

# Texas will be site for super collider

WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary John Herrington Thursday announced the selection of Texas as the site for the eagerly sought \$4.4 billion super collider atom smasher — if the giant research installation is ever built.

Seven states had vied for the project because of the economic benefits tied to the construction of the collider, a 53-mile underground ring of 10,000 magnets capable of whipping proton beams together with 20 times the force of the world's most powerful existing particle accelerator.

Herrington said the Texas site — some 16,000 farm acres in Ellis County south of Dallas — was "superior" to the others.

The decision, he said, was based in part on site geology, regional resources and environmental criteria.

ceived the highest overall technical evaluation ratings of any proposal and exhibited no significant overall weaknesses," Herrington said.

The six other contenders were Illinois, Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina and Tennessee. They were chosen from a field of 25 bidding states by an independent panel appointed by the Energy Department.

Officials of some of the losing states, however, linked Texas' selection to Tuesday's election of George Bush, who lives in Texas, as president. "The Department of Energy made a decision based on politics rather than on merit and the good of the American taxpayer," said Sen. Alan Dixon, D-Ill. "I do not believe that the timing of this decision and its proximity to the election is a coincidence."

the decision "has a strong smell of White House politics. That was our major concern all along. We and the other five finalists states got a raw deal."

But Sen. Lloyd Benisen, D-Texas and the unsuccessful Democratic vice presidential candidate, said Thursday's announcement made this "a wonderful day for our country and our state."

Benisen pledged as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to do "everything in my power to guarantee (that) funds for construction are appropriated on time. I am happy to have had a hand in bringing it about."

The Energy Department must now prepare a full-fledged environmental statement. Assuming nothing in the statement disqualifies the Texas site, the panel will make its selection final in January.

"The Texas proposal clearly re-

Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., said

*The Paul Phillips show...*

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