

## COUNTY NEWS

### Former atomic site under investigation

By Ed Grabianowski *5004P*

The site of the former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation in Lockport (west of Ohio Street and south of Crosby Avenue) is currently being investigated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission used the site for foundry work on uranium and thorium metal between 1948 and 1956.

The Buffalo District of the Army Corps of Engineers is undertaking the preliminary assessment step of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. They will evaluate and review available information to determine the need for further investigation of the site to ensure the protection of human health, welfare and the environment. According to an Army Corps of Engineers statement, "If at any time the analysis of available information determines that there is a threat to human health...a removal action can be initiated." The preliminary assessment report is scheduled for completion in Spring, 2001.

Open involvement between the Corps and the community is an integral part of the CERCLA process. Previous employees at the site who would like to share information regarding past activities there are encouraged to call the Corps at 1-800-833-6390. An administrative record file will be developed for the site and placed in a local library. Interested citizens can be placed on the site mailing list by calling the above number. Letters should be addressed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Attention: FUSRAP Information Center, 1776 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY 14207.