

# Navy depot move may need Congressional OK

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WASHINGTON — The proposal to move the Navy Resale Office from Brooklyn to Staten Island still is bogged down in red tape and eventually may have to pass muster with two congressional panels, according to federal officials.

General Services Administration (GSA) officials said yesterday that reg-

ulations require them to get approval from Congress before implementing projects with price tags exceeding \$500,000. The approvals must come from both the House and Senate public works committees.

The officials said that in the case of the resale office relocation project, the need for congressional clearance would depend on whether the state proposes a rent of more than \$500,000 a year to house the Navy facility in the Staten Island Development Center, Willowbrook.

Asked if GSA expects the lease to be that much, the agency official handling the matter said he couldn't reveal the contents of the state bid, but added: "This is going to be a big procurement project."

He did confirm, however, that the congressional approval could extend the review process for the relocation plan another six months or even a year.

The GSA officials also said the deadline for submitting bids for the resale office is Friday. The state is considered

the prime competitor for the facility because the Navy has announced its preference for Willowbrook.

GSA officials are known to be leery of the site because of the cost of bringing the state facility up to federal standards — estimated at about \$10 million. The buildings under consideration are the center's administration building and hospital.

State Sen. John J. Marchi, meanwhile, said he has worked out an arrangement with the state Department of Commerce under which the Navy would provide the front money for the rehabilitation project and then be reimbursed by the state on an amortized basis.

The Willowbrook proposal also has the strong backing of Congressman John M. Murphy, who torpedoed the Navy's original proposal to move the Navy office to Fort Wadsworth.

The resale facility, now located in a condemned building in downtown Brooklyn, is regarded as a plum because it is a white-collar operation employing almost 800, many of them Islanders. The office manages the Navy's billion-dollar-a-year Post Exchange (PX) system.

The development center, once the largest facility for the mentally retarded in the country, is being phased out under a federal court order. It is supposed to be reduced to a 250-bed community mental-health facility by 1982.

Navy officials selected Willowbrook as the new home for the resale operation last summer. Since then, GSA officials have put the proposal through a seemingly endless array of bureaucratic procedures, including appraisals and market surveys, and have yet to endorse the site.