

Morrison-Knudsen representatives were in town Wednesday mobilizing their forces to start work on the \$137,858,850 ABM construction job in northeastern North Dakota.

The Army announced award of the bid Tuesday in Washington and said construction by the Boise, ID, firm is to begin soon.

Tom Marshall, general business manager for Morrison-Knudsen, said about 40 persons are in Grand Forks as the company makes its plans awaiting formal "Notice to Proceed" from the federal government.

Marshall said hiring of personnel has started locally in Grand Forks and by the time the office is fully staffed there will be about 200 persons located here. These persons now being hired include office and administrative personnel such as clerks, stenographers, secretaries, draftsmen, engineers. Hiring of hourly-wage personnel - truck drivers, for example, has not started yet.

Marshall said the local headquarters would probably be maintained for 60 to 90 days. It is making plans to move into the vacated St. James High School building to establish its temporary headquarters. The firm has plans to build office headquarters on site and will move there when that is completed, he said.

The Safeguard antiballistic missile project will include a perimeter acquisition radar building, a missile site radar building, a power plant and launching facilities for Spartan and Sprint missiles. This phase has been labelled as the technical facilities phase of the construction program.

Bill Gilfillan was in Grand Forks Wednesday. He has been named project manager for the Morrison-Knudsen combine. Other firms associated with Morrison-Knudsen for North Dakota are Peter Kiewit Sons, Inc., Omaha, NE; Fischbach and Moore, Inc., Denver, CO, and C.H. Leavell and Co., El Paso, TX.

The ABM sites to be put under construction are located in the area of Langdon, Cavalier, and Nekoma, ND.

The Army also announced Tuesday the award of a \$3,845,000 contract to Zurn Engineers, Upland, CA, for construction of a water supply system for the Safeguard sites.

The Nixon administration has asked Congress to permit it to move into the second phase of Safeguard. This would include construction of a third antimissile base near Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.