

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2004

## SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE REACHED IN PORT HOPE LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE CLEANUP

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO – “A significant step forward in the cleanup of low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope was made yesterday when the Peer Review Team endorsed the recommendation to consolidate all historic low-level radioactive waste in a single long-term management facility,” said Robert Zelmer, Director of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO). “The Port Hope Area Initiative began in 2001 and has made considerable progress towards the goal of long-term safe management of low-level radioactive waste in the Port Hope area”.

“We look forward to Port Hope Council’s acceptance of the peer review team recommendations to support the LLRWMO conclusions on alternative means and to move ahead to the next stage of the environmental assessment,” Mr. Zelmer said.

“We appreciate the peer review team’s careful critical review of our reports on the feasible and qualified alternative concepts for the management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope,” he said. The peer review team has highlighted a number of areas that will be considered in detail during the environmental effects assessment of the Port Hope project. The LLRWMO will continue to work with the public and the municipality’s team of experts as well as the Mayor and members of Council, to discuss specific areas of interest such as cleanup criteria, future land uses and plans for monitoring/management of the facility hundreds of years into the future.

Studies of the current or baseline environment in the project area have also been reviewed by the Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited team on behalf of the municipality. The peer review team will also be involved as the project description is drawn up in greater detail. In the meantime the LLRWMO team has begun assessing the effects of the project on the environment, including the social and economic environment. All this work is expected to come together next spring when the Environmental Assessment Study Report is submitted to the federal authorities responsible for the project – Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Detailed engineering and licensing of the facility will follow. Construction and cleanup work are expected to begin in 2007.

Copies of reports and studies are available at the public library and at the Project Information Exchange at 110 Walton Street in Port Hope. From 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday visitors can drop-in, discuss their views and pick up information on the Port Hope Area Initiative.

-30-

### For further information:

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

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada



AECL  
Atomic Energy  
of Canada Limited

EACL  
Energie atomique  
du Canada limitée

Canada