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Canadians raise voices against waste site

By LOUIS PECK
Gannett News Service

WINDSOR, Ont. — The chairman of the Canadian section of the International Joint Commission Tuesday took several swipes at the controversial proposal to turn the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works into a regional disposal site for low-level radioactive waste.

At one point, Canadian chairman E. Richmond Olson pledged to join public demonstrations against the plan should the U.S. government appear to be seriously considering it.

The issue arose at the IJC's annual water quality meeting as the result of an inquiry from Margherita Howe of Operation Clean, based in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Howe urged the IJC take a public stand

against the proposal, which is contained in a study recently prepared for the Department of Energy by Bechtel National Inc.

"You take it seriously? I didn't think it had been taken seriously," Olson told Howe.

"There is a possibility," Howe replied. "I think we ought to nip it in the bud."

Under the Bechtel plan, the LOOW site on Pletcher Road, Lewiston, would become a regional depository for radioactive waste. The DOE currently is doing a cleanup of waste already stored on the

Low-Port assails LOOW recommendation

LEWISTON — The Lewiston-Porter Board of Education Tuesday adopted a resolution condemning recommendations to dispose radioactive waste at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works.

Under pressure from environmental groups, the Lewiston-Porter Honor Society and the teachers union, the board condemned recommendations by federal consultant Bechtel National Inc. to transform

the site into a regional center for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

Schools Superintendent Daniel Healy said the LOOW oversight committee was led to believe by the DOE that the work at the LOOW was "remedial to prevent migration of materials off the site until a permanent suitable disposal site was found elsewhere."

in Lewiston

site.

Howe expressed concern that the site could ultimately be used to handle low-level radioactive waste from across the United States and Canada.

"You really think we are so primitive that such a thing could occur without a vast and essential public discussion?" Olson said. "If that happens, I will join you at the barricades."

Howard Ferguson, the director of Environment Canada's Ontario region, said the proposal is "of particular concern to us" because of the proximity of the Niagara River to the LOOW site. "We are certainly monitoring the situation from the Canadian side," Ferguson said.