

HOME PAGE | MY TIMES | TODAY'S PAPER | VIDEO | MOST POPULAR | TIMES TOPICS | [Get Home Delivery](#) | [Log In](#) | [Register Now](#)

The New York Times **World Business** [Ameriprise Financial](#)

Business All NYT Search

WORLD | U.S. | N.Y. / REGION | BUSINESS | TECHNOLOGY | SCIENCE | HEALTH | SPORTS | OPINION | ARTS | STYLE | TRAVEL | JOBS | REAL ESTATE | AUTOS

MEDIA & ADVERTISING | **WORLD BUSINESS** | SMALL BUSINESS | YOUR MONEY | DEALBOOK | MARKETS | RESEARCH | MUTUAL FUNDS | MY PORTFOLIO | ALERTS

Grab What's New **BEFORE IT'S GONE**
Shop now at [LEVI.com](#) →
\$5 SHIPPING

Uranium Producer Warns of Lake Ontario Pollution

By IAN AUSTEN
Published: May 22, 2008

OTTAWA — [Cameco](#), the world's largest uranium producer, has told the Canadian nuclear regulator that its refinery might have leaked uranium, arsenic and fluorides into Lake Ontario.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Cameco

A section of the Port Hope, Ontario, plant of Cameco, the world's largest uranium producer.

The plant at Port Hope, Ontario, across the lake from Rochester and down the shore from Toronto, first refined uranium for the Manhattan Project during World War II. It has been temporarily closed since July to remove contaminated soil.

A spokesman for Cameco, Lyle Krahn, said Wednesday that a computer model created for the cleanup, which is several months behind schedule, indicated that the radioactive and toxic materials have been polluting a harbor adjacent to the factory. The harbor leads directly to the lake.

The company notified the regulatory agency, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, about the finding at a meeting last week and now plans drilling tests to confirm the contamination and to measure its extent.

"We're anticipating that material may have been entering the harbor," Mr. Krahn said, adding that Cameco did not know how long it would take to confirm any possible pollution.

A spokesman for the agency, Aurèle Gervais, said: "The Port Hope UF6 plant matter has been ongoing for some time and the harbor issue is a recent development," using the chemical formula for uranium hexafluoride.

In a background paper prepared for the agency's commissioners last week, its staff concluded that the potential remained for continued water pollution from the plant.

Cameco in general and the aging Port Hope refinery, which transforms mined uranium into forms suitable for electrical power reactors, have long been targets of environmental groups and the regulatory agency.

After a flood last year closed one of the company's mines, which produces about 10 percent of the world's uranium, Linda J. Keen, then the head of the regulatory agency, said her commissioners and staff had a "lack of confidence" in Cameco and its management.

Gordon Edwards, the president of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, an

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL OR SAVE THIS

PRINT

REPRINTS

SHARE

ROCK 'N ROLL WILL NEVER DIE

[More Articles in Business »](#)

Today's Headlines Daily E-Mail

Sign up for the free Today's Headlines e-mail sent every morning.



Sign Up

[See Sample](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

save big
Home Phone, High Speed Internet and Wireless or TV

\$69⁰⁰ /mo

[LEARN MORE](#)

REPLAY ▶

MOST POPULAR - BUSINESS

E-MAILED | BLOGGED

1. [American, Cutting Back, Plans \\$15 Bag Fee](#)
2. [An Oracle of Oil Predicts \\$200-a-Barrel Crude](#)
3. [Your Money: Five Basics for Building a Solid Financial Future](#)
4. [Actuaries Scrutinized on Pensions](#)
5. [Airlines' Cuts Making Cities No-Fly Zones](#)
6. [Simply Irresistible](#)
7. [Economic Scene: A Diploma's Worth? Ask Her](#)
8. [In the Hunt: Professional Background Screening a Small Price to Pay](#)
9. [Regal Plans to Add 3-D Movie Screens](#)
10. [As Oil Prices Rise, Nations Revive Coal Mining](#)

[Go to Complete List »](#)

The New York Times **T MAGAZINE**
nytimes.com/tmagazine

Summer on the Ontario Lakes
Also in T Magazine:

environmental group in Montreal, said that contamination of the lake had been assumed, given the plant's age, history and location.

"There's a long history of contamination at Port Hope," he said. "The whole siting of this refinery is absurd. It's right in the center of town, it's on flood plain and right on the lakefront."

The plant was opened in the 1930s by Eldorado Mining and Refining to process radium and has undergone several cleanups.

The most recent effort began in July when a construction project at the factory uncovered soil contamination that led to the plant's closing. At the time, the company said that the shutdown and cleanup would take about two months. Mr. Krahn said the 18 million-Canadian-dollar project, which involves removing soil under the plant and constructing a leakproof floor, will be finished by the third quarter.

If drilling confirms lake pollution, Mr. Krahn said that Cameco did not expect that would delay the plant's reopening.

[More Articles in Business »](#)

[Need to know more? 50% off home delivery of The Times.](#)

Ads by Google what's this?

Uranium Mining Disaster:
Supply Low, Demand High. A Select Few Companies Will Profit. New Rpt.
www.EnergyAndCapital.com/UraniumRpt

Top Uranium Seeker
Aggressively exploring in the world's richest uranium district
www.canalaska.com

3 Stocks to Steal Now
Stock Guru Dennis Slothower Gives You 3 Absolute Steals to Buy Now!
StealthStocksOnline.com

Tips

To find reference information about the words used in this article, double-click on any word, phrase or name. A new window will open with a dictionary definition or encyclopedia entry.

Past Coverage

- [New Uranium Plant Will Be in Tennessee \(September 10, 2002\)](#)
- [U.S.-Europe Group Wants to Build Nuclear Fuel Plant in U.S. \(July 23, 2002\)](#)
- [COMPANY NEWS: CAMECO PURCHASES TWO URANIUM PRODUCER RIVALS \(April 18, 1998\)](#)
- [CAMECO ADDS URANIUM HOLDINGS OF MAGNOX ELECTRIC \(October 15, 1996\)](#)

Related Searches

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cameco Corporation | Add Alert |
| Uranium | Add Alert |
| Water Pollution | Add Alert |
| Lake Ontario | Add Alert |

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM



TRAVEL »



Frugal Traveler: The Grand Tour in Dover

FASHION & STYLE »



From World-Class Rower, Tips to Hone Technique

MOVIES »



The Further Adventures of the Fedora and Whip

OPINION »

The Invisible War

For the sake of the veterans, President Bush should not insist on keeping the Iraq war out of sight, writes Timothy Egan.

HOME & GARDEN »



Chairs With Talking Points

OPINION »



Op-Ed: Puerto Rico's Moment in the Sun

[The scene: Copenhagen](#)
[Provence profound](#)
[Complete T Travel issue](#)

ADVERTISEMENTS

All the news that's fit to personalize.

Which movies do the Critics recommend?

Need to know more?
Get 50% off home delivery of The Times.

In a world of second opinions, get the facts first.



Browse Local Business Services

Find businesses near you on The New York Times Business Services Directory.

[Business & Financial Services »](#)

[Computer & Telecom Services »](#)

[Food & Beverage »](#)

[Franchises, Partnerships & Manufacturing »](#)

[Health & Beauty »](#)

[Miscellaneous »](#)

[Professional Services »](#)

[Retail & Specialty Businesses »](#)

[Travel & Real Estate »](#)

In partnership with DirectoryM

[Copyright 2008 The New York Times Company](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)