

**New Folder Name** Trip Report

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CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) Project

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Refer to: LIGO-T950128-00-  
Date: December 19, 1995

**Subject: Trip Report - Livingston, LA**

Mark Coles, Allen Sibley, and Gerry Stapfer visited the Livingston, LA LIGO site Dec. 13-15, 1995. Highlights of the visit are summarized here.

Joel Tohline (Chairman of the LSU Physics Department) has received the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and attachments from LIGO. He has forwarded these to the LSU administration for concurrence. He personally saw no difficulties with the MoU. We met with Volker Saile (Director of CAMD) regarding the LIGO-CAMD MoU. He hadn't seen it yet as it was part of the package sent by Tohline to the LSU administration. We gave him an extra copy for review. In the meantime, while awaiting for LSU approval, he has tentatively given us an office and telephone. The LIGO LSU address will be:

LIGO Project  
LSU-CAMD  
3990 W. Lakeshore Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
telephone (504) 388-0418

There will be a computer connection available also. They will set up a port and let us know the details regarding the hardware needed (which LIGO needs to furnish). Don Bulloch (assistant to Volker Saile) is coordinating the assignment of this space and the furnishing of the office area with two desks, file cabinets, etc.

Tohline accompanied us to meet with Charles Martin, Vice President for Institutional Services at LSU, to seek architectural approval of the LIGO preliminary design as required in the NSF site agreement with LSU. We reviewed the Parsons PDR drawings with Martin. He asked quite detailed questions about some of the design aspects of the building, such as footings, ceiling treatments, roof slope, etc. (Interestingly, Martin has a degree in architecture.) Martin gave his verbal approval of the architectural plan and said that he would provide a letter formally indicating LSU's approval of the architectural design. I will send him a thank you and reminder letter to make sure that we get LSU's written consent.

We also met with Warren Johnson and Bill Hamilton to bring them up to date on the LIGO sched-

ule. We brought an extra set of the architectural color renderings with us which we reviewed with them and then left for Joel Tohline. Tohline is very interested in keeping a file of current information on LIGO so that he can show visitors and the campus community.

Jim Wharton (former Chancellor of LSU and professor of chemistry) requested (via Tohline) that we meet with him as well. He drove us over to Turner Industries headquarters (one of the largest privately held construction companies in the US, approximately \$500 million in annual revenue). We met with Roland Toups (President) and Don McCollister (President of their construction subsidiary - Harmony Corporation) and gave them a brief overview of the project. We also told them to contact Ed Jasnow should they have an interest in other procurement aspects of the program. They do a lot of rigging work (they did the magnet placement at CAMD) and seemed interested in the BTE placement and perhaps in the bakeout.

We (along with Fred Asiri, Otto Matherny, and Tim Mellott, John Belusius of Parsons) met with the adjacent leaseholders, the Hunt Club, and a representative of Cavenham Lumber Co. to discuss the LIGO project. Questions centered around how LIGO would affect everyone. In general, everyone was very enthusiastic about the project and seemed satisfied that there would be very little negative impact except during construction and that this could be tolerated. One property owner was concerned about dust control, since her house is adjacent to the site access road. Parsons and Stranco were already aware of the problem and will sprinkle the dusty area. (Temporary power to allow pumping of construction water for dust control is being installed now.) We have the name and phone number of the property owner affected. I will call her in early January to follow up that this problem has been resolved.

It was also interesting to note that the leaseholders did not have a strong interest in whether or not we had a fence on our property line. However, they were concerned that there should not be a way for cattle to travel through our property out onto the highway. (We will need to make sure that the Louisiana Department of Transportation provides a cattle guard at the road entrance.) It was also their opinion that cattle would probably not cross the barrow pit once it was filled with water. Also, they did not feel that the unfenced pit would be a hazard to their cattle. Therefore, it appears that we might be able to get by with fencing in only a minimal section of the property.

Skip Smart arranged a meeting for us with the Fire Marshall of the local fire protection district - it turned out that he had not invited the marshall of the district where the LIGO property is located. However, he did invite the correct water quality district representative and building permit official. (Otto Matherny, Fred Asiri, Tim Mellott, and John Belusius also attended this meeting.) Almost all authority for approval of fire safety and building permitting lies with the Louisiana State Fire Marshall. Parsons is pursuing this contact. (Charles Martin indicated that he has influence with the State Fire Marshall and could assist us in obtaining required permits if necessary.) Livingston Parish does not have any building inspections. Their only criteria is that the building be above the 100 year flood level.

**cc:**

Fred Asiri

Richard Fischer

Fred Raab

Otto Matherny

Allen Sibley

Gerry Stapfer

Chronological File

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