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NEW ARCTIC COMMUNITY

Tenders have been called by the Department of Public Works for the first phase of construction in the development of Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island, Northwest Territories, it was announced jointly on May 24 by Mr. Walter Dinsdale, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and Mr. David J. Walker, Minister of Public Works. Work is expected to start in August, shortly after the arrival of the first ships bringing in materials, and is scheduled for completion by December 1963. The target date for completion of the entire project is December 1965.

PREPARATORY STAGE

The first phase of construction, involving expenditures of some \$3 million, includes site preparation, construction of road, sewer and water systems, the construction of a water-treatment plant, warehousing and a hospital. A power plant, to be built by the Northern Canada Power Commission, is also scheduled to start this summer.

Site preparation will be the initial step in the development and will include blasting the top off a promontory known as Astro Hill near the present settlement, levelling a site approximately 1,000 feet by 500 feet to provide rock foundations for the new town, and undertaking rough excavation work in preparation for Phase Two.

Gravel-surfaced roads will be built within the townsite, as well as roads to the hospital, water treatment and power plants.

UTILITIES

Sewer and water mains will be installed in utilidor - all-metal, insulated enclosures constructed above ground level and heated. In addition to carrying the fresh-water and sewage pipes, the utilidor will contain heating pipes to carry high-temperature hot water from the power plant to the town. Within the town proper, all piping will be carried underground in concrete tunnels running beneath the buildings. The power lines will be carried overhead until they reach the hospital building, just outside the townsite, and then either in or on the utilidor, thus eliminating overhead wiring as much as possible.

A water main will be laid from Lake Geraldine, the reservoir, to the treatment plant, where water will be purified before entering the utilidor lines for distribution to the town.

The warehouse building will be of insulated masonry construction, containing about 10,000 square feet of space to be used by the contractors as a precasting and assemblage point during the actual construction period, after which it will be used for government storage space.

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