

# The Port Granby Project – Canada’s Largest Uranium Remediation Project – An Overview

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) is a community-based solution for the long-term management of historic low level radioactive waste (LLRW) resulting from 60 years of uranium and radium processing operations in the urban setting of Port Hope, Ontario. The Eldorado refinery, on the shores of Lake Ontario, began refining radium-226 from pitchblende ore, later transitioning to the refining of uranium ore. Process residues were deposited at the Welcome Waste Management Facility in the Town of Port Hope until the mid-1950s switching to the Port Granby Waste Management Facility (PGWWMF), which continued to accept waste until the late 1980s.

The Port Granby Project involves the construction of a new, secure long-term waste management facility (LTWWMF) and supporting infrastructure, and the excavation and relocation of some 205,000 m<sup>3</sup> of LLRW and 101,000 m<sup>3</sup> of marginally contaminated soil from the PGWWMF to the newly constructed LTWWMF. The Project is governed under a Licence, granted by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), which is founded on recommendations of an Environmental Assessment Screening Report (EA) completed between 2001 and 2009. The EA involved numerous studies designed to evaluate the potential impact of the project on the natural environment and included recommendations on measures to be taken to protect health, safety, security, and the environment.

This paper provides an overview of the Port Granby Project and progress to date since planning documents are essentially complete and field work is currently in progress.