



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fleming College and PHAI sign agreement

Port Hope, Ontario (March 27, 2013) — Sir Sandford Fleming College and the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), formalizing a commitment that will shape future collaborations in research, skills sharing, job opportunities and information exchange.

The agreement will encourage an active and supportive relationship between the parties, and identify opportunities to work cooperatively on a variety of projects. MOU signatories include Atomic Energy Canada Limited (AECL), as the lead agency for the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI), and Fleming College's School of Environment and Natural Resource Sciences (SENRS) – Frost Campus in Lindsay.

"The PHAI has assembled a team of experts from government, private industry and consulting backgrounds to implement one of Canada's largest environmental restoration projects," said Joan Miller, AECL Vice-President Decommissioning & Waste Management. "This partnership provides an opportunity to share our knowledge and experience, and make an investment in science-based education."

MOU objectives include enhanced hands-on learning opportunities for students through field work and project case studies, and career development through work placements and internships. PHAI Management Office staff will contribute through guest lectures and customized workshops, while the partnership will also provide the PHAI with ready access to a trained and skilled labour force.

"Fleming's Frost Campus is a renowned environmental and natural resource science-based educational institution," Dr. Tony Tilly, President of Fleming College said. "Both the PHAI and Fleming College share an interest in environmental remediation and restoration activities. This collaboration will expand on our mutual contributions in this field of study and foster innovation through practical application."

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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 SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES (SENRS)

Fleming College's School of Environment and Natural Resource Sciences (SENRS) is based at the Frost Campus in City of Kawartha Lakes and features more than 25 full-time programs. With an emphasis on outdoor learning, the School offers small class sizes and unique opportunities for active, hands-on learning through a variety of work placements, co-ops, field camps and applied projects, which put skills and theory into practice. Fleming College has locations in Peterborough, City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Cobourg. The college currently has more than 5,900 full-time and 10,000 part-time students and more than 63,000 alumni: www.flemingcollege.ca.

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Canada 

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.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHAI and GRCA launch partnership

Port Hope, Ontario (April 22, 2013) — Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), through its Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office, marked Earth Day with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) by affirming their commitment to environmental stewardship and embarking on a new partnership.

Representatives from both organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today that will guide common environmental monitoring work and opportunities for future strategic alignment.

“We felt it was appropriate to announce this exciting collaboration on Earth Day as this partnership supports PHAI’s continued mandate to protect and enhance the local bio-physical environment,” said Craig Hebert, General Manager, PHAI Management Office.

Using its expertise in watershed management, the GRCA will assist the PHAI Management Office with characterization and monitoring of Ganaraska River fisheries, the near shore waters of Lake Ontario and groundwater, and protection of source water and rare and endangered species.

“We are proud to be involved with the PHAI in both Port Hope and Port Granby sharing and supporting AECL’s long-term environmental legacy,” said GRCA Chair Raymond Bennis.

Earth Day is the largest, most recognized environmental event worldwide. Each year more than six million Canadians join one billion people in over 170 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Today’s MOU signing was part of Earth Day celebrations at the GRCA headquarters in Port Hope.

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ABOUT THE GANARASKA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) overall goal is the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources on a watershed basis while providing for the public enjoyment of the lands it oversees. The GRCA was formed in October 1946 under the Conservation Authorities Act and is one of the oldest conservation authorities in Ontario.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHAI forms new Port Hope Project Citizen Liaison Group (CLG)

Port Hope, Ontario (March 20, 2013) —The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office has named its 12-member Citizen Liaison Group (CLG) for the Port Hope Project.

The members – selected from applications received after a month of public advertising – are affiliated with a wide range of local community groups, some officially representing their organizations and others serving as citizens at large. Members met for a day-long orientation meeting on March 9 that included presentations about the project and a tour of clean-up sites.

The CLG provides a forum for community members and the PHAI Management Office to exchange information and ideas about the cleanup and long-term safe management of the historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope. Members were selected from key sectors including business, health, education, environment/conservation and community life, providing the project with a broad cross-section of community views. The CLG will meet four times a year.

“With their participation and input, this representative group of Port Hope residents will contribute to strengthening communication with the community as the project moves forward,” Judy Herod, PHAI MO Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Communications, said. “The first meeting demonstrated what a valuable opportunity the CLG offers to share perspectives and involve community members in the project in new and exciting ways.”

The 12 Port Hope Citizen Liaison Group members are: Peter Anglin, Erin Brown, Sam Majic, Jenny Fulton, Brandan Fonovic, Wendy Giroux, Ted Harp, Terry Hickey, Patricia Lawson, Julie Mavis, Stephen Smith and Catharine Tozer.

CLG meetings are led by an independent chair who is also the spokesperson for the group.

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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 approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste, cleanup of the waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, and long-term maintenance and monitoring of the facility.

