

Demolition Of Tower Slated; Once Held Radiation Wastes

LEWISTON — Work will begin this week on the demolition of a 165-foot-tall concrete tower that formerly contained low-level radioactive residues at the U.S. Department of Energy's Niagara Falls Storage Site, formerly the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works.

Bechtel National Inc. is the Energy Department's project management contractor for remedial action at the site and 25 other sites in 10 states. The Lewiston tower demolition is being performed by Kimmins Corp. of Niagara Falls under a subcontract with Bechtel.

The tower will be demolished using a 3-to-5 ton wrecking ball, and the rubble will be transported to an on-site waste containment area about one mile away.

Water spray will be used to control dust during the demolition operation, with provisions for containing excess water near the base of the tower. The demolition is scheduled to be completed in about two months.

Demolition of the tower is one of the final steps in a multi-year program to consolidate and contain radioactive residues and wastes from on and around the site. The area involves a 191-acre parcel that was used by the Manhattan Engineer District during and after World War II for storing radioactive residues and contaminated soils and rubble.

Materials that were in the tower,

known as K-65 residues, were previously transferred to the on-site waste containment area. The residues resulted from the processing of high-grade uranium ore at a plant in St. Louis as part of the Manhattan Project which produced the first atomic bombs. They were brought to the site in drums in 1949 and were placed in the tower between 1950 and 1952.

As part of its remedial action program for former Manhattan Engineer District sites, the DOE has been consolidating wastes and residues from NFSS and surrounding properties into an eight-acre waste containment area on the site. The storage is an interim measure, and the DOE is preparing an environmental impact statement to determine the ultimate disposition of materials stored at Lewiston.