

Session will air future of storage site

Former ordnance works is Lewiston topic Thursday

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LEWISTON — The future of the government's former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works will be discussed at a meeting of the Community Alliance for Lewiston and Porter at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Lewiston Senior Citizens Center, Pletcher and Lower River roads.

Ronald Kirt of the Former Sites Restoration Division of the U.S. Department of Energy will explain the government's plans for the 191-acre site where TNT once was manufactured and where hazardous waste from the atomic bomb research project of World War II is stored.

The National Academy of Sciences has been reviewing a plan to place a long-lasting cap over the remaining radioactive waste and residue on a portion of the site.

Some residents have asked that the radioactive material be removed and taken to a site somewhere else in the United States.

Eventually, about 150 acres at the site are to be declared surplus property, and the Department of Energy is expected to try to dispose of it for development.

A small section containing the actual 28-foot-high containment cell would remain under DOE control, and it would be watched perpetually for any sign of leaks.

The site, which straddles the

border between the towns of Lewiston and Porter, is a storage area for radioactive waste from the Manhattan Project, which developed the atomic bomb during World War II.

The Energy Department cleaned up most of the site and nearby properties between 1980 and 1986, placing radioactive material into the containment area. The department did further clean-up work in 1991, adding contaminated soil to the storage cell.

Kirt is expected to comment on the historical background of the site, monitoring data and other current information. The site, now called the Niagara Falls Storage Site, is at 1397 Pletcher Road.