

Alaska State Legislature

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*Special Committee on Arctic, Economic Development
and Tourism, Chair
Resources Committee, Vice Chair
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Special Committee on Energy*

Representative Dean Westlake

TO: Representative Harriet Drummond, House Education Committee Chair
FROM: Representative Dean Westlake *DW*
DATE: March 14, 2017
SUBJECT: Answers to committee questions from hearing on March 10, 2017

Chairwoman Drummond,

Below are the answers to two questions that were unanswered during the March 10th hearing.

Question 1: "Do you know what the current outstanding balance is for that 5%?"

A: Tim Mearig, manager of the school Facilities group in the DEED, used 5% in previous communication as a term of art to illustrate "a very small percentage" of projects that this amendment could potentially apply to. After further discussion, it is clear less than 5% of grant recipients have experienced difficulties meeting their participating share timeline.

As for the current outstanding balance for the active projects that would be encapsulated in this category, there are two school projects: Kachemak Selo in the Kenai Peninsula Borough (appropriated in 2016 for \$10,867,503) and Kivalina in the Northwest Arctic Borough (appropriated in 2015 for \$43,237,400), which totals \$54,104,903.

Question 2: "Is school construction able to begin without the local share being in hand, or does the department require that the district have the local share fully within their control before construction can begin on a school?"

A: Yes, work on projects can occur without a grant recipient having met their participating share requirement. Typically this work is planning, site investigation, and design but it could, under some circumstances, include construction.

For further questions, please contact myself or my staff Elizabeth Rexford at 465-3473.