

# VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 292

National Radio Astronomy Observatory  
Charlottesville, Virginia

Nov. 17, 1983

To: VLBA Coordination Committee  
From: R. C. Walker  
Subject: Site Construction Order.

The construction of the VLBA stations should occur in the following order:

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1: Kitt Peak           | 6: Washington State |
| 2: Pie Town (or Dusty) | 7: Owens Valley     |
| 3: Los Alamos          | 8: Fort Davis       |
| 4: Iowa                | 9: Haystack         |
| 5: Puerto Rico         | 10: Hawaii          |

The above order is based on discussions that occurred during the project 'talk through' on 8 Nov 1983 in Charlottesville. The orders within the group of most important additions to current arrays (Iowa, Puerto Rico, and Washington State) and within the group of stations at existing facilities (Owens Valley, Fort Davis, and Haystack) is not important.

Hawaii is last in order to leave the maximum time for site studies, acquisition, environmental impact studies etc. and to ensure maximum erection efficiency with well trained crews. It is one of the scientifically most interesting sites so if it is possible to complete it sooner or if there is a threat that the project will not be finished, it should be moved to an earlier position.

The above order:

- 1: Starts with sites near existing NRAO facilities.
- 2: Does the two New Mexico sites close together in time.
- 3: Avoids excessive cross country jumps for moving the antenna assembly crew.
4. Leaves sites that have existing VLB telescopes for near the end of the project.

If there is a chance for a joint configuration with the CLBA, the Fort Davis and Owens Valley sites should be moved to the 4th and 5th positions.