UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

No. J-282
Tel. 973-3335 or
973-3446

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(11 a.m., EST, December 16, 1966)

AEC SELECTS SITE FOR 200-BEV ACCELERATOR

The Atomic Energy Commission has selected the Weston, Illinois site near Chicago as the location for its proposed 200 billion electron volt proton accelerator.

Six sites recommended by the National Academy of Sciences have been under study by the Commission since last March.

The six sites proposed were: Ann Arbor, Michigan; Brookhaven National Laboratory at Upton, Long Island, New York; Denver, Colorado; Madison, Wisconsin; Sierra Foothills, near Sacramento, California, and Weston.

"All six sites would have been suitable locations for this project," Chairman Glenn T. Seaborg said. "Each proposal had many strong points, making the selection of one site an extremely difficult task. However, after weighing all factors the Commission unanimously decided that the Weston site, which is near Chicago and also near the Argonne National Laboratory, is the most suitable location for this large project.

"The AEC has received excellent cooperation from all six proposers and we have no doubt that the information developed for these proposals will be a help to the communities in attracting other industry or government projects."

The Commission will request authorization and funds in the amount of $10 million for initial design work in the Fiscal Year 1968 budget. Funds for construction will be requested at a later time.

The 200-BEV machine will be the biggest and most complex instrument ever built for fundamental scientific research which will lead to a deeper understanding of the basic forces that govern the universe. It will be the principal installation in a proposed national accelerator laboratory. Of particular importance is the maximum accessibility to all areas of the United States as well as international accessibility. The main ring of the accelerator will have a diameter of one mile and construction will be completed within eight years. Preliminary estimates based on a design by

(more)

the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory indicated that the cost would be about $300 million for construction, plus $75 million for research equipment and a bubble chamber. Current intentions are to proceed at a somewhat reduced scope with potential for expansion at a later date. This approach would significantly reduce the initial cost of the project. The proposed laboratory will employ about 2,000 people.

One hundred and twenty-six proposals recommending more than 200 locations were submitted to the Commission in 1965 for the large accelerator project. The AEC reduced the list to 85 proposals which included 150 different sites and in September of 1965 asked the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the 85. In March of 1966 the Academy recommended six finalists which were considered by the Commission.

A detailed statement on the selected site is attached.

#