

Bee Editorial

Time for decision on waste cleanup

The time has arrived for a decision to be made on an important issue in this town, and frankly the sooner the better. The federal Department of Energy is expected to make a decision on what option will be followed in the Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program for the removal of radioactive materials in the town.

Not knowing the intricacies of the situation, we cannot say one way or the other if the six-year long process was too long or too involved, but we feel in this case that every precaution should be taken. And we congratulate the local officials looking to get all their ducks in a row by asking some more questions before a decision is reached.

The people involved in the Coalition Against Nuclear Materials in Tonawanda, or CANIT,

want to make sure the best option is chosen for the sake of local residents. While the DOE is also taking the same tact, perhaps the local officials can have a better feeling for the specific local interests.

What need not happen is that this become a strictly "NIMBY" issue. No one wants any of this stuff "in my back yard," but the fact remains that the transportation of these materials can be dangerous and may result in more danger than storing them in clay cells on site. And the cost of trucking this stuff out of town would be enormous, making on-site disposal more attractive.

What needs to happen is that there be an informed decision made on the matter and that the people find out what that is and make comments based on their informed opinions.

Reactionary rhetoric is not needed here. A strong solution is. We are glad the people in CANIT have technical advisers who can question the federal outlines. And delaying the process for just two more months in a six-year operation will not make a difference in terms of radioactive exposure for town residents.

We know the situation is not dire. Most of the levels of radioactivity in the four local sites are acceptable by federal standards; a portion of one site is effectively closed simply by being underground. Still, action is required and hopefully, that is coming soon.

Now it is up to you, the people of this town, to learn more about the situation at the four sites. Any changes would be affected by public opinion, and we will do our best to be informative to help you speak your mind. Come November, the ball is very much in your court.

hand in this instance, whether they want it or not.

And could you imagine the delay the DOE would have had if they wanted a phone tower?

**Patrick
Keyes**

Ken-Ton
Editor



doesn't always hold the upper hand.

While going to the Department of Energy's office on Sheridan Drive last week for an interview with site manager Ron Kirk, I noticed that the office, while easy to find, did not have a sign indicating its presence.

It appears the process has been delayed by the Town of Tonawanda's sign ordinance. I guess since the flap over a church sign on Delaware Road, all the T's must be crossed and I's dotted before our marker is approved. So the town has the upper

TOWN RUNS THIS SHOW — It appears that the federal government