

# Radioactive questions to fly at Ordnance meeting

**CONCERN:** *One Advisory Board member says documents show "high-level waste" brought to site.*

**By Steve Trask**

*Niagara Gazette*

PORTER — The Restoration Advisory Board for the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Site will have its quarterly meeting at 7 p.m., Wednesday, in the board room of the Primary Building at the Lewiston Porter Central School Complex, 4061 Creek Road, Youngstown.

At least one Advisory Board member, Thomas Freck, plans on asking about potential

problems with radiation on the site located on Balmer Road in the towns of Lewiston and Porter.

"I've seen documents verifying that high-level waste from at least seven different sites were moved to the Niagara Falls Storage Site," Freck said. "This is very, very hot material. There was a bulldozer they used for pushing dirt around on the site. It became so contaminated, they had to bury the bulldozer."

Freck said he has a lot of questions about the evidence he has seen.

"We want to know where this stuff is on the site," he said. "During last summer, when it was dry, they spent \$400,000 to water the ground to keep it cool, so it wouldn't crack. They

were afraid the radiation would leak. This is the kind of stuff that shouldn't be under a pile of clay. It needs to be encased in lead."

The meeting also will feature Dr. John Vena of the University at Buffalo Medical School of Public Health, who will speak about community-based health studies.

"It should be very educational for us and the audience," said Dr. Nils Olsen, co-chairman of restoration Advisory Board. "He will be able to explain what's involved with putting together such studies and how results are derived."

Olsen said the board also will talk about some recommended clean-up procedures for the LOOW. He said the recent discovery of nitroglycerine in an

old sewer system at the site will be brought up.

"We are going to look at what steps — if any — will be taken to alleviate that situation," he said.

The LOOW Site encompassed 7,500 acres, but U.S. Department of Defense activities occurred only on 2,500 acres. Within that area there is a 191-acre portion called the Niagara Falls Storage Site. Only the NFSS portion contains radioactive residues. The NFSS also was used by the Manhattan Engineer District for storing radioactive residues and wastes from uranium ore processing.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for investigating and cleaning up chemical contamination at the site. The Corps maintains site

security, environmental surveillance and monitoring of the site under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

About 250,000 cubic yards of radioactive wastes and residues are stored in a containment structure that occupies about 10 acres of the site. The Corps is conducting an investigation to identify the extent of the contamination.

Also on the agenda will be a question and answer period for the public and board members on the LOOW and NFSS sites.

Olsen said the purpose of the advisory board meetings is public information.

"The purpose is to keep the community informed," he said. "This allows us to hear their concerns and receive some input from the public."