

Guterl deal may close soon

LOCKPORT — Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp. officials are "hoping to close in a matter of two weeks or so" a deal that will give the Pittsburgh steelmaking firm ownership of the former Guterl Special Steel Corp. on Ohio Street.

Allegheny Ludlum spokesman William Wick yesterday said that company executives believe the major hurdles have been crossed and "things are moving" toward a ribbon-cutting ceremony this fall.

About 50 workers are expected to be employed at first.

Closing of the deal was delayed after Allegheny Ludlum officials learned that minute amounts of radiation remained in the plant's bar mill — leftover from federal gov-

ernment work done in the 1940s.

The radiation was discovered by the federal Department of Energy in tests conducted in 1978. Results of the DOE testing were widely publicized. The radiation levels were said to pose no danger to the Guterl workers in the plant at that time.

Last week, the Lockport Zoning Board of Appeals approved a variance sought by Allegheny Ludlum to exclude from the purchase, the portion of the plant that had been exposed to radiation. The approval removes nine acres from the 110-acre tract.

Wick said Allegheny Ludlum anticipates bankruptcy court approval of the modified deal.