

Results of radon gas monitoring at Lewiston site awaited

By SHIRLEY HANFORD
Gazette Staff Writer

LEWISTON — A new program of continuous air monitoring to check levels of radon gas began a month ago at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works

site where residues of the Manhattan atom bomb project are stored.

Results of the new testing are not yet available from the U. S. Department of Energy or from National Lead Co. of Ohio, that monitors and maintains the facility on Pletcher Road for DOE.

Those results are now anxiously awaited by area residents and officials following charges Friday that air monitoring at the site in 1977 showed "seriously high levels of radiation."

Dr. MarVin Resnikoff, chairman of the Nuclear Subcommittee of the National Sierra Club, asked in a statement Friday for speedy removal and clean-up of the DOE site.

The new air monitoring program is expected to continue for at least a year, with testing of samples every two weeks.

It is being conducted with new highly-sensitive equipment developed by National Lead. The samples will be tested and analyzed at the company's laboratory in Fernald, Ohio, and then forwarded to DOE's Safety and Environmental Controls Division in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Special instruments called dosimeters are hung at eight different stations along the fence surrounding the site.

The air comes through a screen at the bottom, then goes through a layer of silica gel, a filter, and finally to an electrically-charged thermoluminescent dosimeter chip at the top.

According to Joseph Kirchue, maintenance supervisor for National Lead, the chips record the radioactivity by the amount of light emitted.

The first chips were removed and sent to Ohio for testing June 15. A DOE spokesman in Oak Ridge said Friday that results are not yet available because the measuring equipment had to be returned to the manufacturer for adjustment.

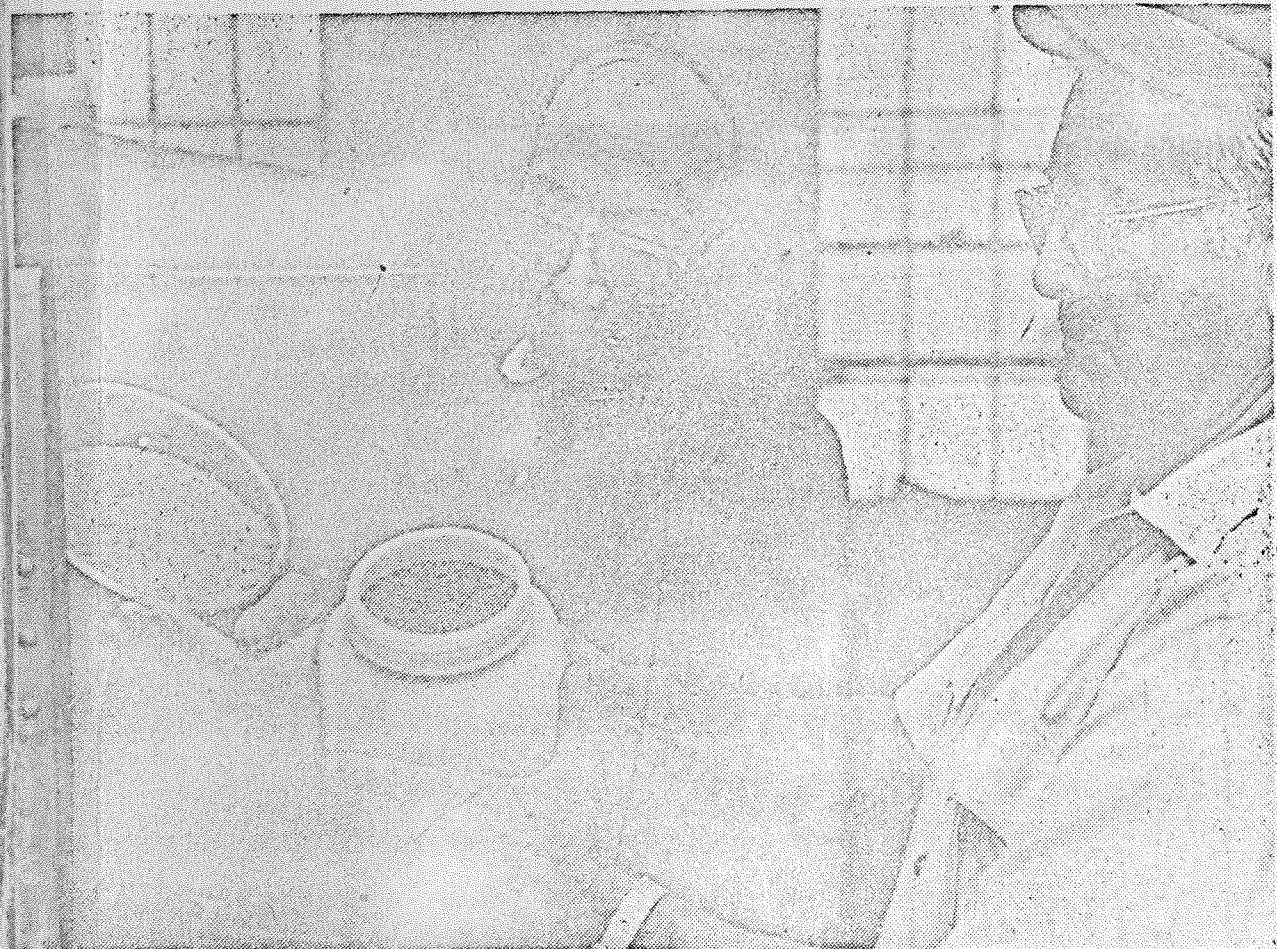
Why a year of air monitoring? Kirchue said last week it was being done to satisfy complaints and curiosity of area residents.

"We're monitoring both water and air," Kirchue said. "We don't want another West Valley here."

Water monitoring is done four times a year at wells located throughout the site.



Wet silica gel is emptied into container for drying




Silica gel turns white when wet; deep blue when dry

Gazette Photos by Andrew J. Susty

7/2/78 Scozzafava denies charges in Labor Department report

LOCKPORT — A federal Labor Department report last week which attacked Niagara County Manpoer Director Louis B. Scozzafava's handling of the department provoked both screaming rebuttals and "so-what-else-is-new" shoulder shrugs around the Courthouse.

But more importantly, it provided official confirmation of what many in the county had believed — that he has tried to usurp the authority of the Civil Service Commission and override other departments in hiring people for his Comprehensive Employment Training Act programs and staff.



County Notebook

By LARRY PERRAULT
Gazette Staff Writer

Civil Service test for his position. Two

to get around the Civil Service Commission and the Comprehensive Employment Training Act programs and staff.



Joseph Golba removes dosimeter from fence



Joseph Kirchue inserts chip in electrode