

State will survey radiation levels at Lockport site

By TRACEY DRURY
Business First

Radiation contamination found on property owned by the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency has prompted an investigation by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The DEC, in cooperation with the state Department of Health, will perform a radiation survey on property north of the Allegheny Ludlum steel mill, between Richmond Street and Crosby Avenue in Lockport.

Several areas of the property were identified in May that appear to be contaminated with thorium and uranium. The suspected contamination does not pose an immediate hazard to people in the area because the areas of higher radiation levels are limited in size and radiation levels drop back to normal levels a few feet away from each site.

"Depending on what they find, they'll move ahead (with the cleanup)," said Frank Shattuck, DEC regional solid and hazardous materials engineer. "One option will be if it's fairly localized to put it in a container and then in a warehouse until a disposal facility can be found."

In the 1940s and 1950s, Simmonds Steel, then owner and operator of the steel mill, milled both uranium and thorium for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. The buildings that housed the mills are contaminated with radioactive material and are being studied. Further studies in May identified contamination along an abandoned railroad spur nearby.

The investigation is being handled by the Bureau of Radiation and Hazardous Site Management in the Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials.

HSBC, Gibraltar Steel launch new Web sites

HSBC Bank USA and Gibraltar Steel Corp., both based in Buffalo, have launched new corporate Web sites.

- HSBC, the former Marine Midland Bank, is <http://www.banking.us.hsbc.com>.
- Gibraltar is <http://www.gibraltar1.com>.

The bank's site expands HSBC Bank USA's Internet financial services with online applications and interactive financial services. It also incorporates the company's new corporate identity.

Gibraltar's site includes an archive of

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