

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE RULES STANDING COMMITTEE

September 8, 2008

1:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Gary Stevens, Chair
Senator Lyda Green, Vice Chair
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator John Cowdery
Senator Gene Therriault

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Chamber contract approval

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record

WITNESS REGISTER

KARLA SCHOFIELD, Deputy Director
Legislative Administrative Services
Legislative Affairs Agency
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Explained abatement project.

DON JOHNSTON, Building Manager
Legislative Administrative Services
Legislative Affairs Agency
Juneau, AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Explained abatement project in more detail.

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR GARY STEVENS called the Senate Rules Standing Committee meeting to order at [1:31:53 PM](#). Present at the call to order were Senators Therriault, Cowdery, Ellis, Green and Stevens.

Chamber contract approval

CHAIR STEVENS explained that as the wiring project in the chambers was being completed, the workers came upon some asbestos, which ground their project to a halt. He asked Karla Schofield, to explain the situation further.

1:32:04 PM

KARLA SCHOFIELD, Deputy Director, Legislative Administrative Services, Legislative Affairs Agency, reported that the agency has several projects happening on the second floor and both chambers this interim. While demolition was happening in the chambers, workers came upon a small amount of asbestos, which happens sometimes in old buildings. It requires a specialized abatement contractor and that project needs to be done before the lighting, fire alarm sprinkler system and wiring can continue.

MS. SCHOFIELD explained that the agency used the practical competition procurement, which is in the Legislative Procurement Code, and found two companies in Southeast that could do this work. They got two bids and the lower was Absolute Environmental Services, so she was seeking approval for their services.

CHAIR STEVENS asked if this was totally unexpected.

DON JOHNSTON, Building Manager, Legislative Administrative Services, Legislative Affairs Agency, said it was totally unexpected.

CHAIR STEVENS asked if there were questions.

SENATOR THERRIAULT asked about the scope of the work and if it was discovered in putting the sprinklers in the ceiling.

MR. JOHNSTON replied yes; the duct work has asbestos tape in both chambers. There is approximately 60-70 lineal feet of pipe insulation in the Senate Chambers and abatement is holding up a lighting, sprinkler, fire alarm project and rewiring project there.

1:34:43 PM

SENATOR THERRIAULT asked about the expected cost of the abatement work.

MR. JOHNSTON replied the low bid from Absolute Environmental in Anchorage is for \$38,500.

CHAIR STEVENS asked if this is a LAA project, why are they are meeting as the Rules Committee instead of the Legislative Council.

[1:35:30 PM](#)

MS. SCHOFIELD explained that actually the lighting project, because it is in the chambers, is more of a Rules Committee issue; the other projects are actually through the Legislative Council. It is also easier to have a Rules Committee meeting right now, because they need to act immediately.

CHAIR STEVENS asked if funding was an issue.

MS. SCHOFIELD answered no; the funding will come out of the session expenses component. It has sufficient funds to do that.

SENATOR COWDERY moved to approve awarding a contract to Absolutely Environmental Services, Inc. to perform asbestos abatement in both chambers in the amount not to exceed \$38,500.

[1:36:47 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Senators Green, Therriault, Ellis, Cowdery and Stevens voted yea; there were no nays; and the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Stevens adjourned the meeting at [1:37:32 PM](#).