

**PRESS RELEASE - January 19, 2012**

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## **Potential Creation of Permanent Federal Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility in Niagara County**

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of determining whether large amounts of high-activity radioactive waste will be removed, or partially removed, from the Town of Lewiston. There are several variations of these options being considered, including the creation of a permanent radioactive waste disposal facility. Although the Corps has not “officially” selected an option, it has begun to create a public record that may permit or preclude certain options.

Background: In the past, dangerous radioactive material was found in Town of Porter surface drainages which feed Lake Ontario. Material from atomic weapons production is being temporarily stored in a WWII-era basement, partially covered with clay. This “containment structure” is on the Niagara Falls Storage Site (NFSS), located on Pletcher Rd., about one mile east of Lew-Port Central School District property, close to residences and agricultural property. The NFSS is also close to the Modern solid waste landfills, the CWM chemical waste landfills, and the Walleye Fish Hatchery.

One of the lessons learned from a radioactive waste site in Fernald, Ohio is that **clean-up standards less than those required for Residential and Agricultural Future Land Use, are prerequisite** to creating a permanent radioactive waste disposal facility. Fernald sent some radioactive material to regulated disposal facilities in dry climates. However, the federal government also created a *permanent* waste disposal facility at Fernald that contains an estimated 3 million tons of radioactive waste.

Issue: A September 28, 2011 public input summary created by the Army Corps of Engineers and its facilitator discouraged Residential and Agricultural Future Land Uses for the NFSS, without informing the community of the ramifications. In response, the RAB created a public survey which indicates most residents support restoring the NFSS to a condition suitable for Residential (or Agricultural) land use. Almost all residents who went to the RAB website to take the survey did not want a permanent radioactive waste disposal facility created at the NFSS in Lewiston. Residents may still participate in the simple 3-question survey at <http://loowrab.com/>

**The potential for a permanent radioactive waste disposal facility will be discussed at the next RAB meeting, Tues. Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:15p.m., at the Lew-Port Central School District Community Resource Center, Alumni Room. The public is welcome to attend.**

Convened in 1999, the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) promotes the satisfactory remediation of the entire LOOW site. The LOOW consists of approximately 7,500 acres of publicly and privately owned parcels located in the Towns of Lewiston and Porter, once owned by the federal government for military weapons production-related operations begun during WWII. The LOOW includes the 191-acre Niagara Falls Storage Site, still owned by the federal government, and which temporarily houses radioactive material from atomic weapons production during the 1940's and 50's.