



[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Newspapers

TAMMS, ILL., GETS NEW PRISON; [FIVE STAR Edition]

Matt Krasnowski Copley News Service. St. Louis Post - Dispatch (pre-1997 Fulltext). St. Louis, Mo.: Oct 19, 1993. pg. 03.B

Abstract (Summary)

The largest employer in the small, far Southern Illinois town of Tamms, population 750, is a cosmetics firm with 100 employees.

On Monday, Gov. Jim Edgar selected the mostly agricultural, economically depressed community near the Shawnee National Forest to be the home of the 500-inmate, \$60 million super-maximum security prison.

"The Tamms community offers the best combination of things for this prison," [Howard A.] Peters said. "The support in the Tamms community was universal."

Full Text (326 words)

Copyright Pulitzer Publishing Company Oct 19, 1993

The largest employer in the small, far Southern Illinois town of Tamms, population 750, is a cosmetics firm with 100 employees.

That will change over the next few years.

On Monday, Gov. Jim Edgar selected the mostly agricultural, economically depressed community near the Shawnee National Forest to be the home of the 500-inmate, \$60 million super-maximum security prison.

The prison will employ 300 people, have a payroll of \$11 million and an operating budget of \$15 million. The prison also will include a work camp for an additional 200 minimum-security inmates.

Corrections Director Howard A. Peters made the recommendation to Edgar Monday morning.

"The Tamms community offers the best combination of things for this prison," Peters said. "The support in the Tamms community was universal."

Tamms is in Alexander County, 17 miles north of Cairo, Ill., and 130 miles southeast of St. Louis.

The site was easily ready for construction and offers extremely cheap utilities that could save the state \$800,000 to \$1.4 million compared with other finalist sites, Peters said.

Also, in responding to early criticism of the prison from human rights advocates, Peters said, the site was selected because it is a racially mixed area. Alexander County has a minority population of 33 percent.

"Some of the things these prisons have been accused of is substantially housing minorities," Peters said. "If you're going to have a substantially minority population, then it makes some sense to be as diverse as you can, at the same time making sure that your focus is on qualified people."

Tamms was selected from five finalists, which included Carlinville, Pittsfield, Murphysboro and Vandalia. Those finalists were picked from 30 applicants.

The department will now start to design the prison and will examine the structures of high-security facilities in other states and those run by the federal government, Peters said. That will take three to six months to complete. After that, he anticipates the prison will take two years to build.

Indexing (document details)

Author(s): Matt Krasnowski Copley News Service

Section: NEWS

Publication title: St. Louis Post - Dispatch (pre-1997 Fulltext). St. Louis, Mo.: Oct 19, 1993. pg. 03.B
Source type: Newspaper
ProQuest document ID: 53261407
Text Word Count 326
Document URL: <http://proxy.uchicago.edu/login?url=http://proquest.umi.com.proxy.uchicago.edu/pqdweb?did=53261407&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=13392&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Copyright © 2008 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

