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Right to dump LOOW site water sought

BY LISA AUG
Niagara Gazette

LEWISTON — The U.S. Department of Energy wants to discharge five million gallons of treated waste water from the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works to the Lewiston Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Town officials, however, are concerned that the contaminated water could damage the plant or further pollute the Niagara River.

Most of the water would come from the transfer of radioactive waste from a concrete tower to a storage area on the Fletcher Road site.

The department has a state permit to dis-

charge the water, contaminated before treatment with radioactive elements and toxic metals, into a ditch leading to Four Mile Creek.

But Bechtel National, caretaker of the property, is having trouble removing enough of the contaminants to meet the permit limits.

According to Gary Conon of Bechtel, the permit limits are unusually strict because the ditch often dries up and cannot dilute the discharged water.

Over a number of months the water would be sufficiently diluted by rainfall. But Bechtel and the department are determined to finish cleanup work at the site this year, and want to treat and discharge the water in five

to six months which is not enough time to dilute it for discharge into the ditch.

But the water sent to the sewer system could contain higher levels of contaminants because it is discharged into the Niagara River and, thus, substantially diluted. A Lewiston Waste Water Treatment Plant, however, is designed to treat only domestic sewage and cannot handle industrial waste.

Plant administrator Gene Bidell said he would want assurance that the contaminants in the LOOW site water would not kill the plant's biological treatment system or leave toxics in the plant's sludge requiring the town to dispose of the sludge at a hazardous waste landfill at much greater cost.

Roger Land of Bechtel emphasized that

the treated water sent to the sewers would not contain any contaminants above levels acceptable to the treatment plant.

Using the town's sewer system for the treated water would be the easiest and cheapest of several alternatives under consideration by the department, Land said.

Bechtel also has suggested sending the water to SCA Chemical Services for treatment, discharging the water directly into the river, or using a new treatment method.

Department of Energy and Bechtel officials are to meet with officials of the state Department of Environmental Conservation this morning to discuss what to do with the contaminated water.

Waste filtration partial-use test OK'd by council

By CAROLYN KUMA
Niagara Gazette

The first of seven carbon beds will be installed in Niagara Falls' wastewater treatment plant by March 12.

The Niagara Falls City Council Monday approved the turnover of plant work from the contractors to the city after a two-month

VINCENTIAN RESIDENCE

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