



When: Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007 at 11 a.m.

Where: Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, **550 Queen St. E., Suite 115**

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Human contamination by radioactive materials in Ontario town

Laboratory tests show that contamination by radioactive materials has been found in people living in Port Hope, Ontario.

The Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee, in association with the Uranium Medical Research Centre, is releasing details of peer reviewed findings recently presented to the European Association for Nuclear Medicine.

Since 1988 Cameco Corporation, the world's largest producer of uranium, has operated a conversion plant in Port Hope, Ontario, 100 km east of Toronto on the shores of Lake Ontario. There is no buffer zone around the plant.

The Port Hope facility processes uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) for U.S. nuclear reactors, and through its subsidiary company, Zircatec Precision Industries, is the main supplier uranium dioxide (UO_2) fuels to the Canadian CANDU nuclear reactors. Over the years, uranium ore, enriched uranium, depleted uranium and other undisclosed radioactive materials have been processed in Port Hope for military, commercial and experimental purposes.

Details of study findings to be revealed at press conference

The Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee organized the Port Hope Biological Studies Project with the independent clinical research group, Uranium Medical Research Centre, because Health Canada, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) refused to conduct actual health studies of the local population or workers.

The first phase of the joint study involved collecting human urine samples, testing them in one of the world's top radioisotope labs in Germany, and presenting the analysis of the

findings to the European Association for Nuclear Medicine (EANM). The study findings were successful peer reviewed and presented in October to the EANM Annual Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark.

They confirm the presence of long term contamination in Port Hope by industrial and military uranium. Study participants were found to be internally contaminated with radioactive substances that all authorities – the Low Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (Natural Resources Canada), Cameco, Zircotec and the CNSC – have never admitted even exist in Port Hope.

Some of the study participants will be at the press conference.

The study calls into question the federal guidelines and standards used by Natural Resources Canada, Health Canada, the CNSC and Cameco to monitor radiation exposure and protect workers and the community.

Historical facts

- The Port Hope facility is the oldest uranium processing facility in the world. Cameco was formed by privatizing a Crown corporation, Eldorado Nuclear, which supplied uranium to the Manhattan Project during World War II.
- Port Hope facilities processed the uranium used in Fat Man and Little Boy atomic bombs dropped on Japan.
- Port Hope (until recently) was the largest producer of depleted uranium metals used by the joint Canada-U.S. program involving Defence Research and Development Canada and the Royal Military College's Depleted Uranium weapons development program.
- Port Hope supplied the 30 mm DU metal rods that were used by the U.S. and its coalition partners in Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, Serbia and Afghanistan, creating long-term human and environmental contamination.

Current Issues

- In July 2007, after discovering leaks of uranium and arsenic into the soil under its conversion plant, Cameco suspended operations at its UF₆ facility. It is still closed pending CNSC approval of remediation plans.
- Cameco is the main private sector partner in the Russian-U.S. nuclear warheads recycling project: Megatons to Megawatts.
- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Canada's nuclear regulatory agency, is considering the approval of a new uranium fuel product using enriched uranium to sell to U.S. and Canadian nuclear reactors. It would be produced in Port Hope.
- Port Hope is the site of the largest clean-up of radioactive soil in Canadian history. More than 3.5 million cubic metres of contamination is buried throughout the town, under homes, public buildings and schools. The federal government has pledged \$260 million to clean it up, but the project is years behind schedule and over budget (according to a recent audit by Natural Resources Canada).

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