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CANIT assured on cleanup by DOE

**By Joseph C. Genco
Staff Writer**

Assistant Secretary of Energy Thomas Grumbly visited the Town of Tonawanda this week to meet with officials of the Coalition Against Nuclear Materials in Tonawanda (CANIT.)

Mr. Grumbly reassured CANIT officials verbally that the Department of Energy would not force the implementation of a plan for cleanup of radioactive waste that is unsatisfactory to the community.

He also verbally committed that if a cost-effective safe solution could not be found, the DOE would commit to the removal of all wastes.

According to Supervisor Carl Calabrese, CANIT explained in detail how the failure to remediate the waste from the Manhattan project has retarded economic development along the town's waterfront.

Mr. Grumbly also toured town sites contaminated by the waste.

"At this point, CANIT's position is we are pleased - we believe things are moving in a positive direction," Mr. Calabrese said of the current work under way to clean waste from several buildings on the Linde Praxair site.

"We could live with a phased plan," he said.

"We've had this stuff for 50 years and we've been studying it for seven years. A 5, 6, or 7 year plan to clean it up and get it out could be within reason."