

Calabrese looks to private sector for town waste removal options

by ELLEN M. GALLAGHER

Town of Tonawanda Supervisor Carl J. Calabrese has invited a representative of Envirocare, a federally licensed waste storage facility, to visit Tonawanda to meet with interested parties.

Al Rafati of Envirocare has verbally accepted the invitation, and arrangements are currently underway.

This meeting will allow Rafati to explain how Envirocare might serve as a repository for the 350,000 cubic yards of nuclear waste now located in the town, and share ideas for meeting that goal as safely and inexpensively as possible.

Calabrese said anyone interested could attend the session.

"Maybe we can get a dialogue going between these two groups (DOE and Envirocare) and come up with a solution," the supervisor said.

Another option which could be considered would be phasing in the waste removal. Calabrese

said he believes the Coalition Against Nuclear Materials In Tonawanda (C.A.N.I.T.) would be agreeable to such a plan, providing it was to be completed in a reasonable time period and involved community input recommending priority areas.

"There are ways to make this project work," Calabrese stated.

Organizing a meeting with an Envirocare representative is the second step the supervisor has taken in an effort to research waste removal and storage options in the private sector to reduce costs.

He first sent a letter dated Feb. 27 requesting information on disposal of low-level nuclear waste with this private company in Clive, Utah.

Last week, Calabrese received a letter from Rafati, answering his questions.

"Mr. Rafati's letter makes it quite clear that if the DOE was willing to sign a long term contract with Envirocare for large volumes of low level waste from

around the country, the cost that DOE has been using would plummet," Calabrese said.

"The DOE's figure of approximately \$200 per cubic yard is a good rate for estimating purposes. This rate allows the government to ship both large and small quantities of waste material. The rate could be lower if larger quantities of material were committed by the DOE," Rafati stated. "Envirocare is willing, and has expressed its willingness to the DOE, to contract a large volume process that would result in more favorable rates if a long term, large volume commitment is made by the DOE."

The Town of Tonawanda has approximately 350,000 cubic yards of waste.

"If the DOE has no substantial constraints and the most effective transportation method (such as gondola closed-loop rail to Envirocare) is employed, Envirocare can complete this project in less than two years," Rafati stated.