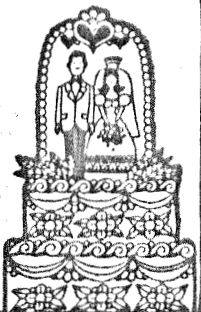


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# Niagara



Niagara Falls, N.Y.

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## LOW alternatives spelled out

### Total radioactive waste removal costliest, riskiest to workers, Bechtel draft report says

By RAETYSON  
Gazette Staff Writer

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LEWISTON — Total removal of radioactive residues would cost more, require greater manpower and could result in the greatest human radiation exposure, according to a draft report outlining alternatives for the government's Lake Ontario Ordnance Works.

In a report received by the Town Board yesterday, Bechtel National Inc. said total decontamination of the Pletcher Road site could cost \$560 million, compared with significantly lower costs for stabilizing the

materials and leaving them in Lewiston.

The former ordnance plant, now owned by the U.S. Department of Energy, has been used for the storage of radioactive residues since 1944.

Bechtel was hired to assess all alternatives for the future of the site, which is undergoing extensive remedial work to minimize radioactive emissions.

The draft Bechtel report does not contain any recommendations. An earlier version of the document had suggested that the site be used for the disposal of radioactive materials from other Northeast locations.

Bechtel and the Department of Energy will meet with state officials tomorrow and with the Town Board Thursday at 8 p.m. to discuss the draft report and its implications.

Bechtel assessed a dozen alternatives for the 191-acre site, including time and cost estimates and manpower requirements for each possibility.

Of the 12, total removal of all wastes was the costliest at \$560 million and would take 11 years to complete. It also would result in the greatest radiation exposure to workers, compared to other alternatives.

By finishing work in progress — improving storage facilities and consolidating the residues — Bechtel estimated the cost to be \$54.5 million, based on government maintenance for the next 200 years.

Bechtel said the cost could be reduced to \$13.2 million by providing storage facilities that require less maintenance.

Removing the most highly radioactive of the residues and leaving the remainder in Lewiston would cost between \$41.6 million and \$55.2 million, Bechtel estimated.

Department of Energy officials said the Bechtel report would be used to develop an environmental impact statement outlining the preferred alternatives.

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