

NF-059
113515 01

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for
Niagara Falls Storage Site



Bechtel

Oak Ridge Corporate Center
151 Lafayette Drive
P.O. Box 350
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-0350

Facsimile: (615) 220-2100

Job No. 14501, FUSRAP Project
DOE Contract No. DE-AC05-91OR21949
Code: 2520/WBS: 191

FEB 18 1994

University of Tennessee
Energy, Environment & Resource Center
327 S. Stadium Hall
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0710

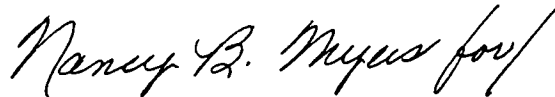
Attention: Dave Feldman

Subject: FUSRAP - Transmittal of FUSRAP Community Relations
Weekly News Clippings

Dear Dave:

Enclosed are copies of our weekly news clippings for the week ending Friday, February 18, 1994. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions or need additional information. My telephone number is 576-5034.

Sincerely,



Sandra W. Plant
Community Relations - Manager

SWP:cw:CR_0022

Enclosures: FUSRAP Weekly
News Clippings



Bechtel National, Inc.

GUEST VIEW

Lewiston shouldn't be babysitting waste

By Timothy Henderson

When then-Vice President Bush visited Belgium in the spring of 1983, quiet old Lewiston was on the agenda. The U.S. government wanted to place 48 cruise missiles in Belgium and Afrimet-Indussa Inc., the Belgium company under contract with the U.S. to remove its 14,000 tons of radioactive waste from the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site in Lewiston, wanted out of its commitment. Both sides got what they were looking for in that fateful spring and their handshake sealed Lewiston's fate as babysitter for almost half of the world's mined supply of radium.



T. Henderson

According to published articles in August 1983, upon the vice president's return, DOE Secretary Donald Hodel was urged by the State Department under George Shultz to compromise "for reasons related to the common defense and security of the United States and Belgium" (Lewiston's security apparently was not considered).

In February, 1983 the Department of Energy quietly issued Order 5820. This order reclassified Niagara Falls Storage Site (LOOW's new name) wastes as low level and thus enabled them to be landfilled. Nuclear Regulatory Commission standards specifically exclude uranium tailings from land burial and this unilateral executive action clearly violated the department's own guidelines.

We are told that the cost is prohib-

itive to move it but the truth of the matter is that we can't afford to keep it here in terms of health care costs and the risk to our very lives. The government is concerned about cost? Since when? They forgave a \$24 million foreign company's commitment to remove the waste without even consulting Congress.

What were the deplorable conditions at the site in 1980 that prompted the DOE to clean it up in the first place? When you allow hundreds of tons of radioactive waste to be irresponsibly dumped out on top of the ground and let the elements (rain and wind) have their way with it and when a radioactive silo is allowed to leak and emit deadly amounts of radon and carcinogens into the air for 30 years, I'd venture to say that communities downwind and downstream were exposed to risks to their health and life beyond even medical science's cold estimations. Costs? What price can be put on an entire family of four in Ransomville struggling with cancer so rare that statistically only one in 100,000 is supposed to be inflicted? The cost is far greater to this community's physical and mental health if nothing is done.

There are those who are content to put a big yellow "Happy Face" sticker on Lewiston's waste problems (The waste isn't from here but it is our problem). I prefer to go to the source. Apathy and silence only support the status quo. Because the Niagara Falls Storage Site is only a mile from the Lewiston-Porter campus and our cross-country teams run over ditches leading away from the site, I would invite and welcome some public acknowledgement or statement of concern from the superin-

tendent, school board or any of the 200-member superintendent's advisory committee.

The Lewiston Town Board unanimously called for the removal of the wastes. The New York state departments of health and environmental conservation want it out. The federal Environmental Protection Agency has even put the DOE on notice that the wastes should go and the present storage system is inadequate. If those entrusted with providing our children with a safe and healthy learning environment aren't going to lead, they should at least follow.

For the amount of outside waste that is trucked into our community, we shouldn't be paying a dime in taxes — school or any other. Let the same government institutions and private companies which designated us and continue to use Lewiston unconscionably as a dumping ground pay all our taxes as long as they keep dumping here or as long as atomic waste keeps ticking in our backyard.

Cost? Make it cost prohibitive to bring other people's stinking, rotten garbage and hazardous waste into Lewiston. Make it cheaper for the government to move it out of here than to keep it here. Now we're talking costs. It is against our sensibilities to be forced to babysit this deadly waste. We shouldn't back up, shut up or give up until we reclaim our hold on the quality of life we are all entitled to, free from environmental threats.

Timothy Henderson of Lewiston is president of Residents Organized for Lewiston and Porter's Environment.