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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for
Niagara Falls Storage Site



114711

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

MAR 25 1994

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

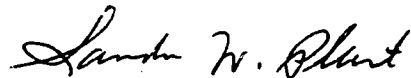
Attention: Dave Feldman

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, March 25, 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.

The Public is invited to attend a televised town meeting on the issues surrounding nuclear waste disposal to be held at WNED/Channel 17's downtown studio Friday, March 25, at 10 P.M.

This live public forum follows the broadcast at 9:00 PM of a WNED-produced special Hot Garbage, on the nuclear waste disposal crisis. The meeting will expand upon issues raised in the documentary.

Live Town Meeting To Focus on Nuclear Waste Disposal

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Former Resident Laments Lewiston's Future

Growing up in Lewiston was wonderful. During the 1940s and 1950s we could walk along the Niagara Gorge from the village edge to Niagara University. The wooded area at the end of Fourth Street was our playground. We horsebacked, camped, picked wild violets and handed the bouquets to moms on their special day in May. We dared each other to descend the well on the winery property and to be brave and take its tunnels to the river edge. We searched for fossils and dug for Native artifacts. We target-practiced in the quarry. We skated on Burke's Pond and built warming fires under the railroad arch that supported Center Street.

The Niagara River offered Friday's fish and the Lewiston Docks gave us sand piles for slides. The Lewiston-Queenston Bridge gave us an entry to Canada and a fifteen-minute walk to Brock's Park for picnics.

These are cherished memories and I hold onto them as I do our family heirlooms. Would I cry if I broke a dish that had been in my family for generations? You bet I would. Do I cry because childhood playgrounds are gone? You can bet that I do.

The paths to Niagara University and the caves that took hundreds of years for nature to create are gone because of the Niagara Power Project and the Robert Moses Parkway. The woods, the violets, the winery and its well, the fossils and artifacts, the dump, Burke's Pond and the arch, all are gone. They are now only memories buried under Arnpark, the Mini-Plaza, the United States Post Office and McCrory's Plaza. The sand piles are gone at the docks and the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge has been relocated at the top of the undated Lewiston hill to accommodate the Robert Moses Parkway.

What remains is the high-level radioactive remains of the first atomic bomb that was dropped on

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Lewiston's Future

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Japan 50 years ago. It's a twisted fate. The many wondrous joys of my childhood are gone, but 50-plus years later the radioactive wastes remain and bring me fear, doubt and concern. It's not just a coincidence that there is, and has been, an unusually high rate of cancer, lung problems, tumors and auto-immune diseases among the people in the Village of Lewiston and the towns of Lewiston, Porter, Youngstown and Ransomville.

We worry that at the old TNT site, later called the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works and now called the Niagara Falls Storage Site, lurks other health and environmental time bombs. After all, the site does contain almost one-half of the world's supply of mined radium that has been code named K-65 by the government.

Now the keeper of the site, the United States Department of Energy, intends to "add five feet of clay to control erosion." In reality it is "creating a repository." In government language that is a permanent site. It will be the only permanent radioactive site in the nation. This is a concept directly opposed by the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Over the last few months, I have read a mountain of books, decoded government abbreviations and waded through the 1986 final Environmental Impact Statement which in itself is an inch and a half thick. I've attended meetings, written letters and made numerous phone calls. I am convinced what the Department of Energy is really undertaking is an experiment for future radioactive repositories. I also believe that once the precedents have been set, it will open the door for further contamination to be brought into the area. Wasn't it the magnetism of the site that brought in Modern Landfill and Chemical Waste Management?

The New York State Low Level Radioactive Waste Siting Commission has been working on a site proposal for three years and will conclude by the end of this year. Wouldn't the massive balance of land owned by the United States government on Lutt and Balmer roads, and no longer of any use to them, be an ideal site once a precedent is set?

Before you dismiss this as hyperbole, let me suggest you:

1. Call Meghan Boice-Green at 1-800-458-1158 (ext. 402) and ask her what health studies have been done since the radioactive wastes were brought into the area in the early 1940s.

2. Call 1-800-253-9759 and ask for a copy of the 1986 final Environmental Impact Statement. Read specifically pages K-9 to K-205. Then contrast that to what Mr. Ronald Kirk of the Department of

Energy and project manager for the Niagara Falls Storage site said at the "availability" meeting held on January 21, 1994. Did the local governments, the area citizens and the state representative truly support the alternative that the Department of Energy eventually did take, or did they oppose it?

3. Team that with reading *Killing Our Own* by Harvey Wasserman and Norman Solomon and, like me, you may begin to doubt that the Department of Energy can be taken seriously or can be trusted.

It is our right to raise the issue that this permanent capping creates a precedent. It is our right to raise the issue that the Buffalo and Niagara regions, although not on a fault line, have been subject to damages from earthquakes, and that is documented. It is our right to point out that there is indeed a health problem in the area.

Come forward those of you who have cancer, tumors, lung problems

and auto-immune diseases. Call 1-800-458-1158 (ext. 402) and find out if your case is recorded. If it's not, put it there. It is up to the Department of Energy to prove that these issues are not something to worry and have doubts about. The Department of Energy has 16,000 highly qualified scientists whom we support. They have yet to come up with a technology in confidently confirm that there is a safe system to repose man-made radioactive materials. While they argue, should we agree to let the Department of Energy create a repository in Lewiston and set a precedent? Should we allow Lewiston to be the site of an experiment under the guise of "erosion control"?

While we certainly can't bring back the Lewiston that I knew in decades past or restore the health of its citizens, we can affect what is happening to us now. If we, as adults, don't take a stand, future generations won't have a future.

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