

Dignitaries officially launch construction of Port Hope Project water treatment plant

Pictured l-r: Sandra Young, Regional Director, Acquisition and Compensation for Public Works Government Services Canada; Greg Stack, Vice-President, Business Development and Design for Kenaidan Contracting, Mississauga; Rick Norlock, MP Northumberland-Quinte West; Port Hope Mayor Linda Thompson and Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office Port Hope Project Director Walter van Veen



Construction begins...see page 3

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CNSC decision clears way for Project to proceed

The decision by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Nov. 15 has provided its authorization for the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) to carry out the cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope.

The CNSC extended the term of the Project's 2009 licence to Dec. 31, 2022 and removed a hold-point, thereby clearing the way for Phase 2 of the Port Hope Project to proceed with waste remediation and facility construction. The decision followed a public hearing held in Ottawa on Oct. 24.

In its decision, the Commission confirmed "AECL (Atomic Energy of Canada Limited) 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."

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Letter from the Port Hope Project director

As this year winds to a close, it's a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished and what lies ahead. By all accounts, 2012 has been a banner year for the Port Hope Project.

The commitment of \$1.28 billion in federal funding for the Port Hope Area Initiative's (PHAI) two projects enabled Phase 2 implementation to begin. Work is underway on several important initiatives including the Property Radiological Survey program, the construction of the Port Hope Project water treatment plant and the tendering of a number of new contracts for property investigations and infrastructure projects.



We anticipate that 2013 will be just as monumental. Between now and the summer, tenders will be posted for significant construction contracts, including the long-term waste management facility. This contract will encompass the remediation of large-scale sites and construction of the engineered aboveground storage mound.

One year ago, when I joined the PHAI from another large remediation project in Nova Scotia, the PHAI MO had a staff of 33. Today, we bring together nearly 100 highly qualified people, some of whom have been with the Project since its inception and bring decades of experience. Other, newer staff, have joined us from major North American and international remediation projects.

Our staff is fortunate to be a part of this Project. For all of us, including myself, who have chosen to make Port Hope our home, the Port Hope Project is not just a job. It is a commitment to this community to make the health and safety of the public and our workers, and the protection of the environment our highest priorities.

Your support is important to us. As we move forward, we will keep you informed through clear communications, respond quickly to your questions and provide opportunities for your feedback.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "W van Veen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" and last name "van Veen" clearly distinguishable.

Walter van Veen, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Port Hope Project Director

Official launch: construction underway

The official launch of the first major construction contract for Phase 2 of the Port Hope Project took place November 30 at the site of the Port Hope Area Initiative new \$22 million waste water treatment plant. The contract has been awarded to Kenaidan Contracting Ltd. of Mississauga.

About 50 invited guests gathered at the site of the future long-term waste management facility where the plant is being built, south of Hwy. 401 and east of Brand Road.

Rick Norlock, Member of Parliament for Northumberland-Quinte West, said the awarding of the contract is an example of how the Government of Canada is following through on its pledge to advance the Port Hope Area Initiative.

“The awarding of the waste water treatment plant contract is an important step forward in the cleanup and safe long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope,” MP Norlock said on behalf of

Minister of Natural Resources Canada Joe Oliver.

Work on the new waste water treatment plant is expected to take about two years. The plant will treat all surface and groundwater collected at the site of the long-term waste management facility during construction and from within the aboveground mound once it is built. The contract also includes site clearing and upgrading of roads on the site.

The two-stage treatment process incorporates best-available technologies to remove a wide range of contaminants. The treated water will meet or exceed regulatory requirements and significantly improve the quality of water discharged from the site into Lake Ontario, resulting in environmental benefits and enhanced protection of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem.



MP Rick Norlock (foreground); Deputy Mayor Jeff Gilmer

Promoting economic opportunities

The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is focused on promoting the significant economic benefits the Project will bring to the community.

Partnering with the municipality's economic development office and business community, the PHAI MO has:

- Hosted more than 16 Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) seminars reaching over 300 local entrepreneurs;
- Promoted awareness and networking opportunities to more than 60 area business representatives at the PHAI MO's first

business breakfast in August; and

- Supported Customer Service Training aimed at helping businesses respond to questions about the Project by distributing 2,000 Port Hope Project-info postcards to local businesses.

