

DOE seeks containment at ordnance

By DON DEPERRO
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LEWISTON — Federal officials and their consultants who laid out plans for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works said their primary concern is to contain existing wastes at the Pletcher Road site.

The result of the \$28.2 million program, officials said, will ensure the safety of nearby residents in case funding runs dry or other unexpected developments arise.

Officials from the federal Department of Energy and its site manager, Bechtel National Inc., unveiled the plans Thursday night to the Lewiston and Porter Town boards at Town Hall.

The remedial program includes storing wastes adequately for 25 years and monitoring the site and adjoining areas for radioactivity.

Initial plans were to be completed by the end of next year, but funding shortages and some changes in plans delayed the schedule for one year, said John E. Baublitz, DOE director of the division of remedial action projects.

The interim storage work includes consolidating off-site contaminants and stabilizing the 191-acre site to prevent future waste runoff. The plan includes reducing radon emissions, which Baublitz said exceeded federal regulations until 1982.

Radioactive radon gasses are produced by the disintegration of radium particles.

Construction work costing \$11 million planned for this summer includes removing wastes from the silo, which contains K-65 radioactive wastes — described as the most hazardous on the site. The silo is slated for demolition next year.

Closer look

Other work includes enlarging a dike built last year. The dike will hold contaminated material collected from both onsite and offsite areas.

Radioactive wastes will be removed from drainage ditches extending off the Pletcher Road site. Contaminated soil from these areas will be stored inside the dike. Wastes will be stabilized in two buildings (including the silo) and three other structures will be decontaminated.

An environmental impact statement is now under way as part of the overall program at the site. The impact statement is part of state and federal guidelines to determine alternatives at the site.

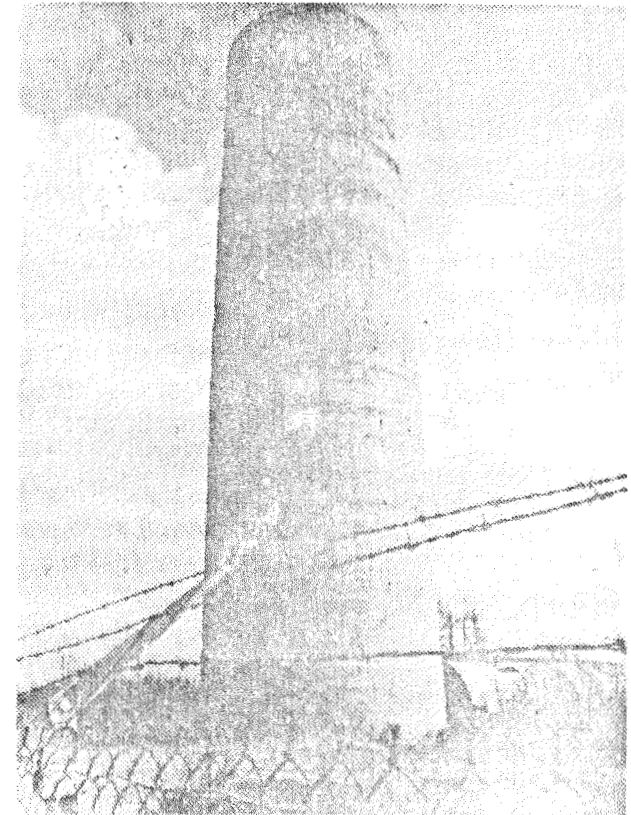
The long-term alternatives for the site presented by the DOE include a provision to remove the wastes entirely and ship them to either Oak Ridge, Tenn., or Hanford, Wash.

Removing, packaging and transporting all hazardous wastes to Oak Ridge would cost \$246 million in 1985 inflated dollars, officials said.

It would cost \$560 million to move the materials to Hanford. Lowell F. Campbell, DOE project manager at the ordnance works, said the safest and least costly method of transporting the material would be by truck.

To consolidate and transport all materials from the site would create safety hazards, would be the costliest alternative and would take many years, officials said.

Interim storage, however, would create a need for long-term surveillance and maintenance, but would be the least costly to do, DOE officials said.



Lake Ontario Ordnance Works silo