Mobile, Ala. (AP) — Gov. William Waller of Mississippi told a regional hearing conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers here Tuesday that the Mississippi coast would be the most logical place for a proposed superport.

Waller said the key factor in locating a superport on the Gulf coast “will be to provide a transshipment point which can conveniently and economically serve the largest market.”

He said a location on Mississippi’s coast would meet basic requirements because it would be between the Mississippi River system and the proposed Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway flowing into the Port of Mobile, would connect with the Intracoastal Waterway and have extensive railroad and pipeline links with Mid-America.

Waller was supported in his arguments by three plane loads of state officials and legislators from Mississippi.

But Mississippi wasn’t the only state bidding for the superport.

Alabama speakers said the Mobile area is a strategic place and would make an ideal location.

And another plea, came from Glover Wilkins, the administrator of the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development.

Wilkins said the best spot would be somewhere between Pensacola, Fla., and the navigable passes at the mouth of the Mississippi River south of New Orleans.

John Sherman, chairman of the Panama City, Fla., Port Authority, said he felt his area was in “for some rough competition.” But he said Panama City wanted to put in its bid for the superport anyway.

The hearing was the first of four to be held by the Corps’ Lower Mississippi Valley Division Office in Vicksburg, Miss., on the needs for the deepwater facilities in the Gulf area.

Other public meetings will be held in Tampa, Fla., April 11; New Orleans, La., April 19; and Galveston, Tex., April 24.

Maj. Gen. Charles C. Nable, Lower Mississippi Valley Division engineer, said the Corps expects to have an interim report ready by June 1974.

“Our existing ports do not have the depth to accommodate these ships nor the equipment to expeditiously handle the large amounts of fuel and ore that these ships can carry,” he said.