The next OSME seminar is on Jan. 28, 2013 at the Lions Club. Information will be presented on upcoming PHAI contracts and how small contractors can partner to take advantage of these job opportunities. Over 1,000 new jobs and \$0.40 in spin-off benefits are predicted to result from the \$1.28 billion PHAI projects.

Understanding the Property Radiological Survey program

The Port Hope Property Radiological Survey program will test every property in Ward 1 and a few properties in Ward 2 Port Hope over the next four years. Here's a step-by-step look at what to expect:

STEP 1 Consent & scheduling

First, contractors engaged by the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) review existing radiological information on file about the property. Owners are then contacted, access agreements are signed and survey activities are scheduled.

STEP 2 Testing

Up to six home visits will be required to complete the testing. Radon gas monitoring, interior and exterior gamma surveying and soil sampling will take place at all properties.

As a personal security measure, every property is assigned a unique Site Identification Number that contractors can use when contacting owners.



Property files



Interior gamma testing



Interior radon testing

STEP 3 Review & notification

Completion of the property report will take approximately one year. The results will be compared to the PHAI Clean-Up Criteria to identify if historic low-level radioactive waste is present on the property.



Exterior gamma testing

STEP 4a Compliance letter

Approximately 90 per cent of properties will not require cleanup, and these owners will receive a Compliance Letter stating that no further investigations are required.

STEP 4b Cleanup, restoration & compliance

When a property is identified as requiring cleanup, the PHAI MO will work with the owner to enter into a new agreement to carry out the remediation and restoration of the property. Once the work is completed, a Compliance Letter will be issued.



Remediation

Why taking part in the testing is so important...

The benefits to property owners of taking part in the Property Radiological Survey program are huge.

The radiological testing will enable the Project to determine if there is historic low-level radioactive waste on a property. If no low-level radioactive waste is found, the owner will receive a Compliance Letter when all testing and reports have been completed. This will eliminate the need for construction monitoring when undertaking home construction projects or applying for a building permit. Radiological Status Letters will no longer be required when selling the property.

In cases where low-level radioactive waste is identified at a property, the Compliance Letter will be issued once the cleanup has been completed.

For the community, the knowledge that formerly contaminated properties have been cleaned up, once and for all, will provide peace of mind for generations to come.



Property restoration

First two campaigns of property survey program underway

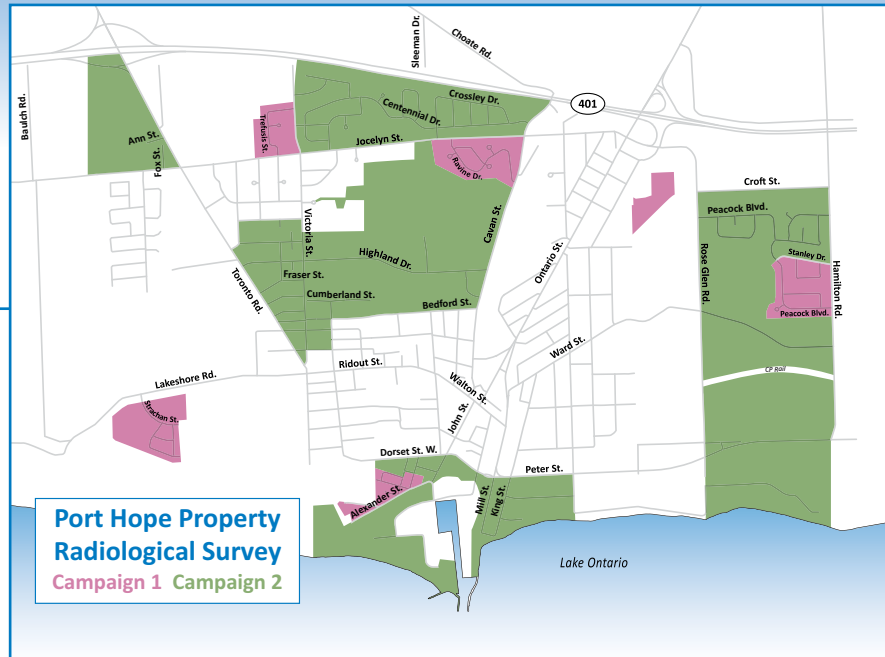
The Port Hope Property Radiological Survey program will test every property in Ward 1 and select properties in Ward 2 Port Hope over the next four years – in all, 4,800 properties. The work is being done in a series of five campaigns that began in summer 2012 with 450 residential properties and continues this winter with the second campaign of 1,100.

