

TONAWANDA.

STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Thomas P. Grumbly, the Assistant Secretary for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management has decided to suspend the remedy selection process for the Tonawanda, New York Site. DOE had proposed a remedy to consolidate approximately 300,000 cubic yards of radioactively contaminated waste, located on four Tonawanda sites, into a waste containment structure located on one of the sites. The purpose of suspending the remedy selection process is to allow DOE to reexamine the alternatives initially developed in light of technical and institutional issues which have been brought to our attention by Congressman LaFalce and others.

DOE will meet with all interested parties including Congressman LaFalce and other Federal, State, and local elected officials, agencies, and regulators, property owners, and the public to develop a long-term strategy for instituting an acceptable remedy. As part of the long-term strategy, a review of all feasible alternatives, including on-site, off-site, and treatment options, will be necessary in an effort to define a workable future management strategy. Everything is on the table, and we will work with all concerned in the development of the new strategy.