

1 Tonawanda NEWS

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Hope for total removal from Town?**'Discount' offered for nuclear waste****By Joseph C. Genco
News Staff Writer**

A glimmer of hope has appeared at the end of the tunnel for the removal of radioactive waste from the Town of Tonawanda.

EnviroCare of Utah has responded to a letter from Town Supervisor Carl Calabrese offered a scenario by which waste removal costs can be reduced by as much as 40 percent.

The letter answered eight questions posed by Mr. Calabrese on March 2, hoping to find the validity of costs cited by the Department of Energy as rendering total removal of the waste as an ineffective option.

The DOE had cited a cost of \$200 per cubic yard for removal of about 350,000 yards of contaminated soil.

EnviroCare has stated in the letter the \$200 charge is a good rate for estimating purposes, but the rate could be lower if large quantities of material were committed by the DOE.

Mr. Calabrese said EnviroCare has made the offer of a 40 percent discount to the government if it were to commit to disposal of all of its Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program wastes in Utah.

The DOE has an estimated 4-5 million yards of such wastes at 120 sites nationwide.

"It's so 'commonsensical' it's frustrating to think why the deal wasn't put together years ago," Mr. Calabrese said.

On the Tonawanda site, the volume discount would result in a sav-

ings about \$28 million on an estimated cost of \$70 million.

Mr. Calabrese said he has invited EnviroCare's Al Rafati to visit the Town and discuss EnviroCare's capabilities and what the facility might be able to do to help the town.

"Maybe we need to get both sides together," Mr. Calabrese said of the DOE and EnviroCare. "... Maybe it's that simple."

Mr. Calabrese said any meeting with EnviroCare representatives would be open to the public, including CANIT, the group "For a Clean Tonawanda Site," and the DOE.

The supervisor said that communications may have been a past problem but he intends to end the difficulty.

For example, when negotiations on local FUSRAP clean-up began, DOE personnel told Town representatives there was no permitted facility set to receive the wastes.

"What we weren't told was EnviroCare was set up and had an application in and ready within a matter of months," Mr. Calabrese said. "As Rich Tobe (of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning) said, 'they told us the truth, but not the whole truth.'"

Mr. Calabrese said with these new facts in hand, he and the Coalition Against Nuclear Waste in Tonawanda, will begin a letter-writing campaign to educate gain the concern of Western New York's Republican Congressional representatives William Paxon and Jack Quinn as well as Senator Al D'Amato.