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Schumer pushing for Tonawanda clean-up funds

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New York's senior senator said he will use some of his amassed Washington clout to force the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pinpoint a Tonawanda site where potentially radioactive waste from the Manhattan Project era rests beneath the ground.

[Sen. Charles Schumer](#), speaking Monday in the backyard of a city of Tonawanda residence on Hackett Drive, said he wants the Army Corps to identify how it plans to clean-up the 55-acre "Linde" site. The site contains buried uranium from the Manhattan Project days of the mid-1940s. The Army Corps identified the site in the 1990s and promised to have a timeline for the cleanup by the end of by last year.

To date, there is none and Schumer is irked.

"They (the Army Corps) say they are working on it, but nothing has come," Schumer said.

While the site is contained and considered safe, Schumer wants the waste removed before any environmental and health concerns may arise. The Linde site is one of five in Western New York where atomic waste was buried decades ago.

"I want the public to feel confident that relief will be around the corner," Schumer said.

Funds would come from a federal clean-up allocation that peaked at \$240 million six years ago and since been reduced to approximately \$110 million. Schumer wants to see more federal dollars allocated for the program and he wants the Army Corps to be aggressive in securing the dollars for the local clean-up.

"I am willing to force the issue," Schumer said.

The Senator said he hopes to have a definitive timeline from the Army Corps in the coming months.

James Fink covers real estate, commercial development and government