

# TT may ship low-level waste to town in Washington state

By Brian Meyer  
Correspondent

Critics of a plan to store thousands of tons of low-level radioactive waste in the Town of Tonawanda may have discovered a viable storage option in the state of Washington.

The developments were announced Friday afternoon at a meeting of the Coalition Against Nuclear Materials in Tonawanda (CANiT). Supervisor Carl Calabrese said local leaders have learned about a tiny town in Washington which is actively looking to store waste from other regions.

"They have an old uranium mine that has been closed but needs serious remediation. They would like

to see if our low-level waste could generate enough revenue for them to clean up their highly radioactive mine" Mr. Calabrese told the *Tonawanda NEWS*.

The town has about 8,000 tons of waste located on four separate sites. A partial clean-up is already under way at the Linde site where the federal government is spending \$11.3 million to demolish one building, decontaminate two structures, then ship the waste to a facility in Utah. Supervisor Calabrese thinks the federal government's decision to move forward with the off-site storage alternative bodes well for future clean-up efforts.

In prior discussions, the U.S.

Department of Energy has proposed moving the waste to one sprawling storage facility at a yet-to-be-determined site in Tonawanda. Faced with spirited opposition from residents and elected leaders, federal officials agreed last year to explore other options.

Supervisor Calabrese said until recently, the only off-site alternative that was mentioned involved the Envirocare facility in Clyde, Utah. He said the new-found interest of the facility in the state of Washington could boost Tonawanda's chances of having all the waste shipped.

"We plan to have the representatives of the company from Ford,

Wash. visit us in April," Mr. Calabrese said. "They will take a close look at our situation and see if our waste is compatible with their storage ability."

He speculated that the storage costs in Washington could be significantly less than the prices quoted by the Utah facility.

Two of the Tonawanda waste sites that have yet to be remediated are located on the former Ashland Refinery Property. The other site is at the Seaway Industrial Landfill. The low-level radioactive waste was shipped to Tonawanda in the 1940s for use in World War II efforts to develop the atomic bomb."