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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for
Niagara Falls Storage Site



U.S. Department of Energy



R.O.L.E.
Residents Organized For Lewiston-Porter's Environment, Inc.
P.O. Box 44
Lewiston, New York 14092

Dept. of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Attn. Mr. Ron Kirk
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Nov. 7, 1994

Dear Mr. Kirk,

I wanted to bring an article to your attention which appeared in the Buffalo News following my presentation on the NFSS at the Lewiston Senior Center for the Community Alliance.

I was disappointed with the inaccuracies and juxtaposition of dates and quantities reported as facts but more specifically quoting me as the source. One of R.O.L.E.'s missions is to disperse information and educate the public in environmental matters which affect this community. I take this mission very seriously and I am disappointed when I read news reports which fall short or contain misleading and inaccurate statements. No one benefits when this happens.

I used transparencies of actual documents and named my sources throughout the evening, going to great lengths to assure that my presentation was both accurate and honest. When I didn't know an answer, I admitted it and if I couldn't prove or verify anything, I simply just omitted it from my presentation.

It is unfortunate that we must spend time to clarify stories that should have been accurate and clear in the first place. I am writing you because honesty is very important to me and I sense that it is to you also.

I look forward to continuing working toward solutions with you and all the stakeholders at NFSS, based on accurate, honest information.

Respectfully yours,

Tim
Timothy P. Henderson
Pres; R.O.L.E.

Nov 17 7 39 AM '94

U.S. agency is faulted over Lewiston waste site

By LEN DELMAR
News Niagara County Bureau

LEWISTON — The U.S. Department of Energy declined to take action to remove radioactive waste from the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works and instead changed the classification of the waste, an environmental leader said Thursday.

Timothy Henderson made the charge in a meeting held to respond to statements made last month by an Energy Department official who maintained that containment is a viable option for the amount of the material known as K-65.

Henderson, president of ROLE (Residents Organized for Lewiston-Porter's Environment), said that the government decided "if they couldn't get them (the material) out, they reclassified them to a low level." He said the arbitrarily set level was made equal to lead.

His remarks were made in response to statements made by Ronald E. Kirk of the Energy Department, who maintained that containment of the waste is the only viable option. The containment, Kirk said, would a clay cap and sides as well as continual monitoring.

Henderson said that in 1985 a government study acknowledged there is contaminated waste at the 191-acre site that straddles the border between the Towns of Lewiston and Porter.

"Mother nature hasn't changed since 1985," he said, "but government regulations apparently have."

He said that it was estimated that there were 10,000 tons of ra-

dioactive waste in the form of K-65 buried at the site, but it has grown to 250,000 tons as the result of having rain water added to the waste.

Henderson said the Energy department is a "lone wolf" when it comes to the assessment of K-65. He said even the state Department of Environmental Conservation has agreed that there is a danger of contamination at the former ordnance works. He cited a similar situation in Fernald, Ohio, where the DEC fined the Energy Department for failure to maintain safety precautions.

The ROLE president traced the history of the works site noting that the Energy Department has accepted a contract to "baby-sit" the site for 1,600 years. He said that the residents of Fernald pursued their case against the DOE and eventually got their site cleaned up.

Henderson accused the Energy Department of "coverups and misconduct." He said that it will be up to the residents to spur action.

"They (the DOE) have a lot of work to do to regain the public's trust," he said. "So we're the ones who have to set the agenda; we're the ones who have to ask the questions."

Henderson said the department should undertake the same program that they did in Fernald. That would be to remove the contents containing K-65, put it through a glassification process and ship the material to the Nevada Test Site for storage.

He advocated a health test be conducted in the area, particularly in the hamlet of Ransomville which "is downwind from the site."