

CHRONOLOGY

1932 Eldorado Gold Mines Ltd. opens radium refining facilities in Port Hope.

1933-1939 Processing residues retained on the plant site.

1939-1944 Processing residues stored 300-400 metres west of plant site (Lakeshore Disposal Area).

1930s-1970s Properties and sites in the Town of Port Hope become contaminated in a variety of ways, including spillage during transportation, unrecorded, unmonitored or unauthorized diversion of contaminated fill and materials, wind and water erosion, and contamination spread from residue storage areas.

1942-1954 Production emphasis shifts from radium to uranium refining.

1944 Government of Canada takes over Eldorado Gold Mines Ltd. and the company is renamed Eldorado Mining and Refining Ltd.

1945-1948 Processing residues stored at Monkey Mountain Residue Area (beside Highland Drive, then known as Pidgeon Hill) in Port Hope.

1948-1974 Pidgeon Hill storage compound used for storage of used equipment, incineration, etc. (not residue storage).

1948-1954 Residues stored at Welcome Disposal Area in Hope Township, about 3 km northwest of the plant site.

1953-1954 Radium refining stops. Facilities dismantled and removed from plant site.

1955-1988 Waste management operations moved approx. 13 kilometres west to Port Granby Residue Area in Clarke Township, now Clarington.

1962 Company becomes Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. and in 1982, Eldorado Resources Ltd.

1976-1981 Atomic Energy Control Board directs a large-scale radiation reduction program in the Town of Port Hope. Over 100,000 tonnes of contaminated soil is transferred to a site at Chalk River Laboratories.

1982 Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO) is established to manage historic waste in the Town of Port Hope and across Canada.

1982-Present LLRWMO investigates, characterizes and consolidates certain waste within the Town of Port Hope. Construction Monitoring Program in place to minimize spread of contamination.

1988 Cameco purchases Eldorado's assets from the federal government. Cameco assumes responsibility for management of waste at Welcome and Port Granby facilities.

1988-Present Cameco's programs for waste reduction, recycling and recovery minimize waste generation. Small volumes of waste produced are now stored on site.

1988 The federal government establishes a Siting Task Force on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management to site a permanent management facility for Port Hope area wastes.

1988-1996 Through a cooperative process, Siting Task Force invites all Ontario municipalities to consider hosting a long-term management facility for low-level radioactive waste, but no agreement is reached.

1997 Hope Township initiates a community proposal to construct a long-term waste management facility for wastes at the Welcome Waste Management Facility.

1998 Port Hope and Clarington also develop proposals to establish long-term management facilities for low-level radioactive wastes within their communities.

2000 The Government of Canada and Hope Township, Port Hope and Clarington initial *Principles of Understanding*, outlining terms for a project to clean up low-level radioactive waste in the three communities.

2001 A legal agreement is signed which commits the federal government and the municipalities to clean up and isolate low-level radioactive waste in aboveground mound facilities designed to last for at least 500 years.

The Initiative begins.



Low-Level Radioactive Waste in the Port Hope Area