



Moving Ahead

Study Says Move Waste Further Away From Lake

For long-term safety and environmental protection, the 20-month alternative means process under the Environmental Assessment for the Port Granby Long-term Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Project recommends complete containment of historic low-level radioactive waste now located in southeast Clarington.

The recommended approach is to move the waste from its existing shoreline location into a new state-of-the-art aboveground engineered mound further away from Lake Ontario on nearby property owned by Cameco Corporation.

Now the public, the municipality and their technical advisors, federal and provincial agencies and other interested groups will have the opportunity to carefully review these study findings and provide comments to the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO). All comments will be considered before the results of the alternative means process are finalized.

The community-based Port Granby Project was initiated in 2001 by the Municipality of Clarington and the federal government, building on the 1999 recommendations of a municipally appointed citizens committee.

Extensive Public Process

In June 2002, the LLRWMO began a process to seek out, investigate and rank alternative means of providing safe, long-term management for the historic low-level radioactive waste stored at the existing Port Granby Waste Management Facility.

The public and other stakeholders were involved in the alternative means process from day one. During workshops and Open Houses, local residents and technical specialists discussed and developed concepts for managing the waste and the criteria that would be used to study and rank these concepts.

The process compared the community concept of managing the low-level radioactive waste within the existing site boundaries (divert the groundwater, cover the waste, no liner under the majority of the waste,

protect the shoreline and bluffs from erosion) with other alternative means of carrying out the Project. The concept of relocating the waste further away from Lake Ontario into a new engineered waste management facility ranked first when concepts were compared on the basis of environmental, human health and safety, technical, and economic factors. It ranked a close second on community factors.

Significant advantages of a new state-of-the-art management facility over on-site management include:

- No need to deal with shoreline and bluff erosion or groundwater diversion requirements;
- Complete encapsulation of the



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waste and therefore superior environmental performance;

- No bluff stabilization work or construction in Lake Ontario with the associated potential to disrupt aquatic habitat;
- A much lower volume of construction materials transported over public roads;
- A reduced stewardship burden on future generations due to lower long-term operation and maintenance requirements;
- Greater experience and precedents for managing waste this way;
- Less obtrusive visually;
- Easier to monitor and a lower risk of facility failure;
- The lakeshore property could be turned over to alternative uses;
- Shoreline linkages for wildlife and human activity could be re-established.

Experience shows that waste containing radioactive material can be moved safely. Concerns expressed by some community members regarding effects of excavation and movement of waste can be addressed by appropriate safety measures, continuous monitoring and selection of transportation routes with minimal effects on current public roadways and local residents.

Consultation continues

To meet with LLRWMO staff call 1-866-255-2755 or stop by Friday afternoons in Newcastle Village Hall.

Don't miss our evening Open Houses on March 31 in Orono Hall, April 6 in Newcastle Village Hall and April 7 in Newtonville Hall.

**Visit the Port Granby Project Information Centre,
Newcastle Village Hall
Noon-5:00 PM - Fridays
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