

Salina Wants Shuttle on Bomb Range

Special to The Eagle

SALINA, Kan. — A proposal to locate the planned space shuttle station at the Smoky Hill bomb range southwest of Salina has been sent to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by the Salina Chamber of Commerce.

The plan would displace more than 1,800 persons in the towns of Brookville, Bavaria, Smolan, Falun and Carneiro. They would have to be evacuated to make room for the base's 350,000-acre noise buffer zone.

The facility would require an area 24 miles in diameter.

The chamber's proposal calls for the 32,000-acre bomb range, already owned by the government, to be the primary location of the shuttle base. Nearby farmland would be added to meet the 58,000-acre requirement for the base itself.

The buffer zone outer limits would come to the southwest edge of Salina Municipal Airport, along the west side of I-35W to north of Lindsborg, into Ellsworth County to encompass half of Kanopolis Lake and swing north to Carneiro and Brookville to the south edge of Hedville.

The chamber has enlisted the support of Sens. Bob Dole and James B. Pearson and Rep. Keith Sebelius, all Kansas Republicans.

Ed Pogue, chamber president, and Bob Whitworth, executive secretary, admit the chances of obtaining the base are "slight."

"What we have proposed would involve relocation of several families. But we felt that in order to get something, you would have to give something," said Whitworth.