

Group Fights N-Waste Plan In Lewiston

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By JOANN SCELSA

LEWISTON — A group of residents trying to mobilize support to dump plans for a nuclear repository at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works has organized its first public meeting for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Lewiston Town Hall.

The group, the "No Loow Committee," also is asking government bodies and organizations, from city and town councils to local PTA groups for support, spokesman Steven Nathanson said.

The group's primary objective, he said, is "to obtain a letter of assurance from the administrator of the (Department of Energy) that this site will be decommissioned as originally promised."

Mr. Nathanson said the government originally promised the site would be decommissioned by 1983. That date later was changed to 1986.

He said residents want the land put back into productive use and believe that is possible if the site is decommissioned properly.

Mr. Nathanson said the group is concerned with the site's proximity to the Lewiston-Porter Central School District Campus on Creek Road and with the apparent violation of a number of environmental laws detailed in a report by Bechtel National, a federal consulting firm working on plans for the site.

He said the "federal government has not been a very good neighbor in our town, (not) letting us know what's going on at the site."

Lisa Finaldi, of the Sierra Club's Radioactivity Waste Campaign, said her group will be represented at Thursday's meeting. She said the Sierra Club is "absolutely opposed to bringing anything more on to that property."

"The property as it stands now is terribly dangerous," Ms. Finaldi said. "The remedial action work is not adequate. The idea of bringing more in when they haven't solved the problem at hand is absolutely ridiculous."

The Sierra Club, however, parts company with local officials and residents on the concept of decommissioning.

"We don't support moving things anywhere else," Ms. Finaldi said. "Decommissioning is kind of a fake word. There's nowhere to bring it