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the environment around the site is being impacted.

"I think we need to have a vigorous evaluation of the information that they put out," said Gardella.

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Is a uranium leak in Lewiston possible?

Uranium contamination underground found

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 Luke Moretti
 Posted by: Emily Lenihan

LEWISTON, N.Y. (WIVB) - Is it possible that uranium is leaking from an underground storage site in Niagara County?

"We don't know," said Dr. Joseph Gardella, a U.B. Scientist.

Atomic materials from the Manhattan Project have been buried and capped in the town of Lewiston since the 1980's.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees the site, has found uranium contamination underground, at several locations, outside the containment cell.

Dr. Joseph Gardella, the chairman of the site's restoration advisory board, wonders about underground utility lines, originally capped and severed before the atomic brew was buried.

Gardella said, "We think it's a reasonable hypothesis to still say there's still a possibility that there's a slow leak."

"We don't know how good those plugs are, how long are they going to last. So even if they're not leaking now, there's no testing to say, how good are they?" Gardella said.

Army Corps officials insist the atomic container has not been breached.

"We believe that due to past storage practices and handling and movement of these different wastes around at the site caused these plumes," said Michelle Rhodes, of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Are those lines still capped and holding up?

"This was done in the 80's, so right now we have no way of telling whether or not these caps are still in place. The important thing to note though is that they are severed, and they're contained within the landfill itself," said Rhodes.

Joseph Gardella, who's an advisor to Lawport Schools, located nearby, says there needs to be more data on how

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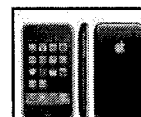
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