

WIVB-TV (CBS) Channel Four
Buffalo, N.Y.
June 26, 1985

Jacquie Walker, co-anchor:

A landmark on the Niagara County skyline is about to disappear. Construction crews have started to tear down the silo at the old Lake Ontario Ordinance Works. Our Rick Pfeiffer was there for the beginning of a change in the way that we handle nuclear waste.

Rick Pfeiffer reporting:

The bombing of Hiroshima was the most visual and frightening result of the federal government's Manhattan Project. Less visual but just as frightening was the radioactive waste that resulted from making the bomb. Since 1950 that waste has been kept in a silo at the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works in the Niagara County town of Porter but now that silo is coming down.

Cal Knoke (Project Superintendent): This tower--if it wasn't knocked down, we'd have it ultimately fall down by itself. The interior is contaminated with some of the residues that were carried in it over these last thirty years so we have to knock it down so it's--we can move it to a place where it'll be protected. (Knoke is wearing a hard hat with the Bechtel logo and his own name on it)

Pfeiffer: For now the radioactive waste has been moved to an underground bunker here. The demolition of this silo is a carefully controlled project. Workers wear protective clothing, the silo is sprayed with water to keep the dust down and sophisticated equipment monitors the environment.

Bill Borden (Health Specialist): I don't have any concern at all. Thus far we haven't seen anything unusual in the environment whatsoever. (Borden is wearing a hard hat with the Bechtel logo and his name on it)

Pfeiffer: Project managers say it'll take about two weeks to finally tear down this Niagara County landmark. Well, then it'll be up to the federal government to finally decide what will happen with the radioactive waste that's now buried here. Rick Pfeiffer, News 4, in the town of Porter.

WGRZ-TV (NBC) Channel Two
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Rich Kellman, anchor:

It was the beginning of the end today for a controversial Buffalo landmark. Demolition is under way on the storage silo at the Lake Ontario Ordinance Works in the town of Lewiston. It had been the resting place for about four thousand tons of low-level radioactive waste since World War II, that waste the by-product of America's atomic bomb project. Contractors for the federal government say the demolition does not pose a danger to residents.

Bill Borden (Health Physicist): . . . and we're--as you can see--taking it a bite at a time. It's a very controlled demolition. We're keeping a lot of water on the tower so that there is no dusting or movement of dust away from the tower. (Borden's hard hat has the Bechtel logo and his name on it.)

Kellman: So far the company says the work is going well and the silo should be nothing more than a memory in about two weeks.