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Simonds contamination forum set for Feb. 6

By Scott Leffler
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The Army Corps of Engineers plans to hold two forums on Feb. 6 at the Best Western in Lockport on contamination at the former Simonds Saw and Steel plant.

Arleen Kreusch, public affairs specialist for the corps, said two meetings were scheduled because of the amount of interest among Lockport residents.

The meetings, slated for 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., are each expected to last about two hours, she said. Members of the Corps will be on hand to discuss the Corps' plans and field questions from local residents.

A meeting had originally been planned for December, but had to be canceled because Lockport High School was closed due to inclement weather.

Because of the high school cancellation, the meeting was rescheduled for the Best Western.

"It was an ideal place to have it, we just didn't want to have to wor-

ry about cancellations," she said.

The Corps Buffalo District has been assigned the former Simonds plant, located on Ohio Street in Lockport, as a site eligible for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

The Corps has begun a preliminary study to determine whether cleanup should be initiated.

Candy Walters, a public affairs specialist for the Corps' Washington office, said she is unsure of when the remediation could begin, what it would cost, or what methods would be used.

Between 1948 and 1956, Simonds rolled uranium and thorium into billets for fuel rods for nuclear reactors.