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# Lewiston residents angry over plan to leave waste buried at ordnance site

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LEWISTON — The federal energy department's plan to leave radioactive waste buried at the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site met with disapproval Monday from town officials and residents.

Councilman Joan Gipp, a longtime opponent of keeping the atom-bomb waste at the site, said she was heartsick upon hearing of the energy department's plan.

The energy department is "proposing using the best practical technology rather than the best available technology," Gipp said. "This site has no redeeming value to us with jobs or as part of its individual structure. The federal government dumped on us in the most blatantly ignorant way possible."

Gipp said town officials had proposed "containerization" — drummed storage of the waste — to the energy department as a temporary solution.

"They wooed us from day one with the possibility our suggestion would be considered," she said. "I wouldn't be as upset if I thought they were looking at the best long-term solution. But they're not. There's no such thing as a secure landfill. That stuff

has been and will continue to migrate."

The site, now called the Niagara Falls Storage Site, contains about 255,000 cubic yards of radioactive waste and residues. The energy department is responsible for the site.

Lewiston Town Supervisor James J. Lombardi said the town should receive payment from the federal government for storing the waste there.

"My position has been and still is that if they intend to leave that material there, they should pay us in lieu of tax payments," Lombardi said. "If they want to use us as a dumping ground they should help out our economy. People won't move somewhere that's contaminated; that's a proven fact."

Lombardi said he would ask the town's attorneys to investigate whether the town can seek reimbursement from the federal government.

Betsy Oliphant of Swann Road, who lives near the site, said she would feel more comfortable if the material were removed.

"We're not happy it's still there. I don't think anyone here is. I think we'd all feel more comfortable if it were gone," Mrs. Oliphant said.