

SJR

65

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 3/4/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 3-11-88

The State Affairs Committee has considered SJR 65

Relating to over-the-horizon backscatter radar systems.

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with _____ the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published 3/1/88
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Handwritten signatures]

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Handwritten signature]

Chairman's signature

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
PHONE: (907) 465-2491

February 17, 1988

Jon Ferguson, Project Manager
Alaska Corps of Engineers
Headquarters Alaskan Air Command
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska 99506-5001

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

On October 20, 1987, we received a copy of a letter which Col. Barry Thompson, Deputy Chief of Staff/Plans, Alaska Air Command, sent to Senator Ted Stevens, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., concerning the State Division of Forestry's request for specifications on any wood products that will be used in the Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Project. In this letter Col. Thompson indicated you would send us these specifications when they became available. Are these specifications now available?

With Governor Cowper's renewed emphasis on diversified economic development in Alaska, use of local wood products for construction and operation of new military facilities takes on added importance. In keeping with the Governor's new policies, the State is prepared to provide information and research on opportunities which support economic development through the use of local wood. We are interested in working with your staff to develop bid specifications that would allow Alaska's forest products industry to compete effectively in upcoming procurements of building materials for the Backscatter Radar project.

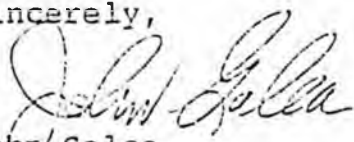
Wood supply contracts provide a strong economic stimulus to wood harvesting and transportation activities in the forest products industry. We are particularly interested in working with your engineering personnel in developing the specifications for wood products to be used in fencing material necessary for protection of the facilities. Specifications for lumber in construction and operation of the facilities should allow Alaska white spruce to compete with "Douglas Fir," "Southern Pine," etc. It has been our experience with government contracts that Alaska white spruce is not considered because of the way the contract language is written, even though Alaska white spruce meets or exceeds the structural characteristics of most species, including Douglas Fir, Southern Pine and Hem-Fir.

We would appreciate your consideration of our concerns when drafting these procurement documents.

We believe that the U.S. Air Force, through the Alaska Corps of Engineers, has the opportunity to stimulate and diversify our already depressed economy. A project of this magnitude can have a significant impact on local and state economic development.

We will be awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,


John Galea
State Forester

cc: Steve Cowper, Governor
Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator
Don Young, U.S. Representative
Judith M. Brady, Commissioner
Anthony Smith, Commissioner
Jan Faiks, State Senator
Richard Eliason, State Senator
Fred Zharoff, State Senator
Jack Coghill, State Senator
Sam Cotten, State Representative
Dick Shultz, State Representative
Drue Pearce, State Representative
Col. Jim Lee, Program Director
Col. Jack Lennox, Deputy Director
Capt. Bill Godfrey, ARS Program Manager
Capt. Karla Moyer, Asst. ARS Program Manager
Paul Sitkus, Civil Engineering
Maj. Miles Carlson, Environmental Policy and Assessment
Maj. John Ross, OTH Program Monitor
Lt. Col. Bill Peterson, Director of Programs
Maj. Carol Randal, OTH-B Program Manager
Mr. Jim Hostman, Chief Environmental Planning
Mr. Stan Lawrence, Engineer Project Manager
Capt. Bob Morris, Public Affairs
Dr. Sid Everett, EIS Project Leader
Mr. Bob Marshall, Facilities Manager
Dr. Jamie Maughan, EIAP Coordinator
Mr. Stephen Hope, ARS EIAP Coordinator
Mr. Jim Chambers, Alaska Liaison
Mr. Ernie Woods, Chief Real Estate
Angie Gori, Real Estate
Bob Welch, Real Estate
Larry Reeder, Regulatory
Bill Roberts, Chief Appraisal

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS (HONORARY MEMBER)
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6888

U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
101 CONGRESS AVENUE, BOX 1, 99518
(907) 271-4111
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101 13TH AVENUE, BOX 7, 99731
(907) 488-0222
JUNEAU
U.S. FEDERAL BUILDING
BOX 1847, 99808
(907) 838-7400

February 12, 1988

Colonel James A. Lee
OTH-B System Program Office
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731

Dear Colonel Lee:

I've just returned from Alaska, and I wanted to pass along some observations on a subject we've discussed before: the critical importance of working with local entities on the Alaska OTH-B project.

I know, for instance, that a contract for a subsistence study is out for bid. The Air Force would be wise to utilize the vast amount of local talent available for such an endeavor. In fact, if past experience is any guide, you'll find it impossible to complete a worthwhile subsistence survey without the complete cooperation of the local people - the kind of cooperation an outside entity is unlikely to get.

