

'IGLOOS' COULD STORE FUEL

NASA May Take Over Additional Ordnance Area

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) may eventually obtain use of the remaining 3,000 acres at the former Plum Brook Ordnance Works south of Sandusky, the Register learned today. NASA now has a use permit from the Department of Defense for the northern 3,500 acres of the old TNT plant.

It was learned by the Register that the NASA office in Washington has filed a letter with the Department of Defense asking for use of the southern sector at Plum Brook should the facilities be declared surplus. For several years the Erie Ordnance Depot has had use of the land and storage igloos for containment of ammunition.

Col. Glenn E. Nida, commanding officer at EOD, indicated that the 3,500 acres at Plum Brook have not been declared "surplus" as yet. He stated that it would be up to defense department officials to declare the facility no longer needed for ammunition storage. EOD is still using the area.

A spokesman for NASA at the Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, said the letter sent to the defense department was primarily to protect their own interests. It was indicated by the official that should the 3,000 acres no longer be needed by EOD, NASA would like to obtain a use permit for possible future expansion.

When the former NACA was given the task of building a nuclear reactor to conduct experiments leading to development of an atomic airplane engine many sites were inspected. The former pentolite area of Plum Brook was chosen as the best possibility in northern Ohio and a use permit for 500 acres of land was obtained from the Department of Defense.

Later an additional 3,000 acres at the former TNT plant was declared surplus by Washington and NACA received a use permit for the facilities. It was on this land that NASA, which succeeded NACA, started construction of rocket test facilities.

The rocket laboratory facilities, now nearing completion, are lo-

cated around the triangle of Ransom, Taylor and Fox Rds. This location is fairly near the land now under control of EOD. Should NASA later take over this southern land it would offer an additional buffer zone for protection of civilians in the area.

There are approximately 100 reinforced concrete storage buildings or "igloos" in the southern sector of the facility. In time NASA might find a use for the igloos, possibly for the storage of rocket fuels. Loading docks with protective barricades are also located on the grounds and may be used at some later date.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks from Willard to Sandusky pass just west of the former TNT plant and a spur track runs through the grounds. The reactor core and other pieces of equipment were brought into the

facility over these tracks.

During World War 2 the Nickel Plate Railroad had a spur track running into the loading area from near Avery. The spur track is still in existence and could be put into operation on short notice should the need arise. Switches from the NKP mainline to the spur were removed some time ago and put into storage for possible future use.

Presently most materials for the nuclear reactor and rocket testing facilities are being brought in over existing highways. The Ohio Turnpike, just south of the facility, is used much by NASA personnel in traveling back and forth from the Lewis Research Center. When the Sandusky Expressway is completed there will be an interchange near Milan and Bogart Rds., just a short distance from the NASA entrance.

Blood Drive Falls Short Of Goal Here

After several successful blood collections in recent months, the Red Cross fell short of its 125 pint goal on Monday when only 120 pints were donated. This further increases the deficit for the year to 204 pints.

Al Gongos, recruitment chairman for the sponsoring Elks Club, said Tuesday that 220 persons had indicated that they would donate blood when the mobile unit came in from Cleveland. Eighty-six of these persons failed to keep their appointments as only 14 potential donors were deferred and 120 others were able to contribute a pint of blood each.

Drayton Bickley and Mrs. C. E.

Kennedy each donated their 16th pint of blood and received gold two-gallon donor pins.

Seven others joined the ranks of gallon donors by giving their eighth pint of blood to the Red Cross program. They were: Harold Suter, Walter Kropf, Arthur Zeiher, John Hertlein, James Seavers, Richard H. Paule and William Cullen.

For the first time in several months there were no three or four gallon donors.

Next visit of the bloodmobile to the area will be on Dec. 28 when the unit is to be set up at the Ford Motor Co. plant on Tiffin Ave.