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# Lewiston hires D.C. lawyers to handle meetings on LOOW

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LEWISTON — Town Board members last night hired a Washington, D.C., law firm for \$2,500 plus expenses to represent the town at preliminary meetings on the future of the controversial Lake Ontario Ordnance Works.

One of the first assignments of Dow, Lohnes, and Albertson will be to postpone the meetings, scheduled for Feb. 17-19 in the Lewiston-Porter Senior High School auditorium.

The board voted 5-0 to retain the firm, which specializes in environmental law. The firm also represented Lewiston during hearings on the Ho-jack Railroad project.

Town Attorney Benjamin Hewitt and board member Robert E. Lee interviewed four Washington law firms last week. Lee said Dow Lohnes representatives "told us that the meetings are awful soon and that they would try and

have them postponed."

The meetings are being held by the U.S. Department of Energy to discuss various alternatives for the LOOW site, where radioactive waste has been stored since World War II.

Lee described the upcoming meetings — called "scoping" sessions — as "important. It's important that we're prepared for them," he said.

Alternatives suggested for the area include removal of 16,000 tons of the radioactive waste or its decommissioning and return of the land to unrestricted use.

Town officials made it clear last October they were in no hurry to meet with DOE representatives on the LOOW's future.

That came after a surprise announcement that the DOE had earmarked the 191-acre site as a possible repository for additional radioactive waste.