

VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 339

TO: VLBA MEMBERS
FROM: B. PEERY
SUBJECT: CONF?/SITE GROUP MEETING 840321

PRESENT: BENSON, BRIDLE, BRUNDAGE, CRANE, HOGG, JONES, WALKER, PEERY

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE CLBA INDICATES IT IS BEING SCALED DOWN AND GONE INTO A HOLD PATTERN UNTIL THE PROGRESS OF THE VLBA IS ESTABLISHED. THE SCALED DOWN VERSION WOULD BE DEVELOPED AROUND POSSIBLE JOINT OPERATION WITH THE VLBA. A MORE COMPLETE REVIEW IS IN MEMO 331 AND A FORTHCOMING MEMO BY ALAN BRIDLE.

THE HAWAIIAN SITE NEEDS FURTHER STUDY. THE RECENT TRIP INDICATES:

- 1 HALEAKULA IS NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF RFI.
- 2 TOP OF MAUNA KEA (MILLIMETER VALLEY) IS NOT RECOMMENDED BECAUSE OF WIND AND ICE.
- 3 AN INTERMEDIATE ELEVATION (11000 FT. OR 9000 FT. HALE POHAKU) WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO GET BECAUSE IT WOULD REOPEN THE "MAUNA KEA COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT PLAN" WHICH WAS FINALLY APPROVED IN 1983.
- 4 THE INITIAL INVESTMENT COST AND OPERATION COST OF A SITE ON MAUNA KEA FAR EXCEEDS ANY FUNDS AVAILABLE IN OUR PRESENT FUNDING PLAN.
- 5 WE SHOULD RECONSIDER THE ELEVATION REQUIREMENT WITH THE THOUGHT OF LOCATING THE ANTENNA ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ISLAND AT A LOWER ELEVATION.

STATUS OF THE FIRST FOUR SITES TO BE DEVELOPED WAS REVIEWED:

- 1 PIE TOWN: OBTAINING DATA FOR NSF TO ACQUIRE USE OF THE LAND. THE PROPOSED DATE FOR SIGNING THE AGREEMENT BY NSF IS OCT. 1984. A STAKE HAS BEEN DRIVEN ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION OF THE ANTENNA. A TOWN MEETING WAS HELD TO ADVISE THE PEOPLE OF WHAT IS PLANNED.
- 2 LOS ALAMOS: ACTIVELY IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE THERE. SEE MEMO 330 . THEY ARE VERY RECEPTIVE. WE ARE PREPARING TO MAKE A RFI CHECK OF THE AREA TO HELP TIE DOWN THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE ANTENNA.
- 3 KITT PEAK: CONTACTS THERE INDICATE THEY ARE VERY RECEPTIVE. WE ARE NOW TRYING TO TIE DOWN THE EXACT SITE FOR THE ANTENNA (DRIVE A STAKE).

- 4 IOWA: IN CONTACT WITH THE CORP OF ENGINEERS RELATIVE TO LAND AROUND NLRO FOR OUR PROSPECTIVE SITE. THEY ARE VERY COOPERATIVE. A RFI CHECK IS NEEDED. IT IS HOPED THIS CAN BE DONE FOLLOWING THE CHECK AT LOS ALAMOS.

PROSPECTIVE SITES IN PUERTO RICO WILL BE VISITED NEXT MONTH.

ACTIVITY RELATIVE TO THE REMAINING SITES HAS BEEN KEPT AT A LOW KEY UNTIL THE PROGRESS WITH THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. AT THIS TIME NEED FOR THESE SITES IS THREE YEARS DOWN STREAM.

FURTHER WATER VAPOR MEASUREMENTS ARE NOT SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME. THERE IS A REMOTE CHANCE SOME EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE NEXT SUMMER. A REQUEST FOR THE USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE. IT WAS THOUGHT DATA FROM HAWAII WOULD BE NEEDED BY MID 1986 TO KEEP THE SITE ON SCHEDULE.