



Earth Day 2007! A crew from the LLRWMO pitched in to pick up litter along Toronto Road.

EA approval continued from page 1

Fisheries and Oceans Canada – are contained in a 244-page Screening Report. In the report, the RAs conclude the Project can be carried out without likely significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account planned mitigation measures that will reduce effects of the Project on the natural and social environment.

The Screening Report includes nearly 320 responses from the RAs to comments and questions about the Project. Copies are available at the Project Information Exchange at 196 Toronto Road, Port Hope.

The public has an opportunity to give input to the Commission on the licence on the second day of the hearing process. For more information visit: www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca



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Property Value Protection Program**
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News



Ward 2 residents dropped by the Port Hope Area Initiative booth at the Port Hope Home Show in April for a quick update from Project Specialist Mark Gardiner.

EA approved! Now on to licensing

Five years of scientific and technical study, extensive community consultation and thorough federal, provincial and municipal review have resulted in Government of Canada approval in March of the Port Hope Project Environmental Assessment.

The approval immediately set in motion the licensing process – the next step leading to the cleanup and

long-term management of the historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO) is preparing licensing documents for submission to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The Commission will then hold hearings on the Project expected to take place in mid 2008. The final decision on the Project is expected later next year.

The findings and conclusions of the three federal Responsible Authorities (RAs) – Natural Resources Canada, the CNSC and

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Making the case for safety

LLRWMO must satisfy CNSC licensing process before work can begin

How will residents be protected during waste excavation and construction of the aboveground mound? What will be done to ensure that trucks hauling radioactive waste will carry their cargo securely?

The answers are among hundreds found in a series of licensing documents the LLRWMO project team is preparing to submit to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) later this year. The licensing process takes up where the environmental assessment left off by specifying exactly how potential effects of the Project will be managed safely. It covers operating procedures, management plans and training manuals for every aspect of the Project such as environmental monitoring, radiation protection, health and safety and quality assurance.



Sabine McDermott, LLRWMO Technical Assistant, takes water samples at the Gananaska River in Port Hope as part of the ongoing environmental monitoring program.

In essence, says LLRWMO regulatory specialist Heather Kleb, the licence becomes a contract with the CNSC to ensure its requirements are met. It extends from pre-construction monitoring through to surveillance and maintenance of the long-term management facility. Over this time frame, the Commission will monitor and inspect Project activities to ensure the safety of the Project.

Monitoring program will feature early warning system

Built into the Port Hope Project environmental monitoring plan will be a layered system of triggers, set to warn of environmental change long before harm can occur.

The highest levels are *Regulatory Levels*, contaminant concentrations established by government authorities to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. They exist independent of the Port Hope Area Initiative and must not be exceeded.

Below them the Project will set *Action Levels* to warn of the potential to exceed a Regulatory Level. An effect,

such as dust in air, which exceeds an Action Level triggers a process that will correct the problem and require that the CNSC be notified of the cause and how the problem is being addressed.

Administrative Control Levels will be set even lower to warn before an Action Level is exceeded. The cause must be identified and action taken.

"These triggers provide levels of defense to ensure action is taken should mitigation measures not work as effectively as they should," says Heather Kleb, regulatory specialist for the Project. "It's all about safety."

Five years of polling results track public attitudes

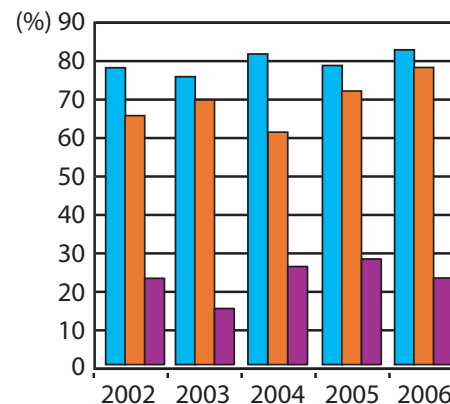
Hundreds of Port Hope residents have shared their ideas, knowledge and opinions about living in Port Hope, low-level radioactive waste and the Port Hope Area Initiative since the LLRWMO began surveying public attitudes in 2002.

The first five years of telephone polling indicate community awareness of the Project and confidence in the proposed solution have grown. 2006 results showed nearly three-quarters of respondents had confidence in the proposed long-term waste management facility.

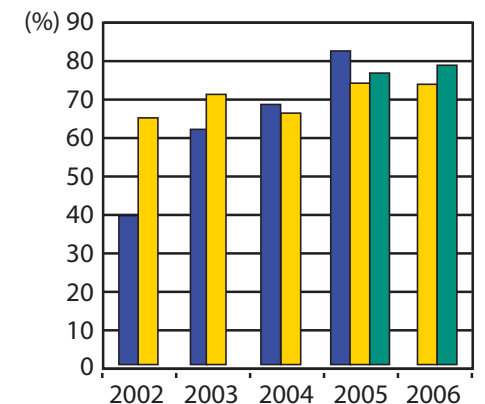
Knowledge about the historic waste and awareness of the Project have also risen. While residents typically cited the waste as the top issue facing the community, in 2006 unemployment and lack of economic growth surpassed it.

Intellipulse Research, a national survey research firm, conducted the surveys for the LLRWMO, recording responses from approximately 350 Ward 1 and 2 residents each time. Results from the upcoming poll will be made public early in 2008.

