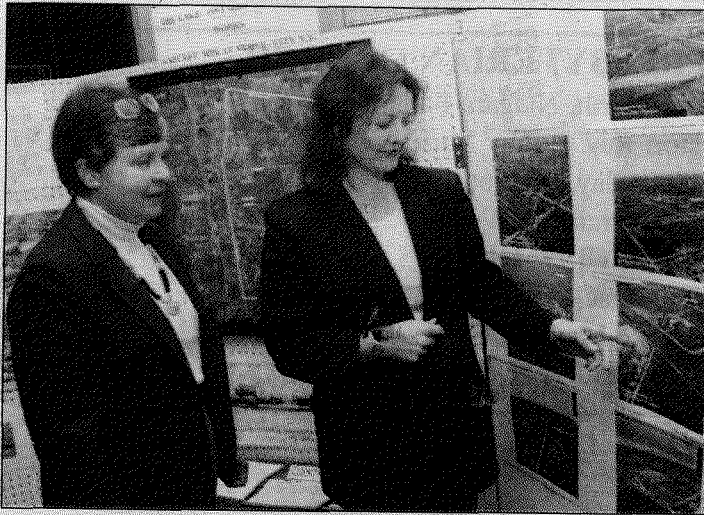


# DEC hearing tonight

**EXHIBIT:** *New museum display shows LOOW history.*

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**PORTER** — Officials of the state Department of Environmental Conservation are expecting a long night tonight as they take public comment on the DEC's hazardous waste siting plan.

The hearing begins at 6 p.m. at Lewiston-Porter High School.

**HISTORY:** Mary Ann Rolland, president of the Porter Historical Society, and Ann Roberts, chairwoman of the Restoration Advisory Board for the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, look at a LOOW exhibit at the Porter Historical Museum.

Local environmental organizations are urging public attendance, arguing that the DEC plan would bring all future haz-

ardous waste generated in or coming into the state to CWM

**SEE CWM ON PAGE 10A**

**10A—Niagara Gazette, Thursday, May 6, 2004**

## CWM ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Chemical Services on Balmer Road.

"Everybody should attend the hearing because the DEC plan definitely is not going to benefit the area. It's important that the public comes out and says 'No,'" said Ann Roberts of Youngstown.

Roberts, a chemist, is a member of Residents for Responsible Government and chairman of the Army Corps of Engineers Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Restoration Advisory Board. She was instrumental in creating the new display that opened last week at the Porter Historical Museum, featuring recently declassified aerial photos and other materials detailing the use of the LOOW site during World War II for TNT production and storage of radioactive waste from atomic bomb construction. CWM is located on some of that land.

"The bottom line is that under the state's proposed plan, CWM is the only place in New York State and effectively the entire eastern United States authorized to handle any solid toxic waste well into the future," said Bill Rolland, secretary for Residents for Responsible Government. "This is the last time the public has an opportunity to comment."

While there are other private corporations dealing with hazardous waste, such as GE near Albany, CWM is the only commercially operated facility in the state, and the plan does not offer any alternatives, he said.

Maureen Wren, spokeswoman for DEC, emphasized that the plan does not make any recommendation as to where in the state any new facility should be built.

"Instead, the draft plan takes note of the national and interna-

### If you go

- **WHAT:** Hearing on state DEC draft hazardous waste siting plan
- **WHERE:** Lewiston-Porter High School, Creek Road, Lewiston
- **WHEN:** 6 p.m. today
- **MORE INFO:** (716) 791-4562 or [www.rrg-wny.org](http://www.rrg-wny.org)

### If you go

- **WHAT:** LOOW display
- **WHERE:** Town of Porter Historical Museum, 240 Lockport St., Youngstown
- **WHEN:** 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon to 2 p.m. Saturdays until June 5
- **MORE INFO:** (716) 745-1271

tional nature of the hazardous waste management industry, and recognizes that the need for new treatment, storage and disposal facilities will need to be evaluated on a broader perspective than just intra-state need and capacity," she said.

Richard Sturges, CWM district manager said he would be at the hearing and would be willing to answer any questions from the public about his facility after the meeting.

Although, CWM is located on former LOOW land, the federal Department of Energy gave the property a clean bill of health as remediated years ago, except for three small areas that were inaccessible for scanning. These areas are not included in CWM's proposed expansion.

When it comes to the "enough is enough" arguments that the area already has more than its share of hazardous waste, Sturges said: "We are committed to providing an environmental sound disposal service to industries in Niagara County, Western New York and the northeast, and we are committed to doing it right."

Impacts associated with this type of facility are offset by benefits to the community, including high quality professional jobs, financial aid to the towns

and schools and provision of vital services to businesses in the community, he said. He pointed out that the company has paid more than \$30 million in gross receipts tax since 1987 and, in addition, with its host community agreement for its expansion, will pay the Town of Porter \$3 million by 2007.

"From a purely individual viewpoint, it could be argued that the Department of Energy cleaned up (the LOOW site), but the Department of Energy has a history of ineffective cleanups or remediation," Roberts said. "People have the idea now that all of the radioactive material is confined to the Niagara Falls Storage Site (off Pletcher Road) and the rest of the area is pristine, which it is not."

The storage site is the only portion of the LOOW property still owned by the federal government. The rest is in private hands, including CWM and Modern Disposal, she said.

The museum display, which will run through June 5, is designed to show the extent of LOOW activity over 7,500 acres of former orchard and farmland. During 1942, LOOW contained about 500 buildings and 33 miles of roadway.

Contact **Susan Mikula Campbell** at (716) 282-2311, Ext. 2255.