

DATE August 6, 1984  
TIME 6:00-6:30 PM  
STATION WGRZ-TV(NBC) Channel Two  
LOCATION Buffalo, N.Y.  
PROGRAM News Center Two

Fred DeBrine, co-anchor:

Today marked the thirty-ninth anniversary of the atom bomb at Hiroshima, but it was also a red letter day in the atomic history of western New York. It marked the beginning of the end for the area's most visible link with America's first atomic bomb. News Center Two's Dick Lucinski explains.

Dick Lucinski reporting:

This material is radioactive. It's the first of the low-level radioactive waste to be drained from a concrete silo at the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works in Lewiston. The silo and the one hundred ninety-one acres around it are owned by the federal government.

Bechtel National Incorporated is supervising the clean-up work here. They are emptying the silo in what they call a mining operation. A pump is put into the top of the tower, water is mixed with the material, it's pumped through about a mile of steel pipe and placed into a secure in-ground storage area. The water is then settled out and treated separately. The operation that started today will eventually result in the demolition of the silo.

Bert Zimbrich (Site Supervisor): It's probably going to take about three months to complete the operation, take all of the materials out of the tower, and then we'll go into a stage where for demolition of that tower.

Lucinski: So you expect the tower to be down by the end of the year?

Zimbrich: We're hoping that it'll be down by the end of the year, yes.

Lucinski: Some one hundred twenty radiation monitors are positioned both on-and off-site.

Bill Borden (Health Physicist): When we opened the tower the readings did elevate on top of the tower, but we saw practically no effect at all in the environment itself. It's being well-dispersed by the winds.

Lucinski: And you don't see any problems through this entire operation?

Borden: No sir, I don't anticipate any problems.

Lucinski: The atomic waste is left over from the Manhattan Project, the production of America's first atomic bomb. The entire cleanup operation is expected to take another two

*Continued.*

years. Even though it will cost nearly thirty million dollars it's considered to be just interim storage--only temporary.

The first draft of an environmental impact statement on the situation here is expected to be out later this month. After that public hearings will be scheduled. Then sometime in 1985 the federal government should make a determination on the permanent solution of the radioactive waste problems here at the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works.

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DATE August 9, 1984  
TIME 5:00-5:30 PM  
STATION KTVI-TV(ABC) Channel Two  
LOCATION St. Louis  
PROGRAM Channel 2 News

Kim Hindrew, anchor:

It's been a long time coming, but the U.S. Department of Energy is finally cleaning up radioactive wastes from the Latty Avenue side in North St. Louis County. The government will spend seven hundred fifty thousand dollars on the project, and Channel 2's Spero Canton reports it's expected to take about five months.

Canton:

At first glance, you'd never know these workers were removing radioactive material. No one is wearing aspirators, moon suits, and there is no decontamination area. All this dirt contains forium, radium, and radon. It's left over from work done in North County area forty years ago to extract uranium during the Manhattan project. But supervisors say, the radiation present is negligible.

Bob Kelley (Bechtel supervisor): It's low enough right now that it's not much more than the average background reading that you're going to get from the normal exposure, say, we're getting from the sun right here.

Nancy Quigle (Berkley City manager): I'm comfortable that we're dealing with a low level kind of particulate that is more of a nuisance than anything else.

Canton: In spite of the small amount of radiation, safeguards are being taken. Workers are wearing protective boots and gloves, and are being checked for radiation exposure. More than fifteen hundred truckloads of dirt will be scooped up, and then additional tests will be done. The low level radioactive dirt is being transported to this mound a few hundred feet away from where the excavation is occurring. Workers say it will remain there until they decide what to do with it. Spero Canton, Channel 2 News in Hazelwood.