



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to FM's, MARCH 13, 1961

CONSTRUCTION ON PATUXENT LABORATORY TO START MARCH 15

Construction on the new laboratory building at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Maryland, is scheduled to begin March 15, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The new laboratory is designed to serve several important wildlife research needs of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, in the eastern portion of the United States. It will supplement present structures which are inadequate for the research program.

The new laboratory will insure adequate handling of the toxicological and residue evaluation phases and other parts of the wildlife-pesticide relationship program authorized by the Congress in 1959, bureau officials said. It will also provide proper experimental facilities for the wildlife pathology program which includes the study and control of migratory bird diseases.

The contract for the construction was awarded to Davis and Platt, Inc., of Washington, D. C., on January 30, 1961, but inclement weather interfered with the start of the work. The contractor has a maximum of 600 calendar days from March 15 in which to complete the job.

The new laboratory will be one-story with a face-brick exterior and ceramic-brick interior. It will be U-shaped with basements under the two wings. The front portion, which will provide office and library space, is 232 feet by 48 feet. The Pathology wing on the left is 149 feet by 48 feet; the Biochemistry wing on the right is to be 145 feet by 48 feet. Total floor space will be slightly more than 25,000 square feet with an additional 14,000 square feet in the basements.

The bid of Davis and Platt, Inc., was \$475,800--the lowest of 14 submitted. No laboratory equipment is included in the bid but facilities which are basic for research laboratories are provided.

Bureau engineers and architects are responsible for the design of the structure.

X X X