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## Porter hedges on LOOW dump issue

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PORTER — Representatives of "No-LOOW," a recently formed citizens' group fighting a recommendation to turn the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works into a radioactive waste repository, asked the Town Board for support Monday but couldn't get a response.

"We would like to approach the board as concerned citizens," representative Ronald Latchford said. "What we are requesting is a verbal agreement that, in principle, you are against the reactivation of the Lake Ontario ordnance dump."

The board, however, declined to vote on the request made by Latchford and his wife Loretta. Members said they want to receive and study the recommendation made by Bechtel National Inc. before making a decision.

But in a 5-0 vote, the board agreed to ask the Erie and Niagara Counties Regional Planning Board and the Niagara County Planning Board to make recommendations on the issue.

Bechtel National, a consultant to the federal Department of Energy, recommended the LOOW site be transformed into a permanent repository for low-level radioactive wastes. The site already holds wastes from the Manhattan Project, an early-1940s venture that led to the development of the first atomic bomb.

Supervisor Ronald C. Johnston told the couple the board may go on record opposing reactivation of the site — an action that governing boards in Lewiston, Niagara Falls and the Village of Lewiston have already taken.

Johnston contended that county and regional planning board involvement could strengthen the position of groups fighting the plan.

Mrs. Latchford said later that "No-LOOW," which held its first meeting last week, will present a synopsis of the LOOW proposal at the organization's first public meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Lewis-

ton Town Hall. She said several environmental groups have expressed verbal support for the organization's fight.

"I just can't see why we should have to take on any more hazardous and nuclear waste than what we have now, right here in Niagara County," she said.