

By JEREMIAH HERRIGAN  
Gazette Staff Writer

With state approval "a long way down the road," Hooker Chemical Corp. has released a glowing environmental impact statement conducted by a private firm concerning the company's planned energy-from-waste facility.

The thick report by Equitable Environmental Health Inc. is a preliminary draft of an environmental impact statement required from Hooker by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

An attorney for the DEC, Peter Burke, said that copies of the impact statement will be provided to a variety of "interested agencies" for comment and correction.

The report will be subject to further revision as necessary, according to Burke, who stressed that a final draft of the state-

ment, as well as final review of its contents, is "a long way off."

The waste-to-energy facility is scheduled for construction on a 12-acre site located east of 47th Street and south of Royal Avenue.

The preliminary statement documents a wide variety of factors connected with the construction of the facility — including water, air, noise and even aesthetic considerations and appraisals.

The proposed facility will burn roughly 2,400 tons of municipal refuse a day thereby providing h Hooker, and sometimes Union Carbide Corporation, with 27,000 kilowatts of steam-generated electricity.

Noting that certain types of flora and fauna are protected by state law, the report says that since the proposed 47th Street site is a former industrial site, "no unusual plants are to be found."

Similarly, no protected animal species

are endemic to the area, the report says.

Construction of the proposed facility will take two years, and state air quality rules for construction dust emissions "will be complied with," the report says.

Possible effects of the proposed facility on the area's air quality are given a long look in the report.

Fogging and potential rime ice formation resulting from water vapour condensation in the facility's cooling tower should be "minimal," according to the report.

The report also notes that on "rare occasions," coal will be used as fuel when refuse is unavailable.

But, since coal use will be utilized "infrequently," "the resultant long-term net effect (of sulfur dioxide) is expected to be minimal."

The report states that water quality in the area will also be minimally affected

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## Gipp charges 'run-around' on radiation

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LEWISTON — Town Board Member Joan Gipp said Saturday she felt the town had been given the run-around concerning radiation levels at the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works site on Pletcher Road.

"We have been patted on the head by the federal bureaucracy with assurances that everything at the Department of Energy site was o.k.," she said.

Gipp's comments were in response to charges Friday by Dr. Marvin Resnikoff that radiation levels at the site were "seriously high" and posed a health hazard.

Resnikoff has scheduled a press conference on the problem at 1 p.m. Monday in the Lewiston Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

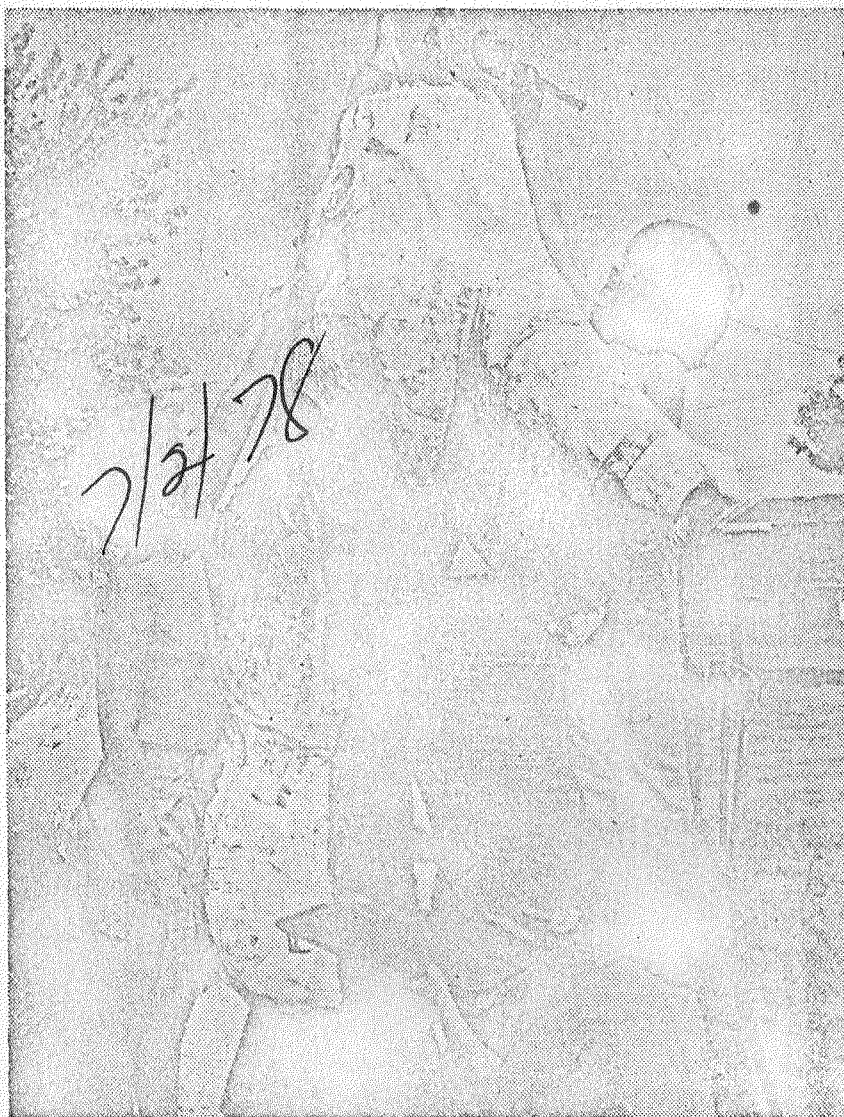
Among those expected to participate in the conference are Frank Luscher and John Malinchock, members of the town's Environmental Commission; Gipp, board liaison to the commission; and former Town Councilman Henry Sloma, who is running for the Republican nomination to the State Assembly.

Gipp credited Sloma with first bringing the potential hazard to the attention of the town.

Resnikoff has asked the federal and state governments to remove the radioactive materials from the site, contending such materials do not belong in a populated area.

One of his main concerns is the danger of lung cancer, which he said has a "well-established relationship" to radon gas.

He told the Niagara Gazette that the three men who conduct monitoring and maintenance at the site are in a high-risk category. They have been stationed there for from 11 to 13 years.



**WATCH IT, KIDS, I'M TICKLISH!** — Some skeptics think dragons are mythical, but this one will be real in time for the Fourth of July parade on Grand Island. The monster's not being created by mad scientists, but by Greg Butcher (left), Jeff Butcher (on chair), and John Anastasia (with tray) at Gingerbread Day Care Facility.

Gazette Photo by Andrew Susty

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