

UPCOMING Public Meetings

Newtonville Community Hall
Project Discussion Group Meeting
 March 29, 2006; 7:00 p.m.
EA public information session
 April: date and time to be announced

Port Granby Project Discussion Group *continued from page 3*

issues. The forums will be open to everyone and take place four times a year. They will bring to the table the South-East Clarington Ratepayers Association (SECRA), residents at large, the LLRWMO and the municipality. In addition, the first meeting chose two community representatives and a SECRA delegate to canvass the

community for their ideas and report back. Residents at large selected were Julie Jones and Gord Ewington; for SECRA, Jerry Mahoney or Sarwan Sahota; for the LLRWMO, Sue Stickley and Gary Vandergaast; and for the Municipality of Clarington, Janice Szwarc. The next meeting is planned for March 29, 2006.

Where can I find the study report?

The detailed Port Granby Draft Environmental Assessment Study Report is a large binder with 15 separate supporting documents. But don't be alarmed by its volume. Those who reviewed the report last year, prior to its revision, will find much of it familiar. The LLRWMO will point out key changes between the versions. A public comment period will run for a month once the revised draft report is presented to Clarington Council in

March. The documents will be available at the Clarington Public Library in Bowmanville and at the LLRWMO Project Information Exchange in Port Hope. The report will also be distributed to the South-East Clarington Ratepayers' Association. To request the complete report on CD, please phone Sandy at the Project Information Exchange at 905-885-0291; toll-free at 1-866-255-2755. The revised Port Hope study report is also available for review.



Here's how to reach us

Project Information Exchange
 196 Toronto Road, Box 118
 Port Hope, ON L1A 3V9
 Open 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
 Monday through Friday

Telephone: 905-885-0291
 Toll-free: 1-866-255-2755
 Fax: 905-885-0273
 email: info@llrwm.org
 website: www.llrwm.org

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Winter/Spring 2006

News



Residents and LLRWMO staff discuss the Port Granby Project at information sessions in November.

EA study report moves forward

When the revised Port Granby Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Study Report is submitted to federal authorities later this year, it will incorporate design improvements resulting directly from the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office's (LLRWMO) investigation of issues raised by Clarington and the public.

The LLRWMO delayed submission of the report last spring to address design changes requested by the Municipality of

Clarington (*see pages 2 & 3*). The EA study report represents four years of studies and public consultation on the Project for the safe long-term management of historic low-level radioactive waste currently located at the Port Granby Waste Management Facility. The LLRWMO proposes to move the waste to a new engineered aboveground mound facility away from Lake Ontario.

The revised report also incorporates lessons learned during the federal review of the *Port Hope* Project Draft EA Study Report, submitted last year. The Port Granby draft report is scheduled to be released in March. Over the next few months, the LLRWMO will consider all comments before presenting the final draft to the municipality for its consent. Submission to the federal authorities will follow.

In This Issue

- Information sessions update residents
- A look at the proposed facility site plan
- Answers to your questions
- Telephone survey findings
- Coming events

Residents drop in to review project updates

Community Information Sessions

Modifications to the design of the aboveground mound...

An underpass to keep waste trucks off the public roadway...

A local project discussion group...

These were some of the recommendations residents and LLRWMO staff discussed at a series of information sessions this past November. Community members dropped in to the Newtonville Hall November 17, 21 and 24 to review the new information, ask questions and offer feedback. Here is a summary of the information:

Lakeshore Road Temporary Underpass would keep waste trucks off public road

Under the Project, 45,000 truckloads of waste would cross Lakeshore Road along an internal access road between the existing Port Granby Waste Management Facility and the proposed long-term facility to the north. To avoid traffic interruptions, the LLRWMO is proposing to build a temporary underpass (see diagram on pages 4 & 5). Other waste movement issues continue to be addressed through proposed dust control measures, safety procedures and monitoring.

Port Granby Project Discussion Group

Residents take a place at the table

The newly formed Port Granby Project Discussion Group will discuss issues important to the community such as how to involve residents in long-term monitoring, minimizing transportation effects and safety of the proposed aboveground mound design.

