The Port Hope Project involves the cleanup of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste from various sites in Port Hope, the construction of an engineered aboveground mound where the waste will be safely stored, and the long-term maintenance and monitoring of the new waste management facility.

ABOUT THE PORT GRANBY PROJECT

The Port Granby Project involves the movement of approximately 450,000 cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste from the existing Port Granby Waste Management Facility on the shore of Lake Ontario to a new engineered aboveground mound located north of the lake.

For more information, please contact:

Human Resources
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
905.885.0291
info@phai.ca

Canada 

PORT HOPE AREA INITIATIVE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

Port Hope, ON. (October 26, 2012) – The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is launching its 11th annual public attitude survey in Port Hope beginning today.

Conducted by Intellipulse Research, an independent public affairs and marketing research firm, the telephone survey will require just a few minutes of respondents' time. Three hundred and fifty people in Port Hope (250 in Ward 1 and 100 in Ward 2) will be polled to find out how knowledgeable residents are about efforts to clean up and manage the historic low-level radioactive waste and how confident they are that the work can be done safely.

The data collected will help the PHAI MO better understand Port Hope residents' attitudes about the Project's plans and how best to keep the community informed.

"We want to hear the views of local residents so that we can continue to identify which elements of the project are most important to the community," said Judy Herod, Acting Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Communications for the PHAI MO. "We appreciate the time people take to participate in the survey because the results will help us communicate more effectively with the community."

As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance communications, the PHAI MO launched a redesigned website (www.phai.ca) this past June. The new design, which features the most current project information, has been organized to make finding information easier and to provide a more user-friendly experience. In 2011, the PHAI MO also joined social media networking sites Facebook and Twitter to encourage and participate in two-way dialogue. Information sessions, open houses, newsletters and other forms of communication are regularly employed to engage the community and keep people informed about the Project's activities.

-30-

ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative is dedicated to the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

For further information, please contact:
Stakeholder Relations and Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
(905) 885-0291

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Port Hope Property Radiological Survey starts this summer

Port Hope, Ontario (May 7, 2012) – The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is set to begin the first phase of the Port Hope property radiological survey to check for the presence of historic low-level radioactive waste at all properties in Ward 1 Port Hope and select properties in Ward 2. The extensive testing will be done in phases, starting this summer with 450 properties in six different areas of Ward 1.

To explain how and why this work will be done, the PHAI Management Office is hosting information sessions on Saturday, May 12, at the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit at 200 Rose Glen Road, Port Hope (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and Wednesday, May 16, at the Port Hope Lions Recreation Centre, 29 Thomas Street, Port Hope (2 p.m. – 8 p.m.). PHAI technical specialists will be available to answer questions and provide detailed information about the survey.

“We are committed to ensuring residents are well informed about the process because we need to work together to make it successful,” said Walter van Veen, Port Hope Project Director. “When it’s all said and done, the people of Port Hope will have peace of mind that every property has been carefully tested and – if necessary – cleaned up, once and for all.”

Property owners in the six selected areas will receive information in the mail about the radiological testing including a Property Survey Access Consent Form that will permit the PHAI to conduct investigative work on the property. Owners must review, sign and return the consent form to the PHAI by May 25 so appointments to visit the property can be scheduled. For each property, several visits will be required to complete the necessary work.

Although the survey program is getting underway this year, the removal of historic low-level radioactive waste at sites in Port Hope will not begin until 2015 when the long-term waste management facility is ready to receive waste.

Over the next five years, homes, buildings and parcels of land will be tested for indoor radon and indoor and outdoor gamma radiation using highly sensitive and sophisticated equipment. Soil samples will also be taken. The survey will identify which properties will require cleanup of low-level radioactive waste. For those requiring cleanup, the investigations will permit the PHAI to plan the work on a property-by-property basis. For those not requiring cleanup, it will permit the PHAI to notify these property owners that their property meets the PHAI clean-up criteria and will require no further investigations.

Of the approximately 4,800 properties to be surveyed, about 10 per cent are expected to need some degree of cleanup. This could range from a small amount of contaminated soil to a more extensive exterior cleanup or the removal of contaminated building materials from inside a house.

ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a federal environmental clean-up program. Its mandate is the remediation and local, long-term, safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and Port Granby. The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is a federal partnership between Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada that was created to carry out these projects.

ABOUT THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

The Port Hope Project involves the construction of an engineered, aboveground mound and supporting infrastructure for the safe, long-term management of the waste, the cleanup of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, and long-term maintenance and monitoring of the facility.

For more information, please contact:

Communications & Stakeholder Relations

905.885.0291

info@phai.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESIDENTS SATISFIED WITH LIFE IN PORT HOPE

Survey reveals highest-ever level of confidence in PHAI cleanup

Port Hope, ON. (January 11, 2012) - The 10th annual Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Public Attitude Survey, conducted by IntelliPulse Marketing, reveals that overall satisfaction with life in Port Hope remains very high, while residents' confidence in the ability of the PHAI Management Office (MO) to safely manage the low-level radioactive waste for the long term is at its highest level ever.

Satisfaction with life in Port Hope increased to 95 per cent, from 93 per cent in 2010, while 84 per cent of respondents – up three per cent from last year, and up 19 per cent compared to the first public-attitude survey in 2002 – expressed confidence in the ability of the PHAI MO to safely manage the waste for the long term.

“It’s encouraging to know that the residents of Port Hope continue to increase their confidence in our ability to safely move the waste while minimizing community impact,” said Christine Fahey, PHAI project director. “We’ve asked the community to tell us what is important to them and how we are doing, and we will continue to engage and listen as we move into Phase 2.”

With the Port Hope Project set to move into Phase 2, which will start with construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and a new long-term waste management facility at the current Welcome site, 87 per cent of residents identified the cleanup as an important topic. Nevertheless, nearly three-quarters said they “never” or “not very often” think about living in a community dealing with radioactive waste.

Overall, awareness of the Project has improved significantly – increasing to 94 per cent from 88 per cent last year – while almost three quarters of respondents said they have had adequate opportunities to provide input to the Port Hope Project.

Additional findings from the 2011 survey include:

- 88 per cent of residents are aware of plans to transport contaminated soil along designated routes to the new long-term waste management facility;
- 79 per cent are confident the PHAI MO will be able to minimize the effects of project-related traffic;
- 73 per cent are confident the PHAI MO will be able to minimize the effects of project-related dust; and
- For the first time ever, PHAI MO staff was identified as the number one source for the most accurate and complete information about the clean-up project.

An executive summary of the survey will be posted at www.phai.ca. Copies of the complete survey will be available at the Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road, Port Hope.

ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative is dedicated to the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The IntelliPulse Marketing survey was an independent, random telephone survey of Port Hope Ward 1 and 2 residents conducted between November 23 and December 4, 2011, on behalf of the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office. Responses were tabulated from 350 adult Ward 1 residents and 100 Ward 2 residents. The weighted sample of 350 for the Municipality of Port Hope yields results that are accurate within +5.4%, 19 out of 20 times.

For more information, please contact:

Stakeholder Relations and Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
(905) 885-0291
info@phai.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Road Survey Work Underway for PHAI August 2012

Port Hope, ON. (August 1, 2012) – Residents may notice two unusual-looking vehicles travelling along selected roads in the Port Hope area starting in the next couple of weeks. A van, operated by Infrastructure Management System (IMS) under contract to the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office, uses lasers and other sophisticated measuring equipment to study road surfaces and pavement conditions. A second vehicle, operated by AME Materials Engineering, will pull equipment that evaluates road strength.

This work is being done as a continuation of the assessment work completed in 2010. Traffic counts will also be updated during this same time period. The information gathered will be used for the assessment and design of possible road repairs or improvements prior to and during the clean-up activities associated with the Port Hope Project. Approximately 70 kilometres of primarily Ward 1 roads will be surveyed in Port Hope.



ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative is dedicated to the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

ABOUT THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

The Port Hope Project involves the construction of an engineered, aboveground mound and supporting infrastructure for the safe, long-term management of the waste, the cleanup of approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, and long-term maintenance and monitoring of the facility.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Study highlights differences between Cobourg and Port Hope *Residential and commercial development among key factors*

Port Hope, Ontario (February 23, 2012) – An independent real-estate market analysis commissioned by the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office shows that major differences in growth patterns between Cobourg and Port Hope over the past 10 years caused the Cobourg real estate market to grow faster – at times even outperforming the Greater Toronto Area market.

