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AREAS OF CONCERN **PORT HOPE**

Efforts in Port Hope are undertaken in a partnership between the Government of Canada, other levels of government and non-government groups, including members of the public.

Undertaking environmental restoration requires a large amount of scientific and technical expertise, local knowledge and hard work. One agency or group cannot engage in such a large task on their own without the help of others.



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The steps being taken to remediate the Port Hope area are unique. They include long-term, multi-step processes that focus exclusively on removing sediment contaminated by low-level radioactive waste from the urban areas of the municipality of Port Hope. A portion of this area, the Port Hope Harbour, is specifically designated as an Area of Concern (AOC) due to restrictions on dredging activities to remove the contaminated sediment.

Why was it listed as an Area of Concern?

Port Hope was designated an AOC because a review of available data indicated that water quality and environmental health were severely degraded. A legacy of contamination from the operation and waste management practices of Eldorado Mining and Refining between 1933 and 1953 led to an estimated 85,000-95,000 cubic metres of sediment containing low-level radioactive material within the turning basin and west slip of the Port Hope Harbour.

What have we accomplished?

The Port Hope Area Initiative, launched in 2001, focuses on cleaning up and managing waste from a number of sites within the municipality of Port Hope, including the harbour. Cleanup activities include the construction of a long-term, low-level radioactive waste management facility, the remediation of contaminated sites, the transfer of contaminated material to the new facility, and continued maintenance and monitoring.

The construction of a new wastewater treatment plant will begin in 2013, and it is expected to take two years for the plant to be completed. The plant will treat all of the surface material and groundwater collected at the site of the long-term, low-level waste management facility during construction and from within the facility once it is built. Throughout the environmental assessment phase, there was extensive public consultation, and public engagement continues in the form of the establishment of a Citizen Liaison Group (CLG).

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Concurrently, Cameco Corporation has proposed the Vision 2010 initiative. This initiative seeks to remove 150,000 cubic metres of contaminated soil and waste material from the former Eldorado property adjacent to the harbour and transport it to the long-term, low-level radioactive waste management facility. A number of buildings on the site will be decommissioned and demolished, and the site remediated and restored for industrial use.

What's left to do?

The next step is to build the long-term, low-level waste management facility. The facility will be an engineered above-ground mound, designed to isolate the waste.

Outlook

The removal of historic, low-level radioactive waste is expected to start in 2015 when the waste management facility is ready to receive the waste. The entire project will be completed by 2025, with the harbour being one of the first sites to be remediated.

Where can you find more information?

Environment Canada e-mail :
greatlakes-grandslacs@ec.gc.ca

Environment Canada Web site:
www.ec.gc.ca/raps

Port Hope Area Initiative:
www.phai.ca

PARTNERS

Listed below are participants that contribute to efforts in the Port Hope AOC:

Natural Resources Canada

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited

Public Works and Government Services Canada

The Municipality of Port Hope

The Municipality of Clarington