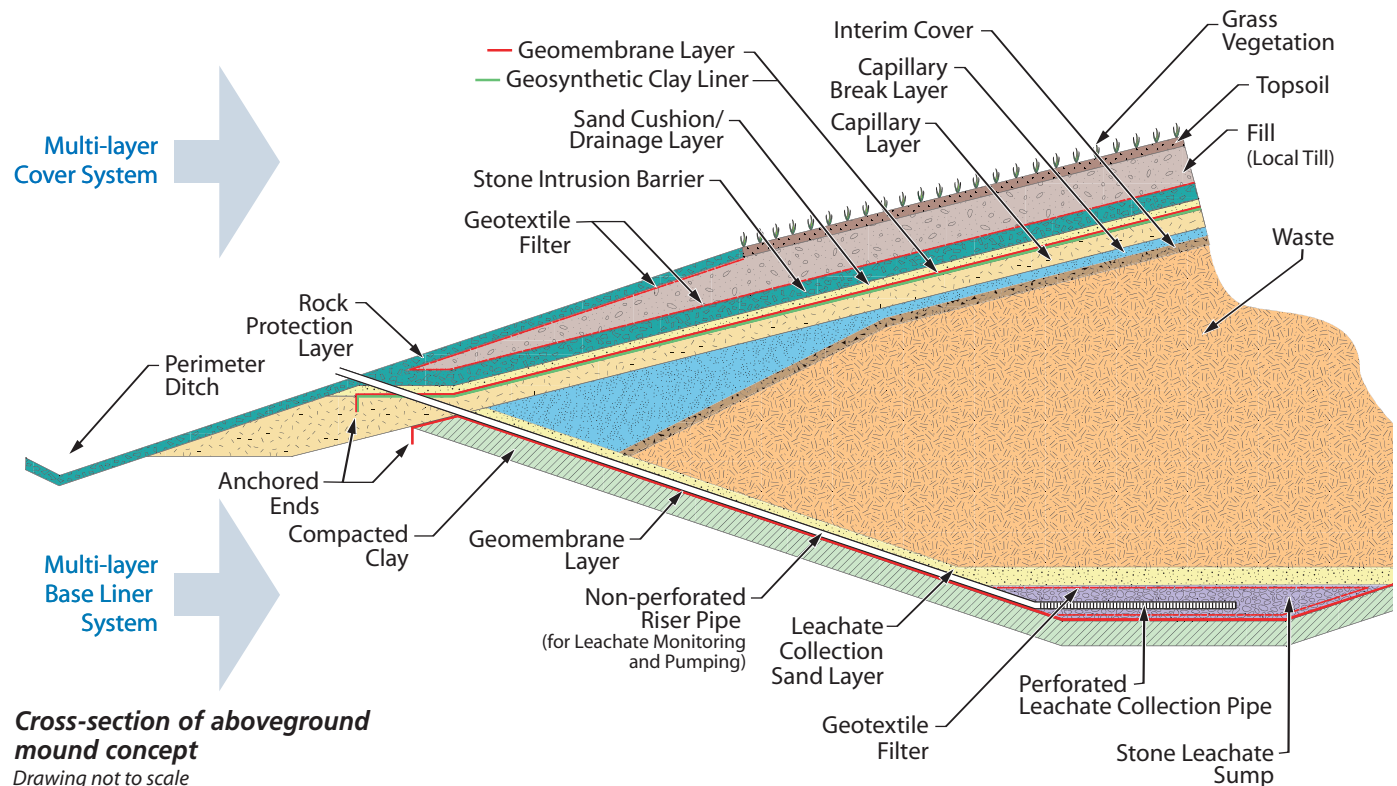
About 20 area residents gathered at Newtonville Hall on January 16 and agreed to continue discussing the

