

"I saw it in the Lewiston Youngstown Metro Community News"

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Radioactive waste storage site is safe

By BOB KOSTOFF
Metro Staff Reporter

The Niagara Falls Storage Site for radioactive waste off Pletcher Road in the Town of Lewiston is safe for county residents, the monitoring program has indicated.

A news release from Ronald E. Kirk, site manager, said the 1993 annual Environmental Surveillance Report is now available for public inspection at area libraries.

He said the surveillance results "are generally similar to measurements taken in past years and indicate that average concentrations of radioactive contaminants of concern are well below applicable standards and derived concentrations guides."

Also, he said, "Results from the monitoring program indicate that no current public

drinking water sources are being impacted by the Niagara Falls Storage Site."

He added, "The report concludes that potential human exposures are well below protection guidelines established by the National Council on Radiation Protection."

The site is currently involved in a controversy of long range disposal of the radioactive waste. The Department of Energy wants to put a permanent cap over the site while many residents and other environmental agencies believe the high level radioactive material should be removed to an out of state permanent storage site.

The matter is now being studied by a committee of the National Academy of Sciences which will make non-binding recommendations to the DOE.

The surveillance report is available at the Earl W. Brydges Public Library in Niagara Falls, the Lewiston Public Library, the Youngstown Free Library and the Lockport Public Library.

The surveillance included annual analysis of groundwater, surface water and sediment samples for various radiological and chemical parameters.

It also includes semiannual external gamma exposure rate measurements, and quarterly radiological analysis of atmospheric radon concentrations. The report identifies sampling locations, monitoring parameters and a summary of associated analytical results in addition to providing general information about the site.