

Interoffice

ADDITIONAL BASELINE TO INTERFEROMETER
National Radio Astronomy Observatory
Green Bank, West Virginia

2/6/80

To: File

February 6, 1980

From: R. K. Moore

Subject: Additional Baseline to Interferometer

On 5 February Don Hovatter and I traveled to a Bethlehem Steel Mine near Century, West Virginia to talk to Mr. James Vogel concerning use of his Point Mountain land for a new telescope site.

Mr. Vogel was very cordial and cooperative and, in fact, seemed anxious to accommodate our requirements concerning the telescope. He reaffirmed his permission to utilize the property for preliminary locations of the baseline.

Mr. Vogel indicated that he would be willing to make an appropriate portion of his land available for the telescope site. He stated that he did not desire to sell the land but would be agreeable to lease it. We proposed for his consideration a 3-5 year lease with an option of renewal at specified periods thereafter. This seemed to be agreeable to him. We described in general terms what would be needed at the site in the way of access roads, foundation for the telescope, water, electricity, communications, shelter, etc. This all seemed agreeable to him. He stated he knew of no underground mining relatively near the site and he did not think that any would take place. He also stated that he knew of no potential radio interference devices in the immediate vicinity and had no plans for anything of this nature on his land.

He stated that the small farm house on the property could be made available on a lease basis for the "right price". Mr. Vogel uses his land and the farm house for recreation and did not seem anxious to part with the house.

He stated that the winter weather conditions in this area are fairly severe but the state road commission did an excellent job of keeping Rt. 15 clear for travel. He added that we could possibly arrange for a local source (farm tractor) to keep our access road open for travel.

We asked Mr. Vogel if he had any idea of what he considered to be a fair and reasonable price for lease of 2 to 3 areas of land. He said he did not but he would give it some thought. (I told him that we paid \$300.00 a year for the last temporary site that we had on Spencers Ridge near Green Bank). We parted with the understanding that the Observatory would be back in touch with him with a draft proposal for lease of a specified portion of his land at sometime in the not too distant future.

I suggest we consider tying this property down in the not too distant future. In the meanwhile, I have asked Mr. Vogel to notify us if he has any plans that would prevent our use of the property until a lease arrangement can be concluded.

RKM/baw