

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
Socorro, New Mexico

3 September 1985

TO: VLBA Members
FROM: Cam Wade
SUBJECT: Site Group Meeting, 850828
PRESENT: Crane, Egler, Napier, Oty, Peery, Porter, Wade, Walker

GENERAL MATTERS:

Wade became chairman of the site group on 12 August, leaving Buck free to concentrate on construction.

PIE TOWN:

Site acquisition is nearly complete. BLM should have their part done by the end of September, whereupon the right-of-way can be granted to NSF by inter-agency agreement. No difficulties are expected.

Site and building plans are virtually complete. Much effort has gone into simplifying the building specifications in order to reduce cost. We hope to put the package out for bid during September. The A/E's cost estimates remain uncomfortably high, but there is reason to expect the actual bids to be appreciably lower.

KIT T PEAK:

Soil tests are complete. Five holes were drilled around the spot noted by Walker, Peery, and Wade in April as the best on the north side of the Picnic Area. Refusal depths range from 8 to 21 feet. Geophysical data are still being evaluated, but GRC says the site looks good. Their report will be sent on September 7.

Bids have been solicited for the site survey. Once the survey is in hand, we can prepare the site plan.

We will deal with the NOAO Director, John Jeffries, to acquire the site. Since the area already is under lease to the NSF, we hope the conferral can be made by agreement between the Directors of NOAO and NRAO, with the approval of AURA. We expect to meet with NOAO early in October to work out the details.

LOS ALAMOS:

Bids have been solicited for the soil tests, which should be trivial for this site.

Napier has learned that the TV transmitter on No Name Peak is definitely going to be built. Pat Crane will investigate the details and report.

WASHINGTON:

The COMSAT site is unlikely to be of interest to us because there simply is too much of it.

We have hired a highly qualified Brewster resident, Wally Lauterbach, to find half a dozen sites in the lower Okanogan Valley which fit our criteria well. This is a cost-effective way to sort through the numerous possibilities in the area, and his extensive local knowledge will be valuable. We expect to have his report on October 1.

OWENS VALLEY:

Jim Oty's RFI measurements show a fairly high level of interference. There are many microwave relay stations in the valley. There is considerable military aeronautical transmission in the 300 MHz band, from China Lake and Edwards AFB.

Alternative sites in the vicinity of the Owens Valley will be discussed at the Design Review meeting in Green Bank.

HAWAII:

We have started planning for the RFI tests, which we hope to make this fall.

TEXAS, ST. CROIX, IOWA, NORTHEAST:

Nothing new.