

**Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office
Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office
Guideline on Disclosure of Property Information
Frequently Asked Questions**

What is the new Guideline?

The guideline provides for public access to information about Port Hope properties, private or public, for which radiological information is on file with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. The public may request a copy of an entire radiological property file, specific information in a file, such as radon levels, or if one has been prepared, the Radiological Status Letter (RSL) summarizing the file. Most of the information on file is for Port Hope Ward 1 properties.

Why has this guideline been created?

The guideline was prompted by changes made to the Government of Canada's *Federal Accountability Act*. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) also made a commitment to review its policies on the release of radiological information at the August 2009 licence hearing on the Port Hope Project before the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

What is in a radiological property file?

These files contain the results of radiological investigations that have been carried out on Port Hope properties since the mid 1970s to the present. The information includes interior and exterior gamma radiation measurements, interior radon gas levels and information about cleanups that may have taken place at the property. Most of the more than 4,000 property files were created between 1976 and 1981 during the initial radiological survey and cleanup of Ward 1 properties. Since then, information has been updated and new files created, including for some Ward 2 properties, as a result of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office's Construction Monitoring and Property Compliance programs.

What is an RSL?

RSLs or Radiological Status Letters provide a summary of the information contained in radiological property files. RSLs are prepared for property owners or their Realtors, usually when the property is being listed for sale. Most RSLs summarize, in just a few pages, the monitoring activities, if and where contaminated soil may have been removed from the property and how the radiological status of the property compares to background levels and radiological criteria.

Is there any information I cannot receive?

Yes, files will be reviewed, and information that is considered private under the federal *Privacy Act* will be redacted (removed) before the information is released. Examples of personal information include the names of previous owners, correspondence between realtors, lawyers, etc. and financial information.

What if someone files an information request about my property and I don't want them to have it?

Radiological property information gathered by the federal government is available to anyone who requests it. Whenever a request is received from a non-owner, the owner will be notified and offered the same information being released to the requester. The owner will be assured that only information deemed public – radiological information – will be released. No private information will be provided under the access guideline. Both the requester and the property owner will be offered an opportunity to meet with staff to have the radiological information explained. Owners who continue to have concerns about the release of information will be referred to AECL's Access to Information and Privacy office.

How long will it take to receive the information?

The length of time needed to respond to a request will depend on the complexity of the request and file. For example, a request for an existing Radiological Status Letter should take no more than a few days to fulfill. Most files or specific information in files should normally be available within two weeks. However, in the case of complex files that contain a lot of personal information that has to be removed, the request may take longer to satisfy. Requesters can assist by specifying the precise information they want. For example, if a requester is interested only in the monitoring results for a specific time period when they lived at a property, they should specify this in their request.

How does the new guideline differ from past practices?

In the past, only property owners or those with permission of the owner could obtain this information. Under the new guideline, non-owners will be able to receive property file information. Owners will be notified as a courtesy and offered the same information as the requester, including a meeting with staff to have the information interpreted. The name of the requester will not be released.

How do I make an information request?

Request for Information forms are available on line at www.phai.ca and www.llrwmo.org or by visiting the Port Hope Area Initiative office at 115 Toronto Road or the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office at 196 Toronto Road. Most requests will not involve a charge, however, complex requests will be sent to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's Access to Information and Privacy office and its standard charges may apply.