continues on page 8

Capillary Drainage System adds redundant environmental protection

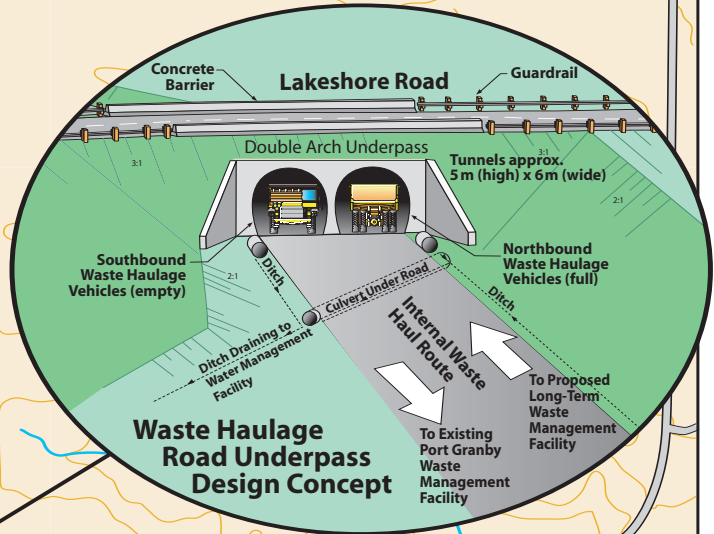
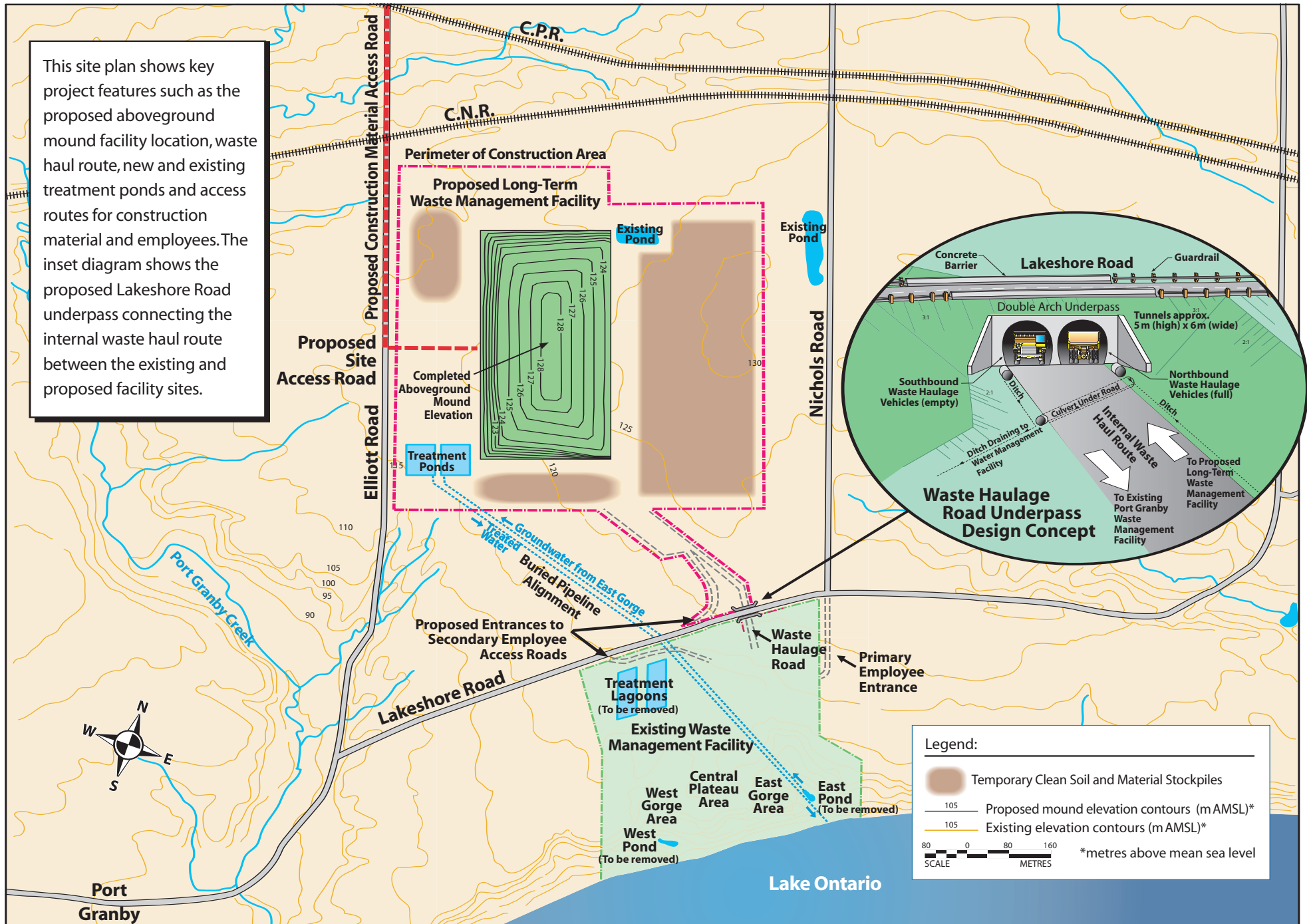
In response to community requests for assurance that the environment will be protected, the LLRWMO has modified the aboveground mound cover design. Based on the principle that keeping the waste dry minimizes the creation of leachate (contaminated water), the Capillary Drainage System provides additional barriers to keep water away from the waste if the synthetic layers in the cover were to fail.

Under normal conditions, the geomembrane and geosynthetic clay layers in the cover system (see diagram) work together to create a waterproof barrier, blocking moisture from reaching the waste. But if, in late life, the geomembrane failed, the Capillary Drainage System, along with other natural barriers in the cover system, would provide effective back-up protection. Similar to a wick, the capillary layer would draw water (precipitation) sideways and into the perimeter ditch away from the waste. Sensors to measure saturation would provide an early warning if changes in the cover occurred.



Proposed project site plan

This site plan shows key project features such as the proposed aboveground mound facility location, waste haul route, new and existing treatment ponds and access routes for construction material and employees. The inset diagram shows the proposed Lakeshore Road underpass connecting the internal waste haul route between the existing and proposed facility sites.



