

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
Charlottesville, Virginia

July 9, 1985

TO: VLBA MEMBERS
FROM: BUCK PEERY
SUBJECT: CONF./SITE MEETING 850626

PRESENT: BENSON, CRANE, HOGG, KELLERMANN, WADE, PEERY

DESIGN OF THE PIE TOWN SITE AND FACILITIES IS PROCEEDING. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FIRST DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR REVIEW. THE COST ESTIMATE IS HIGHER THAN EXPECTED. SOIL TESTS ARE UNDER WAY AND THE REPORT IS DUE THE FIRST WEEK IN JULY.

QUOTATIONS FOR SOIL TESTS ON KITT PEAK HAVE BEEN REQUESTED. THE WIND PROBLEMS ON KITT PEAK ARE NOT AS FORMIDABLE AS FIRST THOUGHT. A MEMO ADDRESSING WIND PROBLEMS IS BEING PREPARED.

PREPARATIONS FOR A SURVEY AND SOIL TESTS AT LOS ALAMOS ARE UNDERWAY. A SITE DESCRIPTION IS BEING DEVELOPED TO BE USED BY NSF TO SECURE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY.

NAPIER, OTY AND WADE WILL VISIT CENTRAL WASHINGTON (OKANOGAN VALLEY) THE WEEK OF JULY 8 TO REVIEW PROSPECTIVE SITES AND START THE RFI TESTS.

WADE AND PEERY REPORTED ON THEIR VISIT TO ST. CROIX AND RECOMMENDED THE MOST EASTERN SITE BE LOCATED THERE INSTEAD OF PUERTO RICO. RFI, LOGISTICS, GENERAL ENVIRONMENT, AND ACCESSIBILITY IS A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT OVER ANY PROSPECTIVE SITE IN PUERTO RICO. THERE IS A RESEARCH CENTER THERE WHICH INDICATED AN INTEREST IN OUR USING SOME OF THEIR PROPERTY. A POSSIBLE SITE WAS VISITED. OTHER LOCATIONS APPEAR TO BE VIABLE SITES ALSO. INITIAL CONTACTS ARE BEING MADE TO EVALUATE THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE TO THE LOCATION OF AN ANTENNA THERE. THE RESEARCH CENTER IS "THE WEST INDIES LABORATORY" A MARINE SCIENCE LABORATORY OPERATED BY FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY. IT WAS AGREED TO GO WITH THE RECOMMENDATION. WATER VAPOR TESTS AS WELL AS RFI TESTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

THERE IS VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY ON THE PROPOSED SITES AT FORT DAVIS, IOWA AND HAWAII. HAWAII IS STILL A MAJOR QUESTION.

RFI TESTS IN MASSACHUSETTS ARE PLANNED FOR LATE THIS SUMMER.

CRANE REPORTED HE HAD PREPARED A DOCUMENT DESCRIBING THE VLBA AND RFI RELATED PROBLEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO FREQUENCY COORDINATORS IN AREAS WHERE VLBA ANTENNAS WILL BE LOCATED. THIS WILL BE ISSUED AS A VLBA MEMO BEFORE DISTRIBUTION TO FREQUENCY COORDINATORS.