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Laurie B. Adamczyk protests additional dumping of nuclear wastes in the Town of Tonawanda. JAMES P. McCOY/Buffalo News

## Tonawandans Protest Proposal on N-Wastes

By MARC LACEY  
News Tonawanda Bureau

Town of Tonawanda residents and elected officials used everything from gentle persuasion to threats at a crowded public hearing Tuesday night to let the federal government know that no more nuclear waste should be brought into the town.

"Want to bring in more? Better bring in the National Guard," said Sal Sidoti, who works at Consolidated Freightways in the town.

He recited a long list of former employees who have died of cancer and threatened to round up members of the Teamsters Union to make sure the federal government does not bring any more waste into Western New York.

County Legislator Charles M. Swa-

nick, D-Kenmore, pointed his finger at the Energy Department officials running the meeting. "This is an absolute insult to the 150,000 people that live in this community."

About 175 residents and area elected officials turned out in the Franklin Middle School auditorium for a meeting that kicks off the Energy Department's environmental review of three contaminated sites in the town and one outside Albany.

In the next three years, the department will investigate the four sites and decide whether to contain the contaminants in their present locations or possibly move all the waste to a site on Ashland Oil Co. property

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# Nuclear

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in the Town of Tonawanda. "We're going to be looking at these alternatives as objectively as we can," said James Kannard, an Energy Department consultant who works for Bechtel National.

The possibility of moving waste into the town had most residents up in arms. Others argued that the contaminants already stored locally should be transferred out of state.

Legislature Majority Leader Leonard Lenihan, D-Town of Tonawanda, said, "The Town of Tonawanda cannot allow itself to be pinpointed as a dumping ground for the federal government."

Town Councilman Carl J. Calabrese said a waste facility along the Niagara River would devastate the area's waterfront redevelopment plans. "We already have too many waste dumps in our community."

The department will review contaminants located at two sites owned by Ashland and a third owned by Union Carbide Corp.'s Linde Division south of Sheridan Drive. The three sites contain more than 150,000 cubic yards of radioactive material left over from uranium processing during World War II at the Linde plant during the Manhattan Project to create the atomic bomb.

The fourth site, the former National Lead Industries plant on the Colonie-Albany border, contains about 30,000 cubic yards of contaminants. It now is owned by the Energy Department.

Town resident David Pandolfi said he will move to another area if any more waste is brought in. He said he already is afraid to raise a family in Western New York because of the area's high cancer rate.

Trevor Brown, assistant Town of Tonawanda fire chief, said he is concerned firefighters will not be able to handle a nuclear waste fire.

"Do you really think the accidents of Chernobyl and Three Mile Island can't happen again?" he asked. "Who does the public turn to on the event of a disaster — the firefighters?"

Another resident, Philip Jarosz, came to the meeting with a map listing all of Western New York's dump sites and a copy of National Geographic. He pointed out an article on disposing of waste deep beneath the ground so there is little chance that the radioactivity will seep into the ground water.

A woman who lives near the Colonie site said she backs residents of the town.

"The people in Colonie support the people of the Town of Tonawanda in not having any land burial in the Town of Tonawanda," said Anne Rube of Albany.

She recommended that the federal government create a few above-ground regional waste facilities to ensure that radioactive material never is released into the environment.

The Energy Department will sponsor a similar meeting Wednesday night in Colonie.