Legend:

- Temporary Clean Soil and Material Stockpiles
- Proposed mound elevation contours (m AMSL)*
- Existing elevation contours (m AMSL)*

80 0 80 160
SCALE METRES

*metres above mean sea level

You asked?

Why did you add layers to the cover instead of adding a second liner to the base of the mound as Clarington requested?

Although the Municipal Peer Review Team believed the original design would provide long-term containment of the waste, they asked the LLRWMO to add a second base liner in order to increase confidence in the design of the aboveground mound. The LLRWMO investigated three options for adding more layers to the base of the mound. None of these offered real improvements in performance, and all had disadvantages (increased construction traffic along Concession Road 1, longer construction duration, higher costs). So the LLRWMO stepped back and looked at ways to increase trust in the overall environmental protection provided by the mound.

Enhancing the cover system was shown to be a much better way to provide back-up environmental safeguards. The proposal adds additional moisture barrier layers through a Capillary Drainage System with sensors to monitor the cover system and provide early detection if problems ever arose. The Peer Review Team supports this design approach. *See pages 2 and 3.*

Have you considered what would happen if the mound leaked?

The overriding objective of the Project is to design a long-term waste management facility that protects people and the environment and that will not leak. However, the environmental assessment required the LLRWMO to assess all possible risks. A leak is unlikely during the design life (several hundred years) of the aboveground mound because of the care taken in the design and installation of protective systems. Extensive investigations showed that if, in the later life of the mound, a malfunction

such as deterioration of the base liner geomembrane occurred, the multiple redundant layers in the cover and base systems would effectively reduce and contain the leachate. The thick compacted clay at the base of the engineered mound, built on the native low-permeability till, would prevent migration of contaminants. The studies provide assurance that there would be no effect on Port Granby Creek. A rigorous inspection and monitoring program would continually verify this and provide an early warning if changes occurred, giving ample time to prepare a repair program if needed.

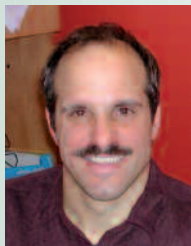
How will you deal with traffic conflicts along the material haul route during the Project?

The socio-economic study in the environmental assessment study report predicts changes in traffic and recommends a variety of ways the LLRWMO can work with the community

to minimize the effects of transporting construction materials to the site. Adjustments in the delivery schedule to accommodate local residents' activities, stockpiling of construction materials at low traffic times, traffic control measures and upgrading of roads are among the methods being proposed. Under current plans, the most intensive trucking schedule would take place over a 20-day period in Years 1 and 2 of the Project with 125 trucks a day. This would result in an average of one truck every six minutes delivering materials south along Newtonville Road to Concession Road 1 and east to Elliott Road. Intensive deliveries for cover materials would resume in the final year. During the life of the Project, the LLRWMO will listen to residents' concerns and ideas about the effects of transportation. Traffic is an issue that the newly formed Project Discussion Group plans to discuss.

Engineer values public's perspective

As the engineer overseeing the designs of the proposed Port Hope and Port Granby long-term low-level radioactive waste management facilities, Rick Rossi has become a recognizable face at public information sessions. Rick joined the LLRWMO four years ago with experience in construction and project management, including work at Darlington Nuclear Generating Station. "From a practical sense, I use my construction experience and apply it to residents' concerns," he says. "The public helps guide us by offering



different perspectives, but no matter what, design is always about safety and effectiveness."

The use of multiple redundant layers in the cover and base liner systems of the aboveground mounds is a proven, preventive approach that enhances safety, he says. "You have multiple components working together in specific ways and backing up one another. This really limits the chance of failure and builds in reliability."

A hockey and soccer player in his free time, Rick lives in Clarington with his wife and son.

Residents surveyed about the Project

A random telephone survey of 252 Clarington Ward 4 residents showed that almost half (47%) of people polled are aware of the Port Granby Waste Management Facility and nearly as many (40%) have heard about the Project for the long-term management of the waste.

The survey showed that the closer people live to the proposed new waste management site, the more aware they are of the issues. This awareness level is reflected throughout the survey in how confident residents are about the Port Granby Project, their preferences for

communication methods and their knowledge about the Property Value Protection Program.

The poll was conducted for the LLRWMO by IntelliPulse, a public affairs and marketing research firm, during mid-October 2005. Similar to 2004, 37% feel more confident if they are well informed. Knowing the facility will be closely monitored, tested, safe and secure also increases confidence in the Project.

Complete survey results are available at the Project Information Exchange at 196 Toronto Road in Port Hope.