

News

PORT HOPE COUNCIL PRESENTED WITH 768 PAGE REPORT DOCUMENTING THREE YEARS OF DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY ON THE PORT HOPE PROJECT

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO – A draft report summarizing the results of three years of detailed study and analysis of the potential environmental effects of the Port Hope Project was presented to Port Hope Council on February 15, 2005. In order to move the Port Hope Long-term Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Project on to the next step in the process laid out in the 2001 Legal Agreement, written municipal consent to the “preferred option” (consolidation of the waste in a single site south of Highway 401 and west of Baulch Road) is needed.

This consent will allow the Environmental Assessment (EA) Study Report to be submitted to the federal Responsible Authorities at the end of March 2005. Over the next month, consultation with the public will continue and Port Hope’s municipal peer review team will review and comment on the 768 page Draft EA Study Report.

Glenn Case of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO) told Port Hope Council that environmental studies conclude that the Port Hope Project can be carried out without significant residual adverse effects on the environment or human health and safety. Therefore, the objective of the community-based project “to provide safe, local, long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste now situated in the Municipality of Port Hope” can be accomplished, he said.

At the Port Hope Legion on Monday, February 21st and at the Canton Municipal Hall on Thursday February 24th, 2005, draft conclusions of the Environmental Assessment Study Report will be presented to the public. Consultation with residents has been extensive over the past three years, Mr. Case said. “We have listened to, investigated and incorporated ideas suggested by residents, experts, peer review team members, municipal officials, First Nations and environmental groups. Our Draft EA Study Report is robust and the Project is environmentally sound. I’m pleased to report that the whole aim of the Project – to create a better environmental legacy than now exists – can be achieved,” he said.

Public consultation by the LLRWMO on design, application of mitigation measures, monitoring and long-term site planning will continue after submission of the EA Study Report to the Responsible Authorities. The EA Study Report will be reviewed by expert federal and provincial agencies before the draft Environmental Assessment Screening Report is written. The Responsible Authorities will consult with the public prior to finalizing the Screening Report.

The draft EA Study Report can be reviewed at the Port Hope Public Library and the Project Information Exchange at 110 Walton Street in Port Hope. CDs of the draft report are also available at the Project Information Exchange. From 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday visitors can drop-in, review documents, discuss their views and pick up information on the Port Hope Project.

-30-

For further information:

Sue Stickley, Communications Officer, (905) 885-1092 or cell (905) 376-8174

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office

