

Community, DOE to meet

by ELLEN M. GALLAGHER

The Department of Energy is holding a meeting to discuss the future of the Town of Tonawanda's waste sites from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 31 at Holmes Elementary School.

The waste is a by-product of the Manhattan Project, the World War II effort which developed the atomic bomb.

The meeting, to be held in the school cafeteria, 365 Dupont Ave., is intended to be "a discussion of the community values," Ronald E. Kirk, P.E., U.S. Department of Energy site manager for Tonawanda, said.

It will be a working session, Kirk said, explaining that he hopes to break into small groups for greater individual input.

Kirk said he hopes the meeting will result in developing criteria for looking at different options for the future of the town waste sites.

"This is consistent with the work plan we laid out," Kirk said.

The idea to form a new group has been dropped, Kirk said, explaining that citizens who attend this and future meetings will essentially become an unofficial committee.

The proposed work plan had called for the forming of a new citizens' study group to examine

all the options, similar to the already-existing Coalition Against Nuclear materials In Tonawanda (CANIT). CANIT, consisting of elected Democrats and Republicans, has already studied various options for removing waste from the waterfront.

The four sites concerned include the Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) landfill on River Road, the building on the Praxair factory site, the Ashland 1 site at the back of the old Ashland Oil Refinery on River Road, and the Ashland 2 site of vacant River Road land, which contains about seven or eight acres of contaminated soil.

The DOE is extending a broad invitation to members of the community, asking concerned individuals to join them at this meeting.