



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 6, 2008

**CONTACT: Gary Mack or Nate Brown**  
630-357-7552

## **NORTHERN ILLINOIS PROTON CENTER APPROVES** **CONTRACT WITH PEPPER CONSTRUCTION**

*Construction company already mobilizing on future site of cancer treatment center*

DEKALB, IL- Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center (NIPTRC) announced today that it has approved an agreement with Pepper Construction to undertake the mass grading, erosion control and site utility work for its cancer treatment center. Construction crews began the surveying process this week and temporary control fencing is set for installation.

“Pepper Construction has begun the important task of preparing the site in the DuPage National Technology Park for our state-of-the-art proton cancer treatment and research center,” said John Lewis, executive director of NIPTRC. “We have envisioned and planned for many years, and now visible signs of progress are now apparent. Pepper will be coordinating with CenterPoint and VOA to bring proton therapy to the people of Illinois.”

Surveying crews from Pepper Construction will complete their work shortly on the 15 acres in the DuPage National Technology Park in West Chicago and mass grading will then commence. Commonwealth Edison is also in the process of installing temporary power poles at the site. The building to be constructed will be approximately 115,000 square feet, of which an approximate 56,722 square foot portion will house a cyclotron vault, beam line, treatment rooms, a research room, a control room, and other related areas. An approximate 62,936 square foot portion will be used for medical offices and other portions of the NIPTRC.

“This is a project of immense proportions, and we are glad to have Pepper on our side and working hard to construct NIPTRC,” said John Lewis. “Their history of success with the local healthcare industry sets them apart and marks them as a leader in building high-tech medical centers.”

NIPTRC along with the Northern Illinois Research Foundation and Northern Illinois University have been working for years to bring a world-class cancer treatment and research center to Chicago’s western suburbs that will provide state-of-the-art proton therapy to patients across the Midwest. Earlier in the year, the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board approved the project.

Proton therapy is a non-invasive and precise radiotherapy treatment, and is particularly useful for treating certain pediatric and adult cancers. Unlike conventional X-ray radiation therapy, proton radiation does not do significant damage to the healthy cells around a cancerous growth. Proton therapy is currently unavailable in Illinois, and only five proton therapy centers are currently operating nationwide.

###