

DOE Will Reveal Plans For N-Waste Decision

By JOANN SCELSA

LEWISTON — The U.S. Department of Energy next month will detail its plan for deciding the future of the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, but that decision maybe a year away.

In a letter to Town Clerk Mary Beth Brado, Franklin E. Coffman said DOE officials have made no decision on long-range plans. Dr. Coffman is the acting director of the Office of Terminal Waste Disposal and Remedial Action for DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy.

Philip Garon, a spokesman for the Office of Nuclear Energy, said the DOE does not want to elaborate on the decision-making plan before it is presented to the Town Board in December. He said DOE then will announce what it will be doing during the next 10 months relative to what now is known as the Niagara Falls Storage Site.

Included in those activities, he said, will be an environmental analysis, and an engineering analysis to determine engineering techniques needed for the options under consideration.

Mr. Garon would not list specific options, but said they range from "totally decontaminating the site to continuing to use it as a storage site."

He said a final decision by DOE could be reached by the end of 1983.

Both Dr. Coffman's letters and Mr. Garon said local leaders and residents will be provided ample opportunity for discussion.

"We are conducting studies of a range of alternatives to analyze the technical, economic, environmental and safety aspects," Dr. Coffman's letter said. "The studies will be used together with other inputs as part of the decision-making process required by the National Environmental Policy Act to determine the long-range course of action at the site."

In the letter, Dr. Coffman also offers assurances that DOE is "adequately protecting the health and safety of the people of Lewiston and others in the area near the Niagara Falls Storage Site, which the department is using to store uranium residues."

The letter states that air and water monitoring conducted near the site shows "there is no hazard to the residents of the area."

Mr. Garon said during the next year the DOE also plans to continue the interim remedial measures taking place at the site.

The town also has received a Mailgram from Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, D-New York, assuring that "I will continue to follow this issue until there is a satisfactory resolution."

"I do agree that this is an ill-conceived proposal and I oppose it," Senator Moynihan said. "I am of the opinion that Western New York, and in particular Niagara County, has more than its share of hazardous and nuclear waste disposal sites."