

Lewiston nixes LOOW law firm

LEWISTON — The Town Board apparently will not be represented at public hearings on the final disposition of radioactive waste at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site.

Democratic board members Joan E. Gipp and Alvin C. Ogg wanted to investigate the cost of hiring a Washington, D.C., legal firm, which has represented the board in the past, to represent the board at hearings on a draft environmental impact statement for the LOOW site.

Republican board members Richard Kolke and Robert E. Lee, however, last night voted down Mrs. Gipp's motion to hire the firm.

Attorney James McElfish of Dow, Lohnes, Albertson has advised the board about the LOOW site since December 1982.

Earlier, members of the LOOW Citizens Oversight Committee declined to represent the board at the public hearings on the grounds that the committee is responsible to Congressman John J. LaFalce, not the board.

"My concern was that we won't be represented," Mrs. Gipp said. "But we come from different places, no question about it."

The U.S. Department of Energy, which owns the 191-acre LOOW site on Pletcher Road, will present its options for long-term management of the site in a draft environmental impact statement in May.

After public hearings on the proposals, the DOE will decide whether to remove some 20,000 tons of radioactive materials from the site, contain the material on site or remove part of the material and contain the remainder.

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