PHOTO: INAUGURAL MEETING: The newly formed Port Hope Project Citizen Liaison Group (CLG) met March 9 at the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office. They are: front l-r: Patricia Lawson, Ted Harp, Jenny Fulton, Erin Brown, Wendy Giroux, Julie Mavis; back l-r: Sam Majic, Terry Hickey, Peter Anglin and Stephen Smith; absent from photo: Brandan Fonovic and Catharine Tozer.

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The logo for the Government of Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag above the letter "a".



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHAI MO forms new citizen liaison group Community members invited to apply

Clarington, Ontario (January 3, 2013) — WANTED: Clarington-area residents who would like to contribute their skills and perspectives to a new Citizen Liaison Group (CLG) being formed by the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office.

The CLG will bring together a broad cross-section of the community by providing a regular forum to exchange information and provide input about the Port Granby Project for the cleanup and long-term safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Granby in Southeast Clarington.

Membership will be composed of up to six representatives from various organizations or professional associations that focus on areas such as the environment, business, agriculture, education, health or community life. Citizens at large are also invited to apply. Through their participation, members will suggest ways to enhance community relations, promote an understanding of the project and participate in verifying that environmental monitoring requirements have been met. No special knowledge about the Port Granby Project is required to apply.

“The CLG will complement existing opportunities for information sharing and public involvement, such as the Port Granby Discussion Group, and give area residents another way to contribute their knowledge and perspectives to the project,” said Judy Herod, Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Communications for the PHAI Management Office.

The CLG is being established now, she said, as work increases to prepare for the excavation and movement of the waste to the new long-term waste management facility – scheduled to begin in late 2014.

Clarington residents who wish to apply should submit their application by Feb. 8, 2013. Visit the CLG page at www.phai.ca to learn more or download an application. Information and applications can also be obtained by phoning the PHAI Management Office at 905.885.0291.

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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.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHAI MO forms new Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group (CLG)

Clarington, Ontario (March 27, 2013) — The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office has named its six-member Citizen Liaison Group (CLG) for the Port Granby Project.

The members – selected from applications received after a month of public advertising – represent key sectors including agriculture, health, education, environment/conservation and community life. Members met for an inaugural meeting on March 21.

The CLG offers a forum for community members and the PHAI Management Office to exchange information and ideas about the cleanup and long-term safe management of the historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Granby in Southeast Clarington. Members will develop a technical understanding of the project to help strengthen community awareness, participate in verifying that environmental monitoring requirements are being met and promote the environmental and economic benefits of the project.

“Through their varied interests and affiliations, these members represent a broad cross-section of community views,” said Judy Herod, PHAI MO Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Communications. “Their participation and input will help to strengthen communication with the community as the project moves forward.”

The six Port Hope CLG members are: Blair Smith, Gord Robinson, Maria Kordas-Fraser, Suzanne Land, Garry Whorpole and Marc Landry.

CLG meetings are led by an independent chair who is also the spokesperson for the group. The CLG will meet four times a year.

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PHAI MO forms new citizen liaison group

Community members invited to apply

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The CLG will bring together a broad cross-section of the community by providing a regular forum to exchange information and provide input about the Port Hope Project for the cleanup and long-term safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope.

Membership will be composed of up to 12 representatives from various organizations or professional associations that focus on areas such as the environment, business, education, health or community life. Citizens at large are also invited to apply. Through their participation, members will suggest ways to enhance community relations, promote an understanding of the project and participate in verifying that environmental monitoring requirements have been met. No special knowledge about the Port Hope Project is required to apply.

“The CLG will complement existing opportunities for information sharing and public involvement by giving residents another way to contribute their knowledge and perspectives to the project,” said Judy Herod, Manager of Stakeholder Relations and Communications for the PHAI Management Office.

The CLG is being established now, she said, as work increases to prepare for the excavation and movement of the waste to the new long-term waste management facility – scheduled to begin in 2015.

Port Hope residents who wish to apply should submit their application by Feb. 8, 2013. Visit the CLG page at www.phai.ca to learn more or download an application. Information and applications can also be obtained by phoning the PHAI Management Office at 905.885.0291.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHAI receives \$4.5 million waste water treatment equipment

Port Hope, Ontario (March 28, 2013) – State-of-the-art water treatment equipment that will be used in the Port Hope Project’s new waste water treatment plant arrived in Port Hope today.

The four units plus three large filtration tanks were specially manufactured for the Port Hope Area Initiative by ROCHEM Membrane Systems, Inc. in Hamburg, Germany. The \$4.5-million equipment is central to the operation of the new waste water treatment plant. The plant is currently being built to treat waste water that will be generated during the construction and operation of the new long-term, low-level radioactive waste management facility, located south of Highway 401 and west of Baulch Road in Port Hope.

The ROCHEM units use reverse osmosis technology as part of a two-stage process. Earlier testing demonstrated that this treatment process will significantly reduce contaminants in the waste water with about 99 per cent removal of the majority of contaminants.

“This is the most effective technology available to treat this waste water,” said Adrian Iurea, Operations Manager, (Port Hope) Waste Facility Operations. “It is a much more efficient system than traditional chemical or filtering treatment. These high rates of contaminant removal will result in environmental benefits and enhanced protection of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem.”

