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# Pillittere: Downstaters want to dump at LOOW

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A classic upstate vs. downstate power struggle may be brewing over the disposal of low-level radioactive wastes at the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, according to state Assemblyman Joseph Pillittere.

"I do believe very strongly that New York City wants to use us for all their wastes," Pillittere, D-Lewiston, said.

The wastes in question date to World War II and the government's top-secret Manhattan Project, which led to the development of the atomic bomb.

Industries and universities throughout the state were involved in the program; several sites, including two in New York City, two in Albany and another on Long Island, may need cleanup work to remove the contaminated material.

And the ordnance site in Lewiston has been mentioned by government contractors as a possible repository for those Manhattan Project wastes.

Pillittere says he received recent inquiries from New York City Mayor Edward Koch's staff regarding the Lewiston site. One such call was made to the assemblyman's home.

"I think they are going to make some moves. Why else would they call me at

home and ask me where the (ordnance) site is?" Pillittere said.

"And I'll tell you what else worries me: Ed Koch didn't even call me during the election," he said.

Pillittere said Koch is sending aides to a meeting in Albany tomorrow, which will be attended by the U.S. Department of Energy, along with representatives of various state agencies.

John Spath, a spokesman for the state Energy Research and Development Authority, said the meeting was called to discuss the federal government's long-range plans for cleanup and consolidation of all Manhattan Project wastes in the state.

Earlier, Department of Energy officials told the Niagara Gazette they had ruled out Lewiston as a waste repository, although they would not discount the possibility that the decision would be imposed on them by Congress or the state Legislature.

Spath said his agency was anxious to have the radioactive wastes cleaned up and would assist the federal government with the location of a disposal site, if necessary.

Pillittere said he was concerned that Lewiston would be chosen because the government property has been used for the storage and disposal of radioactive materials since 1944.