

The Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee today filed its application for conceptual approval of the Intervale ski-jump complex with the Adirondack Park Agency.

But it is not certain the agency will agree that the application is complete.

These two parties had reached an impasse over alternative site studies three weeks ago and broke off formal meetings. An Oct. 8 meeting was cancelled and no others have been held.

Environmental Council chairman J. Vernon Lamb said the LPOOC answered "the relevant questions" from an information request developed at the latest meeting held Sept. 22.

He said that no questions dealing with the "project level" of review were answered, and that no new information on alternative sites was submitted. He said the section of the application dealing with alternative sites was re-written to explain why no further sites were included.

The APA has 15 working days to decide whether the application is acceptable. It will then be at least three weeks before the public hearing is held.

IN A move to expedite the review procedure, APA chairman Robert Flacke has already selected an independent hearing officer—attorney Victor J. Yannacone Jr. of Patchogue, Long Island.

The chairman is considering an unusual duty for Mr. Yannacone—that he submit a report to the APA with his own recommendations after the hearings are concluded.

APA director Richard A. Persico said the attorney "is eminently

qualified" to conduct the hearing and cited Mr. Yannacone's involvement in a similar visual impact controversy.

A 307-foot observation tower was going to be built at the Gettysburg Battlefield, a national historic site. A movement organized to oppose the project consulted Mr. Yannacone and then, a little later, he was hired by the project's supporters. Mr. Persico said:

"We feel he has the expertise to conduct this type of hearing."

Mr. Yannacone has agreed to review and edit the transcripts at the end of each day of the hearing. This will avoid delay in completing the review process, Mr. Persico said.

THE HEARING will be held in Lake Placid, he said, though an official decision has not been made. Anyone may submit a written or oral statement on the issue.

The major environmental objection to the Intervale jump is its visual impact. The federal environmental impact statement, which considered the entire Olympic project, identified the jump's effect on John Brown's Farm as the only "significant" physical impact that will linger after the games.

In its application, the LPOOC submitted seven alternative sites. Mr. Lamb feels that a request for more is unfair. He said:

"It's an implication that there are better sites kicking around. But we want to build at Intervale because it's the best site.

"We hope the application will prove that Intervale is the best possible technical location for (the

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# Ski Tower on Trial

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jump's) after-use—so Lake Placid will have the best jump in the U.S. and perhaps in the world."

Mr. Persico said:

"WE'RE NOT asking them to search for alternatives as such, but to test the primary site by being able to say that all the alternatives have been considered."

regulations require an environmental impact analysis for a regional project. He said that under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this analysis is made to a great extent by probing alternatives.

Mr. Lamb summed up the points in favor of Intervale: Construction there "would cause no undue adverse impact on a hamlet area."

"could support operation of the facility at a break-even cost."

He estimated that it would cost about \$60,000 a year to maintain the jump, and that summer tourists paying to use the jump as an observation tower would bring in about an equal amount.

Sasaki Associates, Gilbane Building Company and environmental attorney Robert J. Kafin of Glens Falls helped the LPOOC prepare its