## TOWN OF TONAWANDA

## Corps to probe landfill, mud flats

By STEPHEN WATSON

News Northtowns Bureau

500 HP J The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers this year will conduct a broad investigation into how much radioactive material has contaminated the old Town of Tonawanda landfill and mud flats area.

The Corps will take samples of ground water and soil at the landfill and mud flats, which are located off East Park Drive just north of the Youngmann Highway in the town.

Based on the findings of the tests, the Corps will determine the extent of any cleanup, Corps officials said at a public hearing Thursday.

The Corps would select a plan of action next year and begin a project in 2003.

"We want to be as compre-

hensive as possible as we go through this investigation, evaluation and as we eventually come up with a plan," Diane C. Kozlowski, a Corps project manager, said before about 75 people in the Philip Sheridan Building.

The landfill and mud flats are two of about half a dozen sites in the town that the Corps is testing for contamination or cleanup.

Contamination at the properties, which include the former Linde Air Products site and the Ashland I and II dumping sites, is a byproduct of developing the atomic bomb during World War II.

The radioactive materials uranium, radium and thorium have been found at the Linde site, now owned by Praxair, where work on the bomb occurred in the 1940s.

Testing by the U.S. De- neer.

partment of Energy in the early 1990s found that some of that radioactive material had contaminated a small portion of the town landfill and the mud flats.

A health assessment of the landfill and mud flats in 1999 found "no immediate risk to human health or the environment," based on the current use of both sites, said Stephen P. Buechi, project engineer.

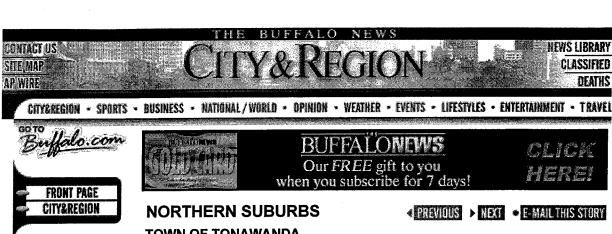
But the Corps will analyze the samples it takes this year to find out if the sites are safe for future uses, Buechi said.

The town and the state Department of Environmental Conservation are waiting for the Corps' radiation test results before reaching a final plan on sealing off the landfill. said Mark Hans, a DEC engi-

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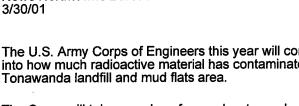
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