

Decision delayed on treating waste from federal site

By LISA AUG
Niagara Gazette

LEWISTON — The Town Board last night postponed a decision on whether to allow the federal government to discharge contaminated wastewater to the Niagara River through the town's sewage treatment plant.

"We have to take a look at the process they come up with before we say yes or no," Supervisor James J. Lombardi said.

"The board should first set a policy (for or against the discharge)," Councilwoman Joan Gipp said. "I can't think it would even be a consideration."

The U.S. Department of Energy wants to send five million gallons of the water, contaminated with radioactive elements and toxic chemicals before treatment, from the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works site to the Lewiston plant this spring and summer.

Although the department has a state permit to discharge the water to a ditch leading to Four Mile Creek, it claims it cannot remove enough toxic metals or adequately dilute the wastewater to meet the permit standards in time to complete work at the site this fall.

Water sent to the river through the Lewis-

ton plant, however, could contain higher levels of toxic chemicals than allowed in a discharge to Four Mile Creek.

The department considered sending the water to SCA Chemical Services for treatment, but balked at the \$1 per gallon charge.

Town officials worry about possible damage to the treatment plant from the LOOW-site wastewater, but local fishermen worry about the damage to fish in the river.

About 20 members of the Niagara River Anglers Association, which plans to release 20,000 walleye fingerlings to the river near the sewer plant discharge pipe, attended Monday night's board meeting.

In response to objections to the discharge plan from association director Charles Pelcin, Lombardi said he would invite a representative of the association the next meeting between the town board and the energy department on the proposed discharge.

Lombardi also said the town would wait for a recommendation by the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which is waiting for more information from the energy department, before deciding whether to allow the discharge.

Lockport grade schools set new science course

By BOB ROSENBAUM
Niagara Gazette

LOCKPORT — Potential Edisons and Einsteins in the Lockport City School District will now get an earlier start toward future discoveries, according to a group of enthusiastic school teachers, administrators and officials.

The school board voted unanimously at its regular meeting Monday to adopt a new science program for the system's elementary schools. The program, designed by Silver

co-chairman of the committee with Assistant Superintendent James Bird.

"The kids will be scientifically literate in terms of the environment and their bodies," according to committee member and teacher William Luff. He said that unlike the BOCES program, the new one will include a health segment and provides materials for a first-grade program.

Other segments in the program are life sciences, physical science and earth science.

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