

**REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**Status Report: Development of
a Correctional Facility in the
Mount Rogers Planning District**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 58

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2006**

October 16, 2006

TO: The Honorable John W. Marshall
Secretary of Public Safety

The Honorable John H. Chichester, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Vincent F. Callahan, Jr., Chairman
House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Gene M. Johnson

SUBJECT: 2006 Virginia Acts of Assembly (Special Session I)
Item 387.I
Status Report, Mount Rogers Planning District Prison Site

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Item 387.I of the 2006 Acts of Assembly, the Department of Corrections submits this report on the status of prison site activities in the Mount Rogers Planning District. Item 387.I states:

“Included in this appropriation is \$1,500,000 the first year for the Department of Corrections to continue moving forward towards final identification, selection and acquisition of a site in the Mount Rogers Planning District for a medium security correctional facility, including moving to Phase 2 of the PPEA process as envisioned in Item 410.H.2 of Chapter 951, Acts of Assembly 2005, and entering into an Interim Agreement. The Department shall provide a report on the status of this project to the Secretary of Public Safety and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by October 16, 2006.”

BACKGROUND

Prior to the 2006 legislative session, the Department received an unsolicited proposal for a prison to be constructed in the Mount Rogers Planning District. The above language refers to moving forward with that PPEA process. The Department has been authorized by the Secretary of Public Safety to move into Phase 2 of the PPEA process, and the PPEA team has begun work to identify an appropriate site. The official Phase 2 proposal is due on December 15, 2006. The Department has instructed the PPEA team to present a Phase 2 submission which includes proposing a suitable site for construction in the Mount Rogers Planning District and which also meets the test of public acceptance. Because this process is still in the proposal phase, specifics about a particular site remain confidential at this time. Therefore, few details about any specific site(s) are appropriate to report at this time, however, activities relative to the process are discussed below.

STATUS/ACTIVITIES

The Department continues to move forward towards final identification, selection, and acquisition of a site in the Mount Rogers Planning District, using the PPEA process as an efficient and effective tool to meet this goal. Towards that end, the Department and/or the PPEA team have participated in the following activities:

- Moved forward to Phase 2 of the PPEA process with the Centex/Moseley team;
- Attended two meetings to scope and develop the Interim Agreement;
- Toured Grayson County
- Met with Grayson County local official(s) to discuss economic benefits of a prison, potential water and wastewater collaboration between the state and locality, potential timelines, strong local support for, as well as some opposition to, a prison in Grayson;
- Viewed a potential site;
- Hired a firm to perform Environmental Site Reconnaissance;
- Identified additional environmental activities to be performed;
- Developed a capital budget request amount for the 2007 legislative session for construction of the prison based on the need confirmed by the new State Responsible Inmate Population Forecast.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Much activity will occur over the next few months as the Department and the PPEA team continue to research a site or sites. It is anticipated that data will be available from consultants by mid November to confirm if a potential site appears technically suitable. If technically suitable for construction, a Public Information Meeting will be held in the locality as soon as possible to confirm public support of the site. The complete Phase 2 proposal will be submitted December 15, 2006 and details regarding a specific site will be available at that time.

Assuming the site initially deemed appropriate proves to be appropriate, it is possible that site acquisition could occur in mid 2007.