

# Pillittere hits waste site plans

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State Assemblyman Joseph Pillittere, D-Lewiston, emerged from a meeting with federal officials yesterday unconvinced they have abandoned a plan to create a radioactive waste repository in his home district.

Pillittere said the Albany briefing by U. S. Department of Energy officials revolved around remedial plans for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works and the alternatives for handling the wastes currently stored at the Pletcher Road site.

Federal officials insist they ruled out a consultant's earlier suggestion that the site be used for the disposal of other low-level radioactive wastes.

"I look at what they are doing and still see permanent storage facilities for the federal government," he said.

Using the site for additional waste, said Pillittere, an engineer, "is what I see as the bottom line. The drawings they showed us are too exotic for an interim solution.

"I see in them something they are not saying," he said.

Federal energy officials and representatives of Bechtel National Inc., a consultant, have scheduled a meeting at 8 p.m. this evening to discuss the future plans for the ordnance property.

Lewiston Town Board members Joan Gipp and Alvin Ogg also traveled to Albany for yesterday's briefing with representatives of the state departments of health, labor and environmental conservation who also attended the session.

Mrs. Gipp shared Pillittere's concerns about the future of the 191-acre Lewiston site.

She said it appeared that government officials began their planning on the assumption that all 22,000 tons of the radioactive waste would remain indefinitely and not shipped elsewhere for disposal.

"It appears that they made the decision to leave the materials down there and worked backwards from that point," Mrs. Gipp said.