

# KENMORE- TONAWANDA COMMUNITY NEWS

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### DOE nuclear waste position unchanged *Calabrese feels that community input was ignored*

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*Metro Staff Reporter*

Despite the best efforts of local politicians and Tonawanda residents, it is still unclear what, if anything, will happen to the low level radioactive waste stored in Tonawanda.

Radiologically contaminated soils currently encompass approximately 351,000 cubic yards of town property spread over four locations: the Linde property, the Ashland 1 and 2 properties, and the Seaway property.

Richard M. Tobe, Chairman of the Coalition Against Nuclear Materials in Tonawanda (CAN-IT), was under the impression that procedures had been ad-

hered to that would insure the relocation of all of the waste to an out of state site such as Clive, Utah.

"The DOE informed us that there was two criteria which would necessarily need to be passed for them to initiate their plan: state acceptance and community acceptance." Tobe commented. Both the state and community soundly rejected the DOE proposal to consolidate all the waste into one storage facility near the Niagara River at the public meeting on Jan. 26.

"We expect the Department of Energy to follow the procedures they set forward." Tobe added. "No local resident that

we've talked to found the DOE solution acceptable."

Town of Tonawanda Supervisor Carl J. Calabrese mirrored Tobe's anger and disappointment and remains skeptical about the DOE's objectivity on the whole situation.

"They spent months and years telling people how important their opinion is and how much weight they put on community and state acceptance," Calabrese said. "Now at the end of the process, after both New York State and the community say in no uncertain terms to remove the material, the DOE says it doesn't matter."

"That just confirms what I've

always suspected," added Calabrese. "that this was not an objective study to come up with the best solution, but a process with a predetermined result to keep it here. That leads me to the conclusion that we're going to need the help of our congressional people-Congressman LaFalce and Senators D'Amato and Moynihan - to carry the message to Washington and the DOE."

These representatives can attempt to force a change in this situation only until July or August of this year, when the Record of Decision (ROD) on the cleanup of the site is announced. So cross your fingers and badger your congressman.

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