

PRESS CONFERENCE
SOIL CLEANING PROJECT
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1991

1. Why do you require 20 acres for the permanent soil cleaning facility?

It will be a fairly large operation. About 10 acres is required for the plant site proper while another 10 acres is needed for the stockpiling and storage of the contaminated soil to ensure a continuous feed into the plant. Twenty acres is our best estimate at this point. The number could be refined.

2. How much will the permanent plant cost?

The plant itself will cost between \$20 and \$25 million. Another four to five million dollars will be spent on the site where the ground water will be collected and where the soil is being excavated.

3. Do you anticipate any problems in locating the demonstration plant on the site you have selected? Do you have the City's approval for this use? When will it be built?

We haven't selected the site yet. We're considering several alternative locations. We haven't received City approval yet but have discussed where best to locate the plant with them. We hope to start construction in May or June with the demonstration plant completed and ready to operate in July or early August.

4. Have you touched base with community and environmental groups?

We have retained the services of Linda Lynch to co-ordinate the flow of information with these groups and to report back to us with any concerns these specific groups may have. The Director of Engineering will meet with all interested groups.

5. Have the Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada been briefed? Have they given you their blessings? Will they be monitoring your work?

We advised the Ministry of Environment some time ago that we were undertaking a feasibility study for the project and, if the results were positive, would be recommending a demonstration plant. We have discussed our project with the Ministry at the staff level and received enthusiastic response. We will be approaching Environment Canada for financial support.

6. Have you contacted the Federal or Provincial Governments for funding assistance?

The Federal and Provincial Governments are joint participants in the Development and Demonstration of Contaminated Site Remediation Technology (DESRT) Program. We will be making application for funding under that program.

7. In his Watershed Report, Royal Commissioner David Crombie deals at length with the environment and talks about soil clean-up. Is the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront aware of what the Toronto Harbour Commission is doing? Have you talked to Mr. Crombie?

Yes. We have briefed them and they are aware that this press conference is taking place. They are also aware our board has appropriated funds for the project.

8. We understand there are many tonnes of polluted soil at the Ataratiri project. Would the Toronto Harbour Commission consider cleaning up this soil if the proper financial arrangements could be made?

Yes we would consider it once our own facility is up and running. However, the feasibility of this plant is not contingent on such an arrangement. We are proposing a plant to clean soil for industrial use, not residential use. The Ministry of Environment guidelines are different for the two. There is a possibility down the road that we could consider a soil exchange program. There are some soils in the port industrial area that are suitable for residential development. We could excavate this soil, clean it, and transport it to the Ataratiri site. In turn, we would take the soil from the Ataratiri site, clean it, and use it to fill in the original excavation site.

9. Do you have a firm date for the shipment of your 6,000 tonnes of soil to Europe?

We're looking at sometime in early May.

10. How is this soil being shipped? In containers? In bulk? If it is shipped in bulk, how will it be contained so that none of the contaminated soil is lost in transit?

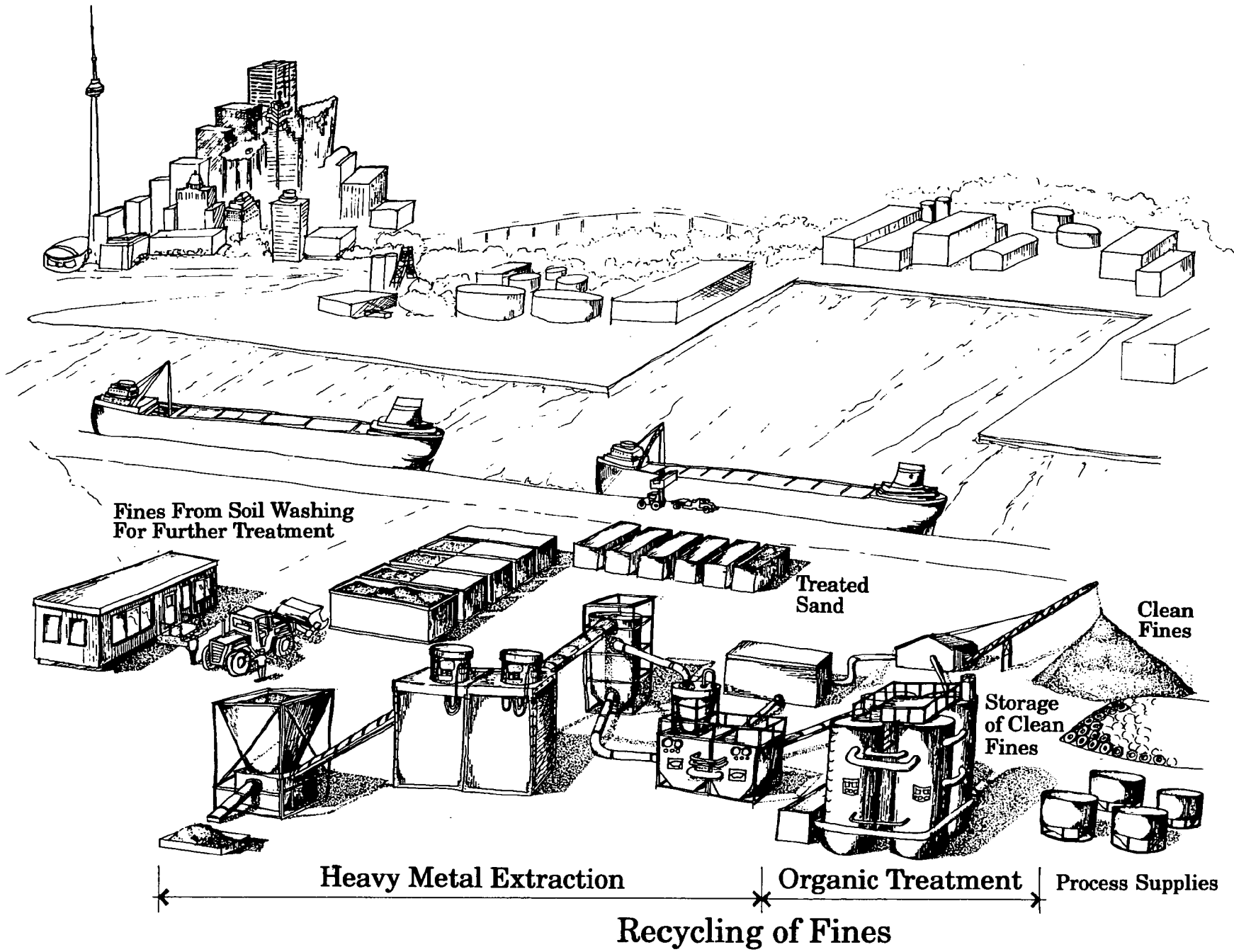
It will be shipped in bulk. The vessel we're looking at is an 8,000 to 9,000-tonne self-unloader with various lined compartments.

11. How will the soil and bioslurry be returned? Will any of the soil that will be washed in Europe remain there?

The clean soil will come back in bulk. The contaminated slurry will be dewatered to create a cake-like sludge. The sludge will be placed in containers while the contaminated process water will be placed in tanktainers.

12. Why is the Toronto Harbour Commission doing this?

We are being good corporate citizens. We're carrying out our responsibilities to make sure that our land proposed for redevelopment is green and clean. From an economical point of view, these are valuable lands to be used for redevelopment. If the lands remain contaminated, anyone funding redevelopment could feel at risk. This risk won't exist if the lands are clean.




 The Toronto Harbour Commissioners
 Soil Recycling Demonstration Plant
 Toronto, Ontario