

BID OPENING ON ABM SCHEDULED MARCH 26 GFH 3-12-70 P 1

St. Paul, MN - Bids will be opened here March 26 on a contract for construction of the more than \$100 million antiballistic missile system complex 80 miles northwest of Grand Forks and Army Engineers said Wednesday they hope to award the contract within a week after the opening.

Leslie Houde, public affairs officer for the Corps' Huntsville, Alabama, division, said April 2 has been set as the target date for letting the contract and that the successful contract will be moving into the Langdon area immediately afterward to begin construction.

Houde said more than 150 contractors, sub-contractors and other interested parties attended a pre-bid conference in Huntsville February 26 to hear an explanation of the project.

He said about 1,800 building tradesmen will be employed on the project this year and that employment will peak at 3,500 in 1971, tapering off to about 2,300 for the final two years of construction. It is estimated that the project will take three and one-half to four years to complete.