At the peak of the long-term waste management facility construction, the plant will have the capacity to treat 250,000 cubic metres of waste water per year. After the aboveground mound is capped and closed and the waste dries out, the volume of contaminated water for treatment will be dramatically reduced, to as little as 100 cubic metres per year.

Construction of the new Port Hope Project waste water treatment plant began in fall 2012. It will take approximately two years to complete construction and commission the plant.

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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.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Port Hope Area Initiative launches Campaign 3 of the Property Radiological Survey

Port Hope, Ont. (April 15, 2013) — The third campaign of the Property Radiological Survey investigations is slated to begin this summer with 1,300 Port Hope property owners having just received their information packages from the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) in the mail.

Each package contains an access consent form, scheduling form, step-by-step guide explaining the testing and a map that outlines the areas within the municipality that are included in Campaign 3. Property owners are being asked to complete the consent and scheduling forms and return them to the PHAI Management Office so an appointment can be scheduled to begin the first test – radon gas monitoring.

“The benefits to the property owner of taking part in the Property Radiological Survey program are huge,” said Port Hope Project Director Walter van Veen. “At the end of the testing or after a cleanup – if one is necessary – every owner will receive a compliance letter stating that the property meets the PHAI clean-up criteria and no further PHAI investigations will be needed.”

An important benefit of taking part in the testing is that once a compliance letter is issued, owners will no longer require radiological investigations through the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office’s Construction Monitoring Program when applying for a building permit or require a Radiological Status Letter when selling.

The goal of the Port Hope Property Radiological Survey program is to test all 4,800 private and public properties in Ward 1 and a few properties in Ward 2 over the next four years. Campaigns 1 and 2 are fully underway, representing almost one third of properties to be surveyed.

The initial visit will see contractors – working on behalf of the PHAI Management Office – place radon gas monitors (small hockey puck-like devices) in the basement and on the first floor of each building. The monitors will remain in place for approximately six months. Subsequent tests will involve interior and exterior gamma radiation investigations and borehole drilling/soil sampling. In total, five visits to each property, over the course of a year, will be required to complete the necessary testing.

As a personal security measure, each property is issued a Site Identification Number that will be used during all communications between the resident and the PHAI survey team.

“These tests are being conducted at no cost to residents. Indeed, if historic low-level radioactive waste is found on your property, the PHAI will be covering the cost of the cleanup and remediation,” said Mr. van Veen.

For the 10 per cent of properties expected to require some degree of cleanup, remediation activities will begin after 2015 when the new long-term waste management facility is ready to receive waste.

Campaign Update:

- **Campaign 1** – Testing has been completed on more than 155 of 450 properties.
- **Campaign 2** – Radon gas monitors – currently installed – will be removed throughout the summer, with interior and exterior gamma radiation surveys and borehole drilling /soil sampling scheduled to begin in Fall 2013.
- **Campaign 3** – access consent agreements and information packages are being mailed to residents now with radon gas monitors to be installed later this summer.

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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 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 more information, please contact:

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Port Hope Area Initiative names new general manager

Port Hope, Ont. (February 25, 2013) – A new General Manager has been named to lead the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office. Craig Hebert will officially assume his new role effective April 1. Mr. Hebert is a licensed Professional Engineer with over 27 years of public and private sector management experience. He joins the PHAI Management Office from Golder & Associates Ltd. where he held the position of Senior Project Manager. Mr. Hebert has also held senior management positions in public works operations, engineering and municipal administration with the City of Barrie, Ontario.

In announcing the appointment to the Port Hope office staff, Joan Miller, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) Vice-President Decommissioning & Waste Management, said the Canada-wide recruitment process of the past several months produced a slate of highly qualified candidates.

“This is an important position at a pivotal time in the life of the Port Hope Area Initiative projects,” Ms. Miller said. Construction is underway in both Port Hope and Port Granby as we prepare to undertake the remediation of historic low-level radioactive waste in the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. I am confident that Craig brings the right blend of professional competency, leadership qualities and personal attributes necessary to deliver these projects successfully. His experience in engineering projects and municipal operations is an excellent combination for the task ahead.”

The search for a new General Manager began late last year after it was announced that former PHAI Management Office General Manager Christine Fahey would take up a new role, as of January 2, 2013, with AECL’s corporate restructuring team in Chalk River. Glenn Case, PHAI Director of Safety and Design Authority, has served as Acting General Manager since that time.

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low-level radioactive waste, cleanup of the waste from various sites in Port Hope and its transportation to the waste management facility, and the long-term maintenance and monitoring of the facility.

ABOUT THE PORT GRANBY PROJECT

The Port Granby Project will relocate approximately 450,000 cubic meters of historic low-level radioactive waste and marginally contaminated soils, located at an existing waste management facility on the shoreline of Lake Ontario, to a new, engineered aboveground mound to be built about a kilometre north of the current site.

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