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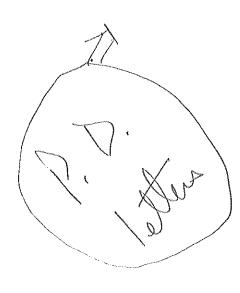
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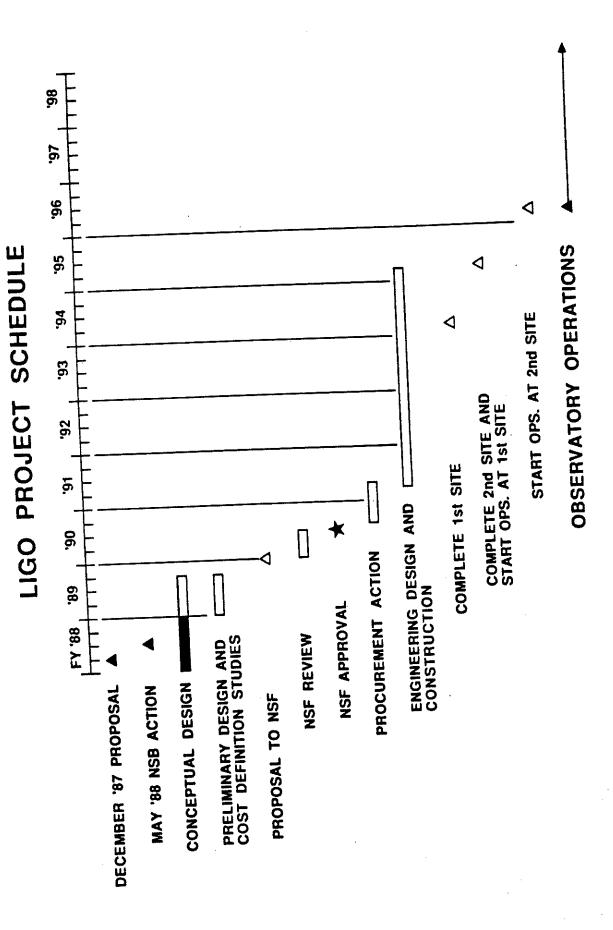
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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION 1800 G STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

February 18, 1992

Dr. Paul A. Vanden Bout Director National Radio Astronomy Observatory Edgemont Road Charlottesville, Virginia 22903-2475

Dear Dr. Vanden Bout:

This is to inform you that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has reached a decision regarding the site selection for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO). The selected sites are Hanford, Washington, and Livingston, Louisiana.

The NSF decision culminated an exhaustive process that included a technical evaluation by the LIGO Project Office at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) of all sites proposed, an analysis by an independent Site Evaluation Review Committee which unanimously affirmed that Caltech had fairly and accurately adhered to the procedures and criteria approved by the National Science Board, and an intensive review undertaken internally by the NSF before its final decision was made.

This has been a very difficult selection due to the excellence of many of the sites that were proposed. Selection of the Hanford, Washington, and Livingston, Louisiana, sites offers the nation an outstanding opportunity to further our understanding of this area of science.

Sincerely,

Wayne K. Thomas

Wayne X. Thomas

Grants and Contracts Officer

NPJO

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

EDGEMONT ROAD CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903-2475 USA TELEPHONE 804 296-0211 TWX 910 997-0174 FAX 804 296-0278

2/20/92

Dear Rabbie,

Carguatulations an the 160 site selection and best wishes for the project.

Regards,

Paul Varedu Bort

PS. I hope the state of Wardrugton has waived taxes on the project - very heavy on fedual woney reminy rate state.

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