

# CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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LIGO PROJECT  
Telephone (818) 356-2129  
Fax (818) 304-9834

July 22, 1991

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

Dear Dr. Vanden Bout:

We appreciate your having submitted a proposal for a LIGO site to Caltech. This letter is to advise you that we have offered the opportunity to those furnishing proposals with a validity expiration before December 31, 1991 to extend validity to that date or later. Your proposal submission is valid until at least December 31, 1991.

The Site Solicitation Announcement resulted in a large number of responses, and proposals are currently undergoing technical evaluation. As a consequence of our initial evaluation, it is now clear that the evaluation and selection process will take longer than 180 days. A detailed implementation plan for the site selection process, taking into account the number of proposals submitted and the information furnished, has been approved by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The implementation plan anticipates that a "short list" of sites will be identified, reviewed by outside parties, and approved by NSF by December 31, 1991. Sites on the "short list" will be subject to in situ geotechnical and environmental surveys and negotiation of details prior to final site selection. Timing of this latter phase of the process will depend on which sites are included for further consideration, but should in any case be complete by late summer 1992.

An opportunity for additional time extension will be offered to proposers of sites identified on the "short list," and there is no need for you to take any action now. However, if you wish to extend the validity of your proposal beyond its current expiration date at this time, you are welcome to do so by letter addressed to the undersigned not later than August 27, 1991. The letter may also be furnished by FAX at (818) 304-9834.

Thank you for your continued interest in LIGO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. E. Althouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and "E".

William E. Althouse  
Chief Engineer, LIGO Project  
(818) 356-4481

WEA:ca