

# Metro area to benefit from super collider

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

All of southeastern Michigan — not just the farm lands around Stockbridge — would benefit by winning the federal superconducting super collider, a Consumers Power Co. spokesman said.

"The benefits would be scientific, educational and economic," Rodger Druke, south Oakland district manager, told a local engineering audience Tuesday.

The \$4.4 billion laboratory would generate 10,000 construction jobs during the three-seven years it will take to build, Druke told the South Oakland County Municipal Engineers meeting.

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The U.S. Energy Department is scheduled to pick a site in 1989.

A CONGRESSIONAL authority strongly supports the laboratory plan.

U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, said, "There would be a great deal of research that would have spin-off benefits to the University of Michigan and Michigan State."

Companies such as Greenfield Construction of Livonia would have a good chance for federal contracts, said Pursell, the only Michiganian on the House Appropriations subcommittee, which will appropriate the money for the project.

The project will start in the House Energy and Commerce Committee headed by John Dingell, D-Trenton.

Druke told the engineers — representing local governments and private companies in Birmingham, Farmington Hills, Orchard Lake, Troy and Rochester Hills — that the super collider will provide 3,000 per-



Rodger Druke selling the SSC

manent jobs, largely to scientists and engineers, and pump an operating budget of \$270 million a year into the economy.

Those personnel will be available to hold adjunct professorships at three of the state's four top research universities — U-M, MSU and Wayne State.

The project will diversify Michigan's auto-oriented economy, he added.

For Consumers Power, it will mean a 3-percent increase in electricity sales (150-200 megawatts,

making the super collider the utility's biggest customer).

He asked the engineers to send support letters to: John Hameski, SSC Commission, Suite 200 Thornhill Building, 320 Washington, Lansing, MI 48913.

THE SUPER COLLIDER, if built, would be a tunnel 53 miles in circumference and 150 feet underground for basic research into the nature of matter.

"It can be thought of as a race course filled with magnets," Druke said. "The magnets are used to accelerate protons one way and antiprotons the other. They will travel in opposite directions at great speeds through a tunnel 12 feet in diameter and will collide."

He likened it to a microscope that studies the material secrets of the universe. "Physicists want to get to the heart of matter. They think smaller and smaller," he quipped.

"WHAT'S ON the surface that they (the state) have to take all the land (8,000 acres)?" one audience member asked.

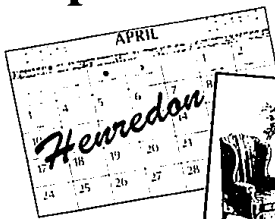
"Except for the campus facilities and mangoes," Druke said, "you could ride over it and not even know it's there." He said the state plans to lease back crop land to farmers once the super collider is built.

"What's the life of the project?" asked another.

Druke said it's estimated at 25-30 years, though it could last longer.

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