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5A DOWNSTATE TOWN AWARDED SUPER PRISON; [NORTH SPORTS FINAL Edition]

Chicago Tribune (pre-1997 Fulltext). Chicago, Ill.: Oct 19, 1993. pg. 2

Abstract (Summary)

Illinois' first supermaximum-security prison, designed to hold the 500 worst offenders in the corrections system under lockdown conditions, will be built near Tamms, in far southern Illinois, Gov. Jim Edgar announced Monday.

"We're excited and feel real great about it," Tamms Village Clerk Sharon Abercrombie said. The town is located about 20 miles northwest of Cairo.

Full Text (183 words)

Copyright Chicago Tribune Co. Oct 19, 1993

Illinois' first supermaximum-security prison, designed to hold the 500 worst offenders in the corrections system under lockdown conditions, will be built near Tamms, in far southern Illinois, Gov. Jim Edgar announced Monday.

The \$60 million prison, which will employ 300 and have a \$15 million operating budget, will be an economic mega-boon to the Alexander County town of 748. Construction could start as early as this summer.

"We're excited and feel real great about it," Tamms Village Clerk Sharon Abercrombie said. The town is located about 20 miles northwest of Cairo.

The 80-acre site, just north of Tamms, beat out Pittsfield, Carlinville, Vandalia and Murphysboro-all in central or southern Illinois-for the supermax prison. All of the towns had actively lobbied for the prison.

When it is built, Tamms will take the worst offenders in the 24-prison state Department of Corrections system.

Guards have applauded the decision by Edgar and the General Assembly for Illinois to join California, Indiana and a handful of other states that have built or are building supermax prisons. The federal government also operates a supermax prison in Marion, Ill.

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