

VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 459

**NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
Charlottesville, Virginia**

May 31, 1985

To: VLBA Members
From: Buck Peery
Subject: Conf./Site Meeting 850522
Present: Benson, Brown, Hogg, Horne, Kellermann, Napier, Oty, Wade, Walker and Peery.

A brief review of the status of each site, in the latest proposed order of development, was presented. A copy is attached. No major comments were received except as follows:

The water vapor study of proposed sites in Hawaii (VLBA Memo No. 450) was reviewed. A long discussion of Hawaii followed concerning possible alternate sites, wind, operations, etc. No definite decisions were made. The consensus was to pursue the 11800 foot elevation location on Mauna Kea as actively as we can with an aim at making RFI tests in late fall or early winter.

There were no comments on the RFI report for Fort Davis (VLBA Memo No. 446). The consensus appeared to favor a site in the valley near the Harvard installation.

A discussion of the wind and RFI on and around Kitt Peak indicated there is not a major, if any, advantage to going to the valley for a site. Wade and Walker will review the information and recommend an area on the Peak near the Picnic Area. (Applicable VLBA Memos are 423, 433, 447 and 448).

Since the site in central Washington has been moved to No. 4 for development, it was agreed to schedule a visit there and start RFI tests there the week of July 8.

A discussion of an alternate location in Owens Valley lead to the conclusion we should take RFI tests and continue with the plan for the location on the OVR Observatory site as the primary location.

A visit to St. Croix and Puerto Rico to search for a site is scheduled for the middle of June.

The RFI report for the Iowa site is in preparation. The alternate site, near the river, approximately one mile from N.L.R.O. was checked and appears to be slightly better for RFI and will be considered. Neither site has a problem from RFI.

Napier and Wade will visit Los Alamos within the next two weeks and establish the exact location of the antenna in Area T33 so the property description can be developed for securing the title through the NSF.

Late August or early September was suggested as a tentative time for the RFI van to visit the East to make checks in Massachusetts.

PIE TOWN: Archaeology survey complete and clear. Design of building site and road in progress. Will answer BLM questions including EIS when site design is complete. RFI check is complete and acceptable. Request for soil analysis has been made.

KITT PEAK: Wind at present chosen location a major concern. Looking for another location with some protection from the wind in the Kitt Peak area. RFI check complete and acceptable. Discussing design contract with A/E.

LOS ALAMOS: Location on LANL reservation. In process of determining the exact location so a request can be made to DOE for property title or lease. RFI check complete and acceptable. Will drive stake soon.

WASHINGTON STATE: To be located in Okanogan Valley in central Washington near the town of Oroville. Need to make RFI check and establish the exact location. This might be the next scheduled site for RFI checks. Probably will be located on private property. Possible location near Comsat station at Brewster.

FORT DAVIS: Location on private property (Spruell or Prude Ranch) near the Harvard installation northeast of the town of Fort Davis. RFI check complete. If acceptable will start establishing the exact location for securing a title to the site.

PUERTO RICO: Exact location has not been determined a new VOA transmitter requires us to find another site other than the one previously chosen. A trip is scheduled early in June to search for a new location.

IOWA: Located near North Liberty Observatory between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. RFI tests in progress at this site. Property owned by U.S. Corps of Engineers.

OWENS VALLEY: Located near Bishop, California on the Owens Valley Observatory property owned by the City of Los Angeles. The exact location has not been established. No action at present. Awaiting RFI tests.

HAWAII: Exact location has not been established. Working toward a site at the 11800 foot elevation on Mauna Kea. Discussions with the University of Hawaii are scheduled.

MASSACHUSETTS: Location has not been determined. RFI a major problem. Considering locating at Five College Observatory at Quabbin Reservoir. Awaiting RFI tests which will probably be made this summer.