

Lewiston waste site opens up

SPEAKING OUT:

Residents can let the government know their opinions about the radioactive storage site.

By Mary Wozniak
Niagara Gazette

If area residents have any questions about the Niagara Falls Storage Site, they will have a chance to get some answers on Thursday.

The Department of Energy is holding an "availability session" from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Lewiston site.

"In essence, it is an open house," said Ronald E. Kirk, the

department's site manager.

Residents who attend the informal session will get a chance to talk to Kirk one-on-one, he said. Literature concerning the site at 1397 Pletcher Road near Lutts Road also will be available.

The site contains 255,000 cubic yards of radioactive waste and residue from the Manhattan Project, which created the first atomic bomb. The materials have been stored there for 50 years.

In the mid-1980s, the Energy Department built an interim containment facility for the waste and residue at the 191-acre site, formerly known as the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works.

Last May, the Energy Department notified the Environmental

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Protection Agency that it planned to leave the waste there.

The EPA, the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the state Health Department oppose the plan.

The open house is prompted in part by several Niagara Gazette articles concerning the ongoing dialogue between state and federal agencies as to how to properly dispose of the radioactive material, Kirk said.

There were probably "sufficient questions raised" by the articles to hold the open house, even though there is currently no activity at the site, Kirk said.

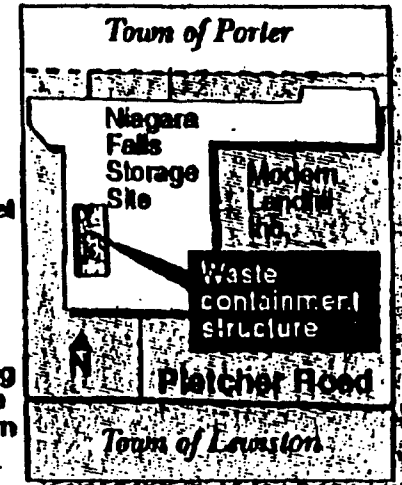
IF YOU GO

■ **What:** Informal "availability session" with the Department of Energy.
■ **When:** Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m.

■ **Where:** At the Niagara Falls Storage Site.

■ **How to get there:** To get to the meeting, residents coming from Lewiston should take the Pletcher Road exit from the Robert Moses Parkway and turn right. For residents coming from Youngstown, take the Pletcher Road exit and turn left. The site is almost at the end of Pletcher.

■ **For further information or directions:** Call Arlene Kreusch at 754-4442.



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