

**VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 348**

**NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY**

**Charlottesville, Virginia**

**April 23, 1984**

**TO: VLBA MEMBERS  
FROM: BUCK PEERY**

**SUBJECT: CONF./SITE GROUP MEETING 840418**

**PRESENT: BENSON, BRIDLE, BRUNDAGE, COTTON, HOGG, JONES, KELLERMANN, WADE,  
WALKER, PEERY**

**WADE AND PEERY REPORTED ON THEIR TRIP TO PUERTO RICO. THEY VISITED FIVE  
PROSPECTIVE SITES:**

**RAMEY AIR FORCE BASE : NEAR AGUADILLA ON THE NORTHWEST COAST.**

**WILD LIFE REFUGE: NEAR EL COMBATE ON THE SOUTHWEST COAST.**

**MARINE SCIENCE RESEARCH AREA: AT LA PARGUERA ON A SMALL ISLAND  
ALONG THE SOUTH COAST.**

**ARECIBO OBSERVATORY: IN THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLAND.**

**LIGHTHOUSE: ON CAPE SAN JUAN ON THE EAST COAST.**

**ALL SITES APPEAR TO BE AVAILABLE AND VIABLE. THE WILD LIFE REFUGE APPEARS  
TO BE THE PREFERRED LOCATION BECAUSE OF ITS REMOTE LOCATION AND LOW EXPOSURE  
TO POTENTIAL RFI SOURCES. RFI SOURCES ARE IN VIEW OF THE SITES AT RAMEY,  
CAPE SAN JUAN AND ARECIBO. ACCESS TO THE WILD LIFE REFUGE IS NOT AS GOOD  
AS IT IS TO THE OTHER SITES BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH DIFFERENT TO FAVOR OTHER  
SITES. A DISCUSSION OF RELATIVE COMPARISONS OF THE FIVE SITES AS TO RFI,  
ACCESS, DISTANCE FROM A MAJOR AIRPORT, LOCATION, HORIZON, TERRAIN, RAIN  
FALL, SEISMIC ACTIVITY, HURRICANES, AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT,  
AVAILABILITY OF PROPERTY, SECURITY, FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA, UTILITIES,  
ETC. REAFFIRMED THE FIRST CHOICE. THE MARINE SCIENCE AREA AND THE OBSERVATORY  
AREA AS SECOND AND THIRD CHOICE RESPECTIVELY. IT WAS DECIDED WE SHOULD  
BRIEFLY REVIEW INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE ISLANDS OF ST. CROIX AND ST.  
THOMAS TO SEE IF THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATE SITES  
TO PUERTO RICO.**

**THERE WAS NOTHING NEW TO REPORT ON HAWAII. DAVE HOGG IS LOOKING INTO WAYS  
TO OBTAIN WATER VAPOR DATA OVER SEVERAL LOCATIONS ON THE ISLAND.**

**A REVIEW OF POTENTIAL RFI PROBLEMS IN THE HAYSTACK AREA LOOKS VERY BAD,  
A SITUATION VERY COMPARABLE TO THE HALEAKULA SITE IN HAWAII. IT WAS DECIDED  
WE SHOULD CONTINUE THE RFI SEARCH AND WHEN POSSIBLE MAKE A FIELD TEST WITH  
NRAO EQUIPMENT. DATA FOR THE ALTERNATE SITE, AT FIVE COLLEGES RADIO ASTRONOMY  
OBSERVATORY SHOULD BE UPDATED.**

**STATUS OF OTHER SITES IS THE SAME AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.**