



NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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February 8, 1991

Dr. R. E. Vogt
Caltech/MIT Laser Interferometer
Gravitational Wave Observatory Project
102-33 E Bridge Laboratory
Pasadena, CA 91125

Dear Robbie:

I have been encouraged to consider submitting a proposal for Green Bank WV as a LIGO site. Before doing so, however, I need to have clarification regarding one of the requirements listed in your announcement (November 19, 1990 issue of the Commerce Business Daily).

You state there, under item 10, that: "Costs to be paid by the LIGO Project for all site preparation work required to provide a suitable graded base for foundations and roads (including provisions for drainage and erosion control) and utility connections (power, water, sewer, telephone) may not exceed the budgeted cost of \$2,500,000 per site." Is this a stringent requirement, a so-called "show stopper"?

I ask because, as you will recall, your January 31, 1989 report to the NSF on the feasibility of Green Bank as a LIGO site states that the grading and associated costs for the two alignment possibilities would be \$12.4M for the one that far exceeds your current requirement of 40 feet maximum elevation between the vertex and either end, and \$23.2M for the other which meets the tilt limit. Both are sufficiently in excess of the present stated requirement limit (\$2.5M) to raise the question as to whether a proposal based upon them would necessarily be considered as non-responsive.

I would appreciate your earliest possible written reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul".

Paul A. Vanden Bout
Director

PVB/j