Campaign 1

Over the next few months, a team led by SENES Consultants Limited will return to the first 450 properties where radon gas monitoring was carried out this past summer. This time, the investigations will involve interior and exterior gamma radiation surveys, subsurface gamma radiation investigations, soil sampling and winter radon monitoring. The testing program will conclude for these properties in the spring.

Campaign 2

Radon monitoring will be conducted in the New Year for the next 1,100 properties. Access agreements and scheduling forms, along with information packages explaining the purpose of the testing, were mailed in September.



Boundary lines for Campaign 1 and 2

Follow-up phone calls are being made to encourage property owners to sign and return the access agreements so their properties will be included in the upcoming round of testing, which begins in January.

It is anticipated that about 10 per cent of properties will need some degree of cleanup once remediation begins in 2015. This could range from a few shovelfuls of soil to a more extensive interior and/or exterior cleanup.

“Homeowners only stand to benefit from taking part in the property testing,” said Walter van Veen, Port Hope Project director. “At the end of the testing, or after a cleanup, if it is necessary, all property owners will receive a Compliance Letter stating that no further investigations are required.”

Field work targets non-residential sites

Field investigations at four sites, Peter Street Interim Mound, Caroline Street Park, St. Mary's School property and the Welcome Waste Management Facility abandoned pipeline route, will determine the extent of future clean-up activities that may be required.

As part of the Property Radiological Survey program, the investigations will include gamma radiation testing, soil sampling and, where buildings are present, radon gas monitoring. Staff from the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office has visited nearby neighbours and businesses to provide them with information about the work and to answer their questions.

Genivar Inc. of Markham will examine the abandoned pipeline route extending from the existing Welcome Waste Management Facility in Ward 2 Port Hope to Lake Ontario. The abandoned pipeline was installed in 1956 and was replaced with a new, twin pipeline in 2009.



Borehole drilling along the route of the abandoned pipeline

The pipeline carries treated water from the waste water treatment plant for discharge to Lake Ontario.

Franz Environmental of Mississauga will conduct the investigations at the other sites.

Properties found to have historic low-level radioactive waste will be cleaned up when the new long-term waste management facility is ready to receive waste from the community in 2015.

...CNSC decision continued from page 1

“Securing the amended licence, together with the federal funding approval that was announced at the beginning of 2012, is a huge step forward for the Project and the Port Hope community,” said Christine Fahey, PHAI MO general manager. “All of the regulatory approvals are now in place to undertake the implementation phase. 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.”

The PHAI MO will continue to work closely with the Municipality of Port Hope and consult with local residents and other stakeholders to



Port Hope Project Oct. 24 CNSC public hearing

undertake the excavation, transportation and safe consolidation of 1.2 million cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste in a new long-term engineered waste management facility.

The cleanup is scheduled to begin in 2015, once all of the necessary infrastructure is in place.

Project forms new citizen liaison group

The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) is inviting members of the community to contribute their skills and perspectives to a new liaison group for the Port Hope Project.

The Port Hope Project Citizen Liaison Group (CLG) will bring together representatives from various sectors within the community to represent a broad cross-section of opinions and views. The CLG will provide an opportunity for information sharing and involvement.

Membership will be composed of up to 12 representatives from various organizations within the community that focus on areas such as the environment, business, education, health and community life. CLG 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.

The PHAI MO will invite expressions of interest over the next two months through local advertising, letters to community organizations and on the PHAI MO website (www.phai.ca). Member selection is anticipated early in the New Year with the first meeting to be held shortly after.

The CLG will complement other opportunities the PHAI MO provides for information sharing and public involvement such as the Public

Information Exchange, the project newsletter, public attitude survey, open houses and information sessions.

Get to know our staff

Catherine Jefferson

Catherine joined the PHAI MO as Senior Environmental Specialist in March, responsible for ensuring the environmental assessment follow-up monitoring commitments for the natural and socio-economic environments are met.

Catherine has a Masters of Science in Aquatic Toxicology and has worked with various government agencies including the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Environment Canada and Health Canada. She has a strong background in policy and environmental guideline development and has spent many years focusing on wastewater and drinking water management.

Catherine moved to Port Hope a year ago and says Port Hope is where she wants to stay. "It's a fabulous community. I love being near the Ganaraska River and Lake Ontario. My dogs and I are happy and look forward to getting to know the community better."



Project Information Exchange & Property Value Protection Program

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