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**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

MAY 31 1994

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Director and Chair  
Land Use and Environmental Committee  
Horizons Waterfront Commission, Inc.  
237 Main Street, Suite 1600  
Buffalo, New York 14203

██████████:

Thank you for your letter to the Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Thomas P. Grumbly, of April 29, 1994, regarding your issues and concerns about the DOE long-term strategy for remediating the Tonawanda, New York, Site.

As you are aware, on April 14, 1994, ██████████ decided to suspend the remedy selection process for the Tonawanda Site. DOE had proposed a remedy to consolidate approximately 300,000 cubic yards of radioactively contaminated waste, located on four Tonawanda sites, into a waste containment structure located on one of the sites. As you requested, enclosed is the official DOE statement on the subject.

At the Tonawanda Availability Session held on April 20, 1994, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, ██████████ reiterated that the DOE proposed strategy is to suspend the remedy selection process to allow DOE to re-examine the alternatives initially developed in light of technical and institutional issues which have been brought to our attention by Congressman LaFalce and others, including the Coalition Against Nuclear material In Tonawanda (CANIT). As part of the long-term strategy, a review of all feasible alternatives (including on-site, off-site, and treatment options) will be necessary in an effort to define a workable future management strategy.

It should be emphasized that everything is on the table, and DOE will work with all concerned in the development of the new strategy.

The specific issues and concerns raised in your letter have been forwarded to the appropriate point-of-contact in the Oak Ridge Operations Office. The New York Sites Manager will continue to be the lead DOE official at the Tonawanda Site, and future site-specific correspondence should be addressed accordingly.

The Department appreciates your continuing interest in the Tonawanda Site.

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Director  
Off-Site/Savannah River Program Division  
Office of Eastern Area Programs  
Office of Environmental Restoration



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Enclosure

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## TONAWANDA

## STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

[REDACTED], the Assistant Secretary for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management has decided to suspend the remedy selection process for the Tonawanda, New York Site. DOE had proposed a remedy to consolidate approximately 300,000 cubic yards of radioactively contaminated waste, located on four Tonawanda sites, into a waste containment structure located on one of the sites. The purpose of suspending the remedy selection process is to allow DOE to reexamine the alternatives initially developed in light of technical and institutional issues which have been brought to our attention by Congressman LaFalce and others.

DOE will meet with all interested parties including Congressman LaFalce and other Federal, State, and local elected officials, agencies, and regulators, property owners, and the public to develop a long-term strategy for instituting an acceptable remedy. As part of the long-term strategy, a review of all feasible alternatives, including on-site, off-site, and treatment options, will be necessary in an effort to define a workable future management strategy. Everything is on the table, and we will work with all concerned in the development of the new strategy.