Here is a sample of results since the start of polling:



- Knowledgeable about llrw
- Think about living with llrw
- Name waste/radiation as top issue



- Aware of PHAI ¹
- Confident waste can be safely managed
- Satisfied with input in EA ²

¹ 2002 response is for Ward 1 only; question not asked in 2006
² This question was asked in 2005 and 2006 only

Cleanup will clear way for waterfront renewal

Discussions underway to coordinate three major plans for the area



Picture the concept to revitalize the Port Hope waterfront like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Tackling it one section at a time, first you assemble a restored west beach, then you move to the east, before getting to work on the long and complicated central section.

This is how the Port Hope Project, Municipality of Port Hope and Cameco Corporation are coordinating their individual, yet interdependent, plans for the area. Working together as the Waterfront Implementation Technical Advisory Group, they discuss historic low-level radioactive waste cleanup, land restoration, redevelopment and beautification.

Through the Port Hope Area Initiative, about 250,000 cubic metres of waste will be cleaned up from the inner harbour, former waterworks and sewage treatment plant properties, centre pier, viaducts and surrounding lands.

The municipal concept features an expanded east beach with marina, new yacht club and waterfront trails. The public will have the opportunity to comment on these plans before they are finalized. Cameco has embarked on Vision 2010, a master plan for complete facility modernization and waterfront greening.

“Because the three major parties are represented at the table now, at this early stage, this is a great opportunity to discuss how to effectively renew the waterfront,” says Glenn Case, Project Director for the Port Hope Area Initiative. “The group is consulting and discussing this now so all of the activities can be coordinated in a manner that will minimize disruption as much as possible during the four to five years of construction work anticipated.”



Cameco Vision 2010 conceptual design



Municipality of Port Hope waterfront concept



LLRWMO harbour wall soil investigations

Synchronization of all of the activities that will take place at the waterfront is important for the success of the renewal. For example, cleanup of contaminated areas will have to come first, so properties can be made available for redevelopment. Restoring the area section by section will allow one area to be finished and reopened before moving on to the next. Through Vision 2010, Cameco will sequence the removal of 150,000 cubic metres of soil and waste materials, including building demolition, for timely transfer to the proposed low-level radioactive waste management mound before it is capped and closed.

You asked?

How will dust and noise be controlled during waste excavation and haulage?

Managing environmental effects was the focus of the environmental assessment (EA). For example, measures to reduce dust include watering unpaved roads and excavation areas (water to be captured and treated), minimizing disturbed ground, installing fencing or other barriers, suspending operations during certain weather conditions and covering exposed construction areas at the end of each day. Monitoring will confirm the measures are working as expected.

Methods used by the LLRWMO over more than 25 years of safely handling low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope and across Canada are providing the foundation for the Environmental Management and Protection Program for the Project.

How will an owner know when a property is cleaned up once and for all?

Residential properties in Port Hope will be cleaned up to meet criteria that ensure the long-term safe use of the property, from building a home to growing vegetables. Once contaminated soil is removed from a property, the work will be verified to make sure the property meets these criteria. Detailed methods and procedures, which must be approved

by the CNSC, will be used to sample and test the soil. The property will then be backfilled with clean fill and restored as closely as possible to its original condition. When the work is done, owners will receive a letter identifying the criteria and confirming they have been met. From that point on, radiological status letters will no longer be necessary when selling properties.

How can residents be sure contaminants aren't getting into the air or water when the waste is dug up?

Environmental monitoring will ensure safety measures are working effectively and provide for early action, if the need arises. Before construction begins, the environment will be

monitored for at least six months to update baseline information collected at the start of the EA. This pre-construction monitoring will add to information on air quality (noise, odour, dust and radiological data), water quality (creeks and rivers) and groundwater. Once the Project begins, monitoring will ensure any changes in the baseline are immediately detected and assessed. Post-construction monitoring will continue long after the Project is completed to ensure the safety of the long-term facility. The LLRWMO will communicate monitoring results to the public using methods such as citizen participation and posting real-time data on the internet.

EAs make positive difference for communities and nature

Heather Kleb's career as an ecologist has led her across the globe conducting environmental assessments. She has examined plant and animal life over three million hectares of Saskatchewan forest to assess the effects of logging practices; she has hiked the foothills of the Rockies radio-tracking Big Horn sheep to monitor the effects of coal mining; and she has worked in Mali, Africa, assessing the effects of gold mining to secure fair compensation and environmental protection for a remote village of farmers.



assessment and regulatory specialist. She managed the recently approved Port Hope Project EA that predicted potential effects on the natural and social environment and recommended ways to manage them. EAs make a positive difference for the

environment and communities, Heather says. They make sure people and nature are protected.

A graduate of the University of Calgary (BSc) and the University of Regina (MSc), Heather is based at the LLRWMO's Ottawa office. She, her husband and young son enjoy camping and canoeing in Algonquin Park.

Heather joined the LLRWMO five years ago as an environmental

Evaluation makes Phase 2 recommendations

An independent evaluation prepared for Natural Resources Canada has concluded that Phase 1 of the Port Hope Area Initiative is being managed cost effectively. The evaluation found that any delays and increased costs were the result of the high degree of public participation and municipal involvement and the complex requirements of the environmental assessment process.

The evaluation was released this past August. It reported that although Phase 1 could take about three years longer with costs about 10 per cent higher than originally anticipated in 1999, the extra time and money were unavoidable.

Among the recommendations the evaluation makes before Phase 2

implementation begins are the need for new, detailed cost estimates, a transition period to prepare for cleanup and construction and clarification of management, contracting and program delivery roles and responsibilities.

For a copy of the full report, please phone or visit the Project Information Exchange or go to: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/dmo/aeb/aeb-rpts-2007-EV0703-e.htm>

