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## READER VIEWS

### Slaughter should fund LOOW review

Recently, there was a public presentation by the Niagara County Health Department about the Community LOOW Project. This project will finally, after 60 years, look at the contamination of the entire LOOW site and the effectiveness of investigations and clean up. This has never been done before.

No agency can point to any investigation, or even combination of investigations that meet the same standards, or that address all sources of contamination and pathways at the LOOW site.

Despite the fact that the LOOW site was created by the federal government and largely contaminated by the federal government, half the funding for this Project has already been raised from: The Community Foundation For Greater Buffalo, The University at Buffalo, the WNY State Legislative Delegation, State Sen. George Maziarz, Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte, Niagara County, and the Towns of Lewiston and Porter.

We urge Congresswoman Louise Slaughter to use every possible means to obtain the remaining \$95,000 needed to largely complete the Project in 2006 when the federal government will be rendering a pivotal report about risks from the radioactive storage site, located a half mile from all the schools for Lewiston and Porter.

The LOOW site has a long legacy of failed clean-ups by the federal government. We also have a long legacy of agency conflicts; the EPA and NYS DEC are effectively the largest customers of CWM, which has brought more chemical contamination to the LOOW site. The Army Corps of Engineers represents federal agencies that contaminated the LOOW site and have potential liability to CWM for residual radioactive contamination. And Buffalo Army Corps programs have no jurisdiction at the National Guard or Air Force properties, also located on the LOOW.

We need an independent agency with local accountability to assess the big picture from across all scientific disciplines, across the entire LOOW site. Given the millions and millions of dollars the federal government has sporadically spent at the LOOW site over decades — and given the unusually high incidence of prostate cancer, bladder cancer and thyroid cancer in our area — a \$95,000 appropriation for The Community LOOW Project does not seem much to ask of the federal government.

**Vincent Agnello**

**Charles Lamb**

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**Tim Henderson**