



# **The SETI League, Inc.**

**a nonprofit educational and scientific corporation**  
**Searching for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence**

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Kevin B. Marvel

Associate Executive Officer for Policy Programs  
American Astronomical Society  
2000 Florida Avenue NW, Suite 400  
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11 April 2002

Dear Dr. Marvel,

This letter constitutes the final report in connection with an AAS Small Research Grant in the amount of \$2000, dated 8 February 2002, to partially finance construction of a phased-array radio telescope dubbed the Very Small Array (VSA).

I regret that the planned facility is far from operational at the present time, due to a significant budget shortfall. The initial grant request in the amount of \$5000 contemplated a like sum in matching funds, which would have come close to funding the proposed \$12,000 facility. Unfortunately, the lesser funding generously granted by the AAS, though it allowed us to make a reasonable start on this project, resulted in a corresponding shortfall in matching funds. Thus, we are currently pursuing additional funding, from AAS and other sources, so that we might complete this prototype array.

Progress to date includes full site surveying, excavation, the installation of all eight required antenna masts, the installation thereon of the first of eight required polar mounts (with installation of the other seven proceeding even as this is being written), and the physical mounting of one of the eight required parabolic reflectors. (Mounting of the additional seven dishes is contemplated during May 2002.) Photos of the entire installation process are available for your review online, at <http://www.setileague.org/vsa>.

Labor and materials costs expended to date on the VSA have slightly exceeded the \$2000 grant amount, with additional costs being covered out of SETI League unrestricted operating funds. Even though the proposed facility is incomplete, a final report is being submitted at this time, to document how the funds generously provided by AAS were spent. Enclosed are receipts for expenditures totaling \$2331.02, and a spreadsheet summarizing costs to date.

Enclosed herewith, in addition to the above-referenced spreadsheet and receipts, are a press release announcing the subject grant, and the abstract of a paper on the VSA pending presentation at the World Space Congress in October 2002. Further articles are in development; all will credit the financial assistance received from the AAS through this Small Research Grant.

On behalf of The SETI League, Inc., I thank the American Astronomical Association for its generous support, without which construction of this important research facility might never have commenced.

Sincerely,

H. Paul Shuch, Ph.D.  
Executive Director