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Hearings on LOOW site

LEWISTON — Public hearings have been set for Feb. 17 and 19 by the federal Department of Energy to receive community input on the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works.

The hearings are part of the federal Environmental Impact Statement process, Rep. John J. LaFalce, D-Tonawanda, announced yesterday.

Exact times have not been set, but the meetings will be at Lewiston-Porter High School. The "scoping hearings" are information-gathering sessions required as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The 191-acre Pletcher Road site has been used to store radioactive wastes from the 1940s federal Manhattan Project which led to the development of the first atomic bomb.

Further details about the hearings should be announced soon, a LaFalce's spokesman said.