

## Asks Lew-Port School Board to insist on environmental monitoring

At its meeting this Tuesday night, the Lewiston-Porter School Board should discuss the findings of the Niagara County Health Department's review of the 7,500-acre LOOW site in the towns of Lewiston and Porter, and demand our schools receive better environmental surveillance from the federal government.

We urge the school board to request the Army Corps of Engineers provide school property the same investigation and monitoring it provides its Niagara Falls Storage Site property.

The NFSS is located one mile east of the Lew-Port campus and houses high-activity radioactive material. Some of this material includes 2,000 Curies of Radium-226. As the Army Corps Restoration Advisory Board has written, just one Curie of Radium-226 is one trillion times the amount the regulators consider naturally occurring and safe. This is why the Army Corps has been spending millions of dollars in recent years evaluating the 191 acres of the NFSS.

The Corps has now found "widespread contamination" outside of the NFSS containment cell. We don't know why just yet. However, on Sept. 8, the EPA issued a letter to the Army Corps asking it to conduct sampling off-site to determine if and how much contamination may have left the NFSS, and also called for more investigation of plutonium.

The EPA letter says, "Some data suggests that areas off-site which were remediated previously by the Department of Energy may be contaminated to an extent that warrants further review to assure that the public health and the environment are protected in accordance with current radiation protection guidance." A portion of school property near Fletcher Road was once remediated by the Department of Energy.

The Army Corps has also determined that groundwater, which is contaminated, is interacting with surface water ditches. The Niagara County Health Department has recommended that the Army Corps sample the southwest drainage ditch, which runs through school property.



### RRG slates tent sale fundraiser

With Chemical Waste Management applying for a new toxic waste landfill and DEC considering the permit, Residents for Responsible Government has announced plans for a major fundraiser. On Friday, Oct. 24, and Saturday, Oct. 25, RRG will host a tent sale featuring household items, children's items and furniture. The sale will take place at 800 Lower River Road, in the Village of Youngstown. It runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Proceeds will be used to fund mailers and community education programs to inform area residents about upcoming hearings and the permitting process for the proposed new CWM landfill. RRG members encourage all concerned residents to support this sale by donating items, making cash donations and volunteering to help set up or sell before and during the sale. RRG welcomes all new members and encourages local concerned citizens to consider carefully if they want another three generations of toxic waste imported into this community. For more information, call 745-7652 or 745-7605. For more on RRG's mission, visit its Web site at [www.rrgwny.com](http://www.rrgwny.com).

The southwest drainage ditch passes very near the NFSS as it bends west then runs north through the middle of school property. Lew-Port cross-country and orienteering trails cross over the southwest drainage ditch.

Once every year or two, heavy rains have caused the ditch to reportedly back up the surface drains on some fields behind the school. We urge the board to evaluate whether the new retention pond on the northern part of school property impacts this risk.

The federal government has groundwater monitoring wells on the NFSS,

which have detected contamination, but there are no groundwater monitoring wells on school property.

The federal government has taken more than 1,000 sediment, surface and subsurface soil samples at the 191-acre NFSS, while the school scraped together funds to take just 30 surface soil samples and no subsurface or sediment samples on 360 acres.

We should take comfort in a gamma radiation survey conducted by the Corps on the open parts of school property six years ago, however, the results give us no assurances about

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future migration from the NFSS, nor would a gamma survey detect chemical contamination in any case.

The school board must insist that as long as the federal government is storing radioactive material at the NFSS, which also has chemical contamination, the federal government should provide full surveillance for the school.

The board should ask U.S. Sen. Schumer, U.S. Sen. Clinton and Congresswoman Slaughter to assist with this federal request. Also, the board

should ask state Sen. Maziarz and Assemblywoman DelMonte to insist the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, which oversees Corps work, to support this request.

We urge letters and phone calls from each board member and the superintendent to our congressional and state representatives and agencies until they achieve appropriate monitoring for the school.

Residents For Responsible Government  
April Fideli, president