The same situation exists with the archeological surveys to be undertaken. There is an inherent mistrust of outsiders and their motives - a consequence of history and other factors you're aware of. Therefore, you must involve, and rely upon local people if you expect a good result.

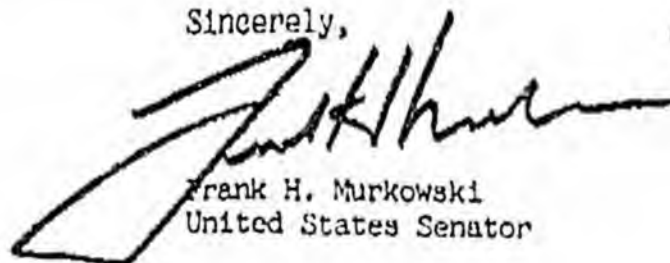
Our common goal - keeping the project moving ahead on schedule - depends on extraordinary local involvement and participation. This is clearly one of those cases where "going the extra mile" now will pay big dividends to both the Air Force and the taxpayer down the road.

Some of your best sources of information about the local situation continue to be Dick Shultz and Jack Coghill. If you continue to maintain close contacts with their offices, and follow their advice, this project will move ahead smoothly.

Next time you're in Washington, please set some time aside to brief David Garmen of my staff on your activities. I'll also try to sit in if I can.

I look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,



Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senator

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

PO BOX 7005
ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99510
PHONE (907) 551-2020

9-3100

June 10, 1987

Lt. Col. William R. Peterson
Director of Programs
Dept. of the Air Force
HDQT Alaska Air Command
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska 99507-5001

Dear Lt. Col. Peterson:

Having received a copy of your letter to Senator Murkowski from his office and based on our phone conversation we would like to clarify our letter of February 25, 1987 to you concerning the over-the Horizon Backscatter Radar construction project.

The State of Alaska was not in any way trying to get "special" consideration for the use of its forest products in the construction of the radar facilities. We wanted to point out that contract specifications should allow for Alaskan wood use where applicable. Contract specifications dictating the use of "Douglas Fir" or "Southern Pines" would not assist our industries or economy. Further, the idea that "treated" material could not be supplied by industry in Alaska is not valid. Presently we have no treating facilities "pressure" or double diffusion, but have been able to supply to the market treated wood products by cooperative efforts with "lower 48" industry. If contract specifications for dimensional lumber refer to "treated" products we may even be able to interest industry in investing in a double-diffusion treatment facility here in Alaska. Twenty miles of eight foot fence could be the catalyst for the capitol investment necessary to provide a treatment facility. Power generation facilities necessary for the project should consider an alternate fuel source as backup to oil or gas, which could be provided from local forest biomass. This resource could easily be provided by local industry in emergency situations.

We believe the wood resources of Alaska are yet untapped and your careful consideration of contract specification in the construction and operation of this project could initiate further economic diversification in Alaska.

Sincerely,

For Bill LaTosha
DAVID E. WALLINGFORD
Assistant State Forester
Resource Management

cc: Steve Cowper, Governor
Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator
Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senator
Don Young, U.S. Representative
Judith M. Brady, Commissioner
Anthony Smith, Commissioner
Jan Faiks, State Senator
Richard Eliason, State Senator
Joe Josephson, State Senator
Fred Zharoff, State Senator
Jack Coghill, State Senator
Sam Cotten, State Representative
Dick Shultz, State Representative
Dave Pearce, State Representative

Backscatter Radar System to Be Located in Tok, Gulkana

The Air Force has announced that it has chosen the location for a \$450 million early warning detection radar system, called the Over-the-Horizon Backscatter.

The Air Force informed the Alaska Congressional Delegation that the Tok area has been chosen as the receive site, the Gulkana area as the transmit site and Elmendorf AFB as the operations center for the OTH-B.

"This is a significant announcement," Senator Frank Murkowski said. "From Alaska's standpoint it means hundreds of new jobs. For the nation's

security, it will revolutionize our early warning defense capabilities."

"The numerous forays by Soviet bombers off our coast illustrate the critical need for us to upgrade our radar system. Soviet bombers are now capable of launching cruise missiles from off Alaska and striking targets in America's heartland, without ever having to enter our airspace. It's imperative to pick up those bombers long before they reach our shores, and the backscatter system will give us that capability," Murkowski said.

"This new radar system will

provide better early warning of aircraft and cruise missile approaches and enhance Alaska's role in the defense of the nation," Senator Ted Stevens said. "We also welcome this announcement because it will generate jobs and add to the existing military construction activity in the state."

