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25 Cents

Congressman LaFalce says Lewiston nuke waste site dumped

The U.S. Department of Energy has told a federal consultant to drop from its report a recommendation that the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works in Lewiston be developed into a disposal center for radioactive wastes, Rep. John J. LaFalce, D-NY, said today.

"I have contacted the Department of Energy to express my strong objection to use of the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site as a disposal site for low-level radioactive wastes," he said.

The suggestion for the 191-acre site on Fletcher Road was contained in a report

to the DOE by Bechtel National Inc. which was obtained this week by the Niagara Gazette.

"In response to my objection, the DOE has directed that Bechtel remove from their draft report the recommendation that the LOOW site be used to dispose low-level radioactive waste now stored at sites in New York, Ohio, New Jersey, and Massachusetts," LaFalce said.

"I have learned that the DOE has concluded that the recommendation contained in the draft report prepared by Bechtel under contract to DOE was neither

well supported by evidence contained in the document nor an appropriate recommendation for Bechtel to make at this time," he said.

The DOE has agreed to direct Bechtel to delete from the final report the consideration of the DOE's waste management problems throughout the Northeast and only consider various options for the long term management of low-level radioactive waste currently stored at the LOOW site, he said.

Lewiston officials, meanwhile, plan to meet this weekend to map out strategies

to fight the report suggestion.

Councilman Joan E. Gipp said the board will meet with its attorney and other officials to discuss "what the Town of Lewiston can do to prevent this."

She said the town will use whatever "physical or legal means" necessary to halt the proposal.

She said a LaFalce spokesman contacted her to report the congressman directed the DOE to drop the proposal from the report, but no confirmation has been made from the DOE, she said.