

Lewiston board stands firm

LEWISTON — Some Town Board members fear the state Department of Energy may attempt to "divide and conquer" forces opposing revitalization of the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works. To counteract this, the officials say they won't meet with federal government representatives until opposition is lined up. Page 3A

Lewiston: DOE can't 'divide, conquer' us

BY DON DEPERRO
Gazette Staff Writer

LEWISTON — Town officials said Monday they will fortify support against reactivating the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works to prevent what one official feared would be a move by the federal government to "divide and conquer" opponents.

Town Board members said there are no immediate plans to meet with officials from the federal Department of Energy. But even if a meeting had been scheduled, it would be canceled, they said, until the town has lined up more opposition to a recommendation to begin using the nuclear waste repository again.

The DOE received a May report from consultants Bechtel National Inc., which recommended the DOE develop the 191-acre Pletcher Road site into a permanent radioactive waste repository.

Board member Alvin Ogg reiterated the board's stand to meet with DOE officials only on the board's terms. Ogg said DOE officials have attempted to schedule meetings with certain town officials and other local officials and residents.

The meetings were scheduled in that way, Ogg claimed, in an effort "to per-

suade on a one-to-one basis the opponents to their plans to come under their side."

At the meeting the board voted to:

- Contact state Sen. John B. Daly, R-Lewiston, and state Assemblyman Joseph Pillittere, D-Niagara Falls, to acknowledge their support and schedule a meeting with them.

- Contact Rep. John J. LaFalce, D-Tonawanda, and U.S. Sens. Alphonse D'Amato and Daniel Moynihan to thank them for support against the recommendation and ask they pledge future support against the proposal.

- Forward a letter to the Canadian Parliament to acknowledge its support against the plans.

- Forward a copy of the Bechtel recommendation to the Environmental Protection Bureau of the state Attorney General's Office. Ogg asked the state office to study the report for a possible lawsuit against the DOE.

- Send a letter requesting support from Governor-elect Mario Cuomo.

The board also acknowledged support from the Wilson Town Board and from the Niagara County Legislature's Health Services Committee.

"They've all got the same game plan," Ogg said. "You meet with all of us or one of us."