

## In our opinion

### LOOW: Lewiston's compromise offers a workable plan

Negotiations generally start with extremes. One side makes outrageous demands only to have them summarily rejected by the other side. The aim, of course, is to reach a compromise agreeable to both parties, but the path to agreement can be a long and difficult one.

The Town of Lewiston has for some time been trying to reach agreement with the federal government on radioactive material that remains at the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works. The waste is from the Manhattan Project, the secret World War II operation to develop the atomic bomb.

The town's position has been an extreme one, albeit one that is representative of public sentiment: Take the waste from the site and dispose of it elsewhere.

The government's position has yet to be expressed. One early recommendation of a Department of Energy consultant, however, was an extreme one: Use the 191-acre Pletcher Road site as a repository for radioactive waste from seven other Manhattan Project sites in the state. That recommendation was eventually dropped, but town officials haven't forgotten it.

Extreme positions are difficult to justify. The town's initial insistence on removal of the wastes could have resulted in a cost of \$560 million and taken 11 years to complete, accord-

ing to Bechtel National Inc., the government's consultant. Removal would also result in greater exposure to workers.

Bringing more wastes to the site was an outrageous insult of a community already burdened with hazardous wastes problems.

The ideal solution, as far as Lewiston is concerned, is to have the wastes taken elsewhere. But it is not a practical solution, considering the cost, time and difficulty in finding another site. Probably the best the community can hope for is now represented in a compromise proposed by the Town Board. That involves removing only the most contaminated residue of the 250,000 cubic yards of radioactive material and securing the bulk of it at the site.

"All of us would like to have it out of there, but it's not in the realm of reality," Councilman Al Ogg has correctly observed.

A public hearing on disposal options will be held at Lewiston-Porter Senior High School Sept. 19. With its change in attitude, the board would appear to stand a better chance of getting what it wants. It is highly unlikely the government would ever agree to complete removal, so it was self-defeating to pursue such a plan. Its compromise at least represents a workable plan. Ideally, it is one the government will accept.

## What others say

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## Kemp 'thi

It is evident to political viewers Jack Kemp of Hamburg emerged as one of the week's Republican National Convention major contenders for our party's nomination in 1988.

Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa told a convention floor that Kemp "a had the mantle of Reagan transferred to his shoulders."

Most observers at the convention named Kemp as one of the leaders on the '88, with many strongly supporting "Kemp '88" buttons. Kemp opened the convention with a remark honoring the co-chairmen of the platform committee, Congressman Trent Lott and Sen. Paula Hawkins at the Loew The ballroom held more than 3,000 all trying to get Kemp's autograph of a Kemp-written book, "The Idea: Ending Limits to Growth."