Congressman Don Young said the "announcement is good news for Alaskans. In addition to the hundreds of jobs generated by the construction and operation of the backscatter, this new early warning system will significantly improve our

state's, and our nation's security."

Additional siting work — to establish the exact locations within the study areas for the receive and transmit sites will begin immediately, according to the Air Force.

Construction will begin in the Spring of 1989, with some site prep work starting in mid-1988. The Air Force estimates that as many as 400 Alaskans will be employed in the project's initial phase.

The Air Force said that once operational, about 60 people, half of them military, will be

based at both Tok and Gulkana. The Elmendorf operations center will employ 314 personnel, mostly military.

The OTH-B provides long-range, wide-area, all-altitude surveillance of the Northwest extending out beyond the Aleutian Chain and over the Soviet land mass.

The system is designed to detect, track and provide early warning of aircraft and cruise missiles at range of 500 to over 1,800 nautical miles from radar location.

Alaska's OTH-B, which should be operational by FY 1992, is one of four OTH-B systems that Air Force plans to construct and deploy in the United States.

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Fact Sheet

United States Air Force

FEB 4 1992
ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS DIVISION, AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND, HANSCOM AFB, MA 01731-5000
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (617) 861-4064

Over-The-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) Radar System

The Over-The-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) Radar System will provide long-range, all-altitude tactical early warning and surveillance of aircraft approaching North America. Four radar systems will be deployed under the Air Force's proposed OTH-B program for wide area detection of eastern, western, southern and upper north western aircraft approaches to the continent. The East Coast Radar System (ECRS) is currently in production; the West Coast Radar System (WCRS) will be placed under contract in mid-1986; and procurement of the planned Central Radar System (CRS) and Alaskan Radar System (ARS) is anticipated beginning in 1988 and 1989 respectively.

The OTH-B radar detects aircraft by sending high frequency (HF) signals from the transmit antenna up to the ionosphere, an atmospheric layer extending from 50 to 250 miles above the earth's surface. The OTH-B HF signals refract off the ionosphere to extend out to distances in excess of 1,500 nautical miles from the transmitter. The return signal "bounces off" aircraft within the transmit beam path follows the reverse path, refracting off the ionosphere and returning to the receive antenna.

The transmit and receive sites, called site pairs, are located between 50 and 100 miles apart and provide an aircraft detection area extending from 500 nautical miles to 1,800 nautical miles in range and 60-degrees in azimuth. A single transmit-receive site pair can provide coverage over the 60-degree wedge-shaped segment described. To provide the 180-degree coverage for aircraft approaching the east and west coasts, three 60-degree transmit-receive site pairs are being used at each location. Two site pairs are planned for the 120-degree Alaskan Radar System coverage; four site pairs are planned for the 240 degree Central Radar System coverage.

The East Coast Radar System is being produced by the General Electric Company, Syracuse, New York. Designated the AN/FPS-118, the ECRS is made up of an Operations Center at the Maine Air National Guard Base at Bangor, Maine; three transmit sites located near Moscow, Maine; and three receive sites near Columbia Falls, Maine.

The Operations Center, located in a building of about 32,000 square feet, houses the radar operator consoles and the computers required for data processing. The antenna at each transmit site is 3,630 feet long with a height varying from 35 to 135 feet. Each site area is about 450 acres. The antenna at the receive sites is 4,980 feet long with a height of 65 feet. Each receive site is about 250 acres. Initial checkout and testing of the first of three ECRS 60-degree sectors is scheduled for early 1986. Final acceptance testing of the three sector systems will be completed in late 1987.

The Air Force has begun procurement of the West Coast Radar System with planned award of the production contract in July 1986. The WCRS Operations Center will be located at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho with transmit sites at Buffalo Flat, Oregon; receive sites at Rimrock Lake, California.

In preparation for the proposed Alaskan Radar System, the Air Force recently announced it intends to prepare an environmental impact statement on the proposed system. Public scoping meetings will be conducted at several locations near proposed study areas for the transmit and receive sites. The transmit sites will each cover about 600 acres; the receive sites will each cover about 1,000 acres. Following the scoping process, the Air Force will prepare and publish the draft environmental impact statement. Public hearings will then be held prior to preparing the final environmental impact statement.

A similar process will be followed in preparation for the Central Radar System after formal announcement of the Air Force's intent to begin the environmental impact assessment process for this system.

For additional information

Contact the Public Affairs Office (ESD/PAM), Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts 01731, (617) 861-4064

Current as of Jan 86