

# Residents, officials voice opinions on supercollider site

By PATRICIA BROWN  
Staff Writer

As a final decision on the location of the superconducting supercollider (SSC) draws near, N.C. residents and officials gave their opinions last week on the siting of the \$4.4 billion atom smasher.

Two teams from the U.S. Department of Energy have been traveling to all seven states under consideration for the SSC for hearings such as the ones last Monday and Tuesday in Butner, N.C.

North Carolina is contending for the super collider with Tennessee,

Texas, Illinois, Arizona, Colorado and Michigan.

"We were very pleased with the outcome of the public hearing," said Richard Nolan, deputy executive director of the SSC Site Task Force. "North Carolina is one of the better examples of how a project like this can work so well."

About 100 people spoke at the public hearing about the effects the SSC would have on residents and the environment.

"We benefited quite nicely from the public comments," Nolan said.

The state has proposed locating the

project in Durham, Granville or Person county.

"The area has an excellent infrastructure system with the location of highways and the airport," said Rodger Strickland, legislative director for N.C. Congressman Tim Valentine. "There are excellent research universities including UNC, Duke, North Carolina State and North Carolina Central."

North Carolina's final bid for the SSC was presented to U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington last Wednesday by a delegation of North Carolina officials led by Gov. Jim Martin.

"We had our last chance to talk about the merits of North Carolina and why we should have the SSC," said Karen Roberts, director of Martin's Washington office. "We feel the meeting went well and they were pleased to hear from North Carolina."

The delegation included the state's two senators, Republican Jesse Helms and Democrat Terry Sanford, Representatives Valentine, Bill Hefner, David Price and Alex McMillan, former UNC-system President William Friday, NCCU Chancellor Tyrone Richmond and Duke Power Co. Chairman Bill Lee.

Proponents of the SSC say North Carolina is ideal because of the accessibility to research facilities and its favorable geological conditions.

"We're concerned we're not attracting enough quality students in the physics department," said John Blackburn, legislative assistant to

Terry Sanford. "This would help attract those students to the area."

"This would be a very important development for our state," said Irene Scheeter, Hefner's legislative director. "It would bring additional jobs and decreased energy costs."

The SSC is the key to the nation's goal of staying ahead in science and technology, Nolan said.

A preferred location will be suggested in late November, and the final decision on the site is due by January, he said.

## Candidates target N.C. as crucial 'swing state'

By KAREN DUNN  
Staff Writer

With the presidential election just weeks away, North Carolina campaigns are intensifying because the state is seen as a "swing state" that will not be decided until the last moment.

California, Texas, Ohio and Illinois are also being targeted, said Scott Gregory, communications director for the N.C. campaign for Vice President George Bush, in a telephone interview Thursday.

Both candidates have "Victory '88" headquarters in the state to help with the campaigns of the entire party ticket. Most workers are volunteers, but the Michael Dukakis campaign pays three workers and the Bush campaign pays eight.

For N.C. voters, the main issue will be the overall values of the candidates, Gregory said. "Bush reflects North Carolina values. Dukakis is much too liberal for North Carolina. He supports gun control. His policy on national defense is very weak," he said.

But the Democrats feel that Dukakis' stand on gun control has been distorted recently by the National Rifle Association.

"Governor Dukakis supports the right of citizens to own guns and rifles. The NRA is saying he's opposed," said Lou Cutler, press director for the N.C. headquarters of

"Victory '88," a campaign group for the entire Democratic ticket.

Bush voted twice in favor of gun control issues when he was a congressman, Cutler said.

Despite rumors and misinformation, Democrats say they are confident about victory in North Carolina. "We truly feel we are going to win the state. We feel we're in great shape here," Cutler said. It is obvious that Republicans feel threatened by Dukakis in the state because they are bringing President Reagan here to campaign for Bush, she said.

"Out of 50 states in the U.S., he's coming to North Carolina," she said. "That's obvious to us that we're going to win."

Campaign officials for both Dukakis and Bush say the candidates may return to the state to campaign. Elizabeth Dole, former U.S. secretary of transportation and a North Carolina native, will campaign for Bush in the state, said Churchill Robison, a Bush campaign official.

## State congressional races hotly contested

By TAMMY BLACKARD  
Staff Writer

Both the Democratic and Republican national congressional campaign committees said this week that North Carolina congressional races are "the most intense" in the nation, so they are pouring more money into races here than in any other state.

"North Carolina is a very volatile state," said Peggy Connolly, communications director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), in a telephone interview Thursday. "The voters there are very independent and are very willing to change representatives frequently."

The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) is focused on four U.S. House races in North Carolina — the 4th, 5th, 8th and 11th districts. The DCCC is focusing on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 11th district races.

Republicans have given the campaigns the maximum allowable amount of \$50,000.

"We're allowed to give \$5,000 to any campaign," said Kenneth Klinge, NRCC national campaign director. "The state Republican Party can

spend around \$22,500 on each candidate and the Republican National Committee can fund roughly \$22,500 to pay a candidate's bills. We've picked up their funding authority because they don't have that amount of money to give candidates.

"Some campaigns don't get anything. More money is going into North Carolina than any other state."

The Democrats are giving as much money as they can to congressional races in North Carolina, but it will not be as much as the Republicans have given.

"All together we're expecting about \$20,000, and we hope to get some money from the state party," said Mike Davis, campaign manager for Rep. David Price of Chapel Hill. "Traditionally, Republicans just have more money."

Price is battling Republican Tom Fetzter for the 4th district seat, a race that both national organizations are targeting.

"(The national headquarters) give the maximum support to those races with the best chances of winning,"

said Bob Harris, Fetzter's communication director.

"Tom is the fourth leading campaign fundraiser in the nation," Harris said. "I'd say the support from the national party is a sign that we had an effective campaign to begin with, and this extra support can make the difference."

But North Carolina is targeted in every congressional campaign, and this extra support should come as no surprise to the state parties, Klinge said.

"We target North Carolina every two years," Klinge said. "In presidential years, the Republicans usually pick up seats. In 1984, we netted three House seats in North Carolina, but lost two of them again in 1986. This year we think we have a chance to pick up four."

Democrats say they can hang on to the seats they regained in 1986 and pick up the one they lost in 1984, despite the fact they are unable to offer as much money as Republicans.

"The election of '84 was a nightmare because we lost three seats," Connolly said. "In '86 we won back two of those seats, and this year we want to take the one that's rightfully ours."

The parties do disagree over whether to focus on the 6th or 8th district.

"I don't know why the Republicans are concentrating on the 8th District because (Democrat Bill) Hefner is not going to lose," Connolly said. "I'm surprised they won't come to the aid of Howard Coble in the 6th — he barely won his bid for re-election before."

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