

Project to Clean Up Lewiston Storage Site To Begin in Early May

By G.M. Seal

COURIER-EXPRESS NIAGARA FALLS BUREAU

LEWISTON — A \$2 million construction project designed to reduce the level of radioactivity from the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works is scheduled to start in early May.

The ordnance works stored hundreds of tons of radioactive wastes from the Manhattan Project, which produced the first atomic bomb during World War II.

The 190-acre site off Pletcher Road, owned by the federal Department of Energy, has long been a source of health concerns of residents because of radon gas emanating from it.

Studies have suggested that inhaling radon gas, a byproduct of decomposing radioactive elements, may cause cancer.

Under the DOE's plan, workers will scrape off up to three feet of contaminated soil from a four-acre area around a low-level radioactive spoils pile at the southern end of the site. The collected material will be placed in an impermeable clay dike whose walls will be 8 to 10 feet high. The dike will cover about 2 acres.

The dike, which will hold about 50,000 cubic feet of material, will be covered by a heavy impervious fabric.

Workers will remove the roofs of two buildings where radioactive residues are stored and which have been identified as giving off radon gas. The material inside will be covered by lay-

ers of sand, clay and the same impervious fabric.

Bechtel National Inc., an engineering company based in San Francisco, has managed the ordnance works since last fall and is ready to call for bids on the work, according to company spokesman Don DeLone.

The goal of that work "is to bring about a reduction in emissions of some of this radon from the site," DeLone said.

The 165-foot-high silo containing a large amount of radioactive materials on the northeastern portion of the ordnance works will not be included in any of the work. The silo has been suspected of leaking radon into the atmosphere.

Joan Gipp, a Lewiston Town Council member and former member of the eight-person citizens oversight committee for the ordnance works, called the planned work "a Band-Aid approach to a serious problem."

Dr. William Boeck, Niagara University physics professor and a current member of the oversight committee, said, "For the amount of money available, we felt we would get a bigger reduction (in radon gas emissions) by taking care of these two buildings and the storage pile than by going after the silo."

DeLone said the silo appears to be "in pretty good sealed condition."

He termed the coming work an "interim storage remedy" until the DOE decides what to do with the ordnance works and a permanent disposal site for the contaminated material is found.

ECC Team Bowls Well Day After Bus Is Hit

Erie Community College's bowling teams participated in the Northwest Sectional Tournament in Michigan yesterday, despite eight members of the 13-member team being injured when a tractor-trailer truck struck their van Thursday en route to the competition.

One member of the team is still hospitalized, but the team hopes to qualify for the national finals to be held at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. April 28-May 1. The Michigan tournament ends today.

Erie Community College had been scheduled to compete in a round of games early yesterday morning, but sympathetic tournament officials agreed to allow the team to play in the afternoon at the Crooked Creek Sports Center in Saginaw, Mich.

At 6 p.m. yesterday, the aching but high-spirited team returned to the Gratiot Motel with the women's squad in second place behind Ohio State and the men in third place behind Michigan State and Wayne State.

According to Coach Kerm Helmar, they would have been happy with those positions at that stage in the tournament even without an injured team. Only the first-place teams go on to the national finals.

"The kids were very tentative at first," Helmar said, "but they're running on a lot of emotion. Their mental attitude is superb, and under the circumstances, they bowled very well."

Three team members were hospitalized after the accident, which occurred in Lapeer, Mich., 40 miles from Saginaw, but two were released yesterday.

John DelMonte, 20, of Buffalo, was taken off the critical list yesterday at Lapeer County General Hospital's intensive care unit. He was reported in serious but stable condition.

Tammy Smith, 21, of Cheektowaga, and Lori Marshall, 20, of Buffalo, were both released after an overnight stay in the same hospital, according to a hospital spokesman. They did not compete yesterday, but they attended the tournament last

Tightens Up on Outsiders

ment would be fairer. The Clarence Chamber of Commerce had complained about the 50 percent rule.

The only dissenter to Root's resolution was Councilman Gerard J. Richter, who said the 50 percent requirement is fair and would help preserve use of the facilities at the Town Park on Main Street for Clarence residents. He said the only complaints he had received came from residents who were unable to use the facility because it had been booked by non-residents.

The new regulation states that any organization booking an affair in the clubhouse must certify that no more than one-third of the

the earlier 50 percent requirement, said many people may have businesses in town and belong to Clarence organizations even though living outside town limits.

The board is still studying a request from some citizens to relax a park regulation banning pets. About 100 pet owners have signed petitions asking for more lenient rules.

The board banned pets after receiving complaints from park users about the excrement often left on the park lawn by dogs. But pet owners feel that requiring persons to

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