The in-depth analysis was conducted by Property Valuers Consulting Incorporated to support the PHAI Property Value Protection (PVP) Program's ongoing monitoring of the local real estate market. The study analyzed more than 7,000 sales between 2001 and 2011 and reviewed a wide range of socioeconomic, demographic and political factors.

Among the findings are:

- Real estate values rose significantly over the past 10 years – 66% for Port Hope compared to 80% for Cobourg. Cumulatively, over the past eight years, Cobourg has even outperformed the Greater Toronto Area market, which accounts for some of the gap.
- 2011 average sale price is \$33,000 higher in Cobourg than in Port Hope - \$258,298 compared to \$225,028.
- The majority of this difference – 76.5% – is explained by differences in housing stock and community features and amenities including:
 - Cobourg's more modern and varied housing, where condominiums accounted for 10% of the 2011 market; and
 - a regional hospital, recreational waterfront, lower taxes and development charges and other features stimulating Cobourg's growth and job creation.
- The remaining 23.5% of the difference is attributable to miscellaneous factors the analysis could not quantify including:
 - social, political and economic factors that cannot be measured;
 - design, mechanical and/or structural differences in housing not captured by the report;
 - possible generalized devaluation from the presence of historic waste – known since the mid 1970s;
 - possible PHAI-related general and/or site-specific effects; and
 - possible generalized devaluation arising from Cameco's presence on waterfront.

The study also found a significant difference in building activity between the towns since 2001. Commercial construction value totalled about \$27 million in Cobourg compared to \$2.5 million in Port Hope, while residential construction value totalled \$19 million in Cobourg compared to \$8 million in Port Hope.

-more-

-2-

The study is relevant to the PVP Program, which monitors both the Cobourg and Port Hope real estate markets, using Cobourg as a basis of comparison. Although the communities are similar in many ways, the study pointed out major differences that affect sales activity and prices.

A summary of the report will be available at www.phai.ca under *What's New*. The full report is available at the Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road in Port Hope or by emailing info@phai.ca.

-30-

ABOUT THE PHAI

The Port Hope Area Initiative is dedicated to the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington and defined by a Legal Agreement that commits the federal government to providing a PVP Program. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

For more information, please contact:

Stakeholder Relations and Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
(905) 885-0291
info@phai.ca



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SURVEY RESULTS HIGHLIGHT CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN PORT HOPE WASTE CLEANUP

Port Hope, Ont. (January 26, 2011) – Port Hope residents continue to show a high degree of confidence regarding the management of the cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste in their community. This is one of the key findings in the ninth annual Public Attitude Survey conducted recently on behalf of the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO).

The survey, conducted by Intellipulse Marketing, involved more than 350 local residents who were contacted by telephone in the first two weeks of November. Participants were asked questions aimed at finding out their level of knowledge about efforts to clean up and manage the historic low-level radioactive waste and their level of confidence that this work can be done safely. The survey questions remain largely consistent with previous years to allow for year-over-year comparisons.

We're grateful to those local residents who, when contacted, agreed to take part in our survey, says Bob Neufeld, Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Communications. —The information they've provided will help inform the way we communicate with the public about our activities.

Interesting findings from the 2010 survey include:

- 88 percent —the highest percentage recorded since surveying began— are aware of the Port Hope Area Initiative;
- 81 percent of those questioned expressed confidence that Port Hope's waste can be successfully managed for the long-term at the new waste management facility. (This compares with 78 percent in 2009);
- 93 percent are satisfied with their quality of life in Port Hope, virtually unchanged from the previous year; and
- 76 percent of those questioned rarely or never think about the presence of low-level radioactive waste in their community. This is virtually the same result as was recorded in 2009.

An executive summary of this and previous years' survey results are posted on the PHAI's website at www.phai.ca. Copies of the full surveys are available at the Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road in Port Hope.

The Port Hope Area Initiative is dedicated to the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

ABOUT THE PHAI MO

The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is responsible to carry out the safe cleanup, transportation and long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The PHAI MO is a partnership of Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

For more information, please contact:

Stakeholder Relations and Communications
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
(905) 885-0291
info@phai.ca