

Pat Quinn
Governor

Arthur D. Bishop
Director

James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 4-200, Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: (312) 814-3017 / TDD: (800) 526-0844

April 2, 2012

The Honorable Jeffrey Schoenberg, Co-Chair
The Honorable Patricia Bellock, Co-Chair
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Re: Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice
Illinois Youth Center at St. Charles Construction

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Bellock:

I have received your letter on behalf of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability ("CGFA"), addressing repair and maintenance and improvement projects by the Department of Juvenile Justice ("Department") at our Illinois Youth Center at St. Charles. Specifically, you have indicated that some of the work to take place at IYC-St. Charles suggests a violation of the Facilities Closure Act ("Act") as to the Department's proposed closure of the Illinois Youth Center at Joliet. You have particularly referenced the work to upgrade two cottages (Williams and Pierce) to rate them for "maximum security" – which provides overall benefit to St. Charles and the IYC system, but also may be used to house a population of youth currently at IYC-Joliet, if that facility closes, as proposed.

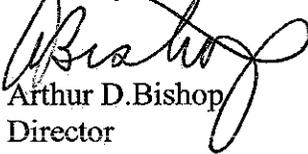
While the Department did not believe the work at IYC-St. Charles constituted implementation of closure at IYC-Joliet, out of deference to CGFA's concerns, we are postponing the construction work tied to the security upgrade of these two cottages until at least May 5, 2012, the earliest date upon which the Department may act to implement closure under the Act, based upon the March 16, 2012 submission of the Department's formal recommendation for closure of IYC-Joliet. The Department would go forward, on a non-emergency basis, with long-planned roof repair and maintenance and asbestos abatement, not tied to the security-level upgrade, at a larger number of cottages. This is general, long-planned work that is necessary for general health and safety at the facility.

We would bid the following work to occur prior to May 5: Replacement of six housing unit roofs and asbestos abatement in six housing units.

We would hold the following work on Williams and Pierce cottages and not initiate any construction until after the May 5 date: Upgrades to all exterior doors and installation of "heavy construction" locks; upgrade existing day room windows to "heavy construction"; installation of heavy slating on ceilings; and creation of a secure recreation yard for the two cottages. In addition, as a matter of construction timing, the following general health and safety work would most likely not take place until after May 5th: installation of new pipe chases and toilet/sink combination units, replacement of existing sinks and toilets in six cottages, installation of windows in four cottages, shower upgrades in four cottages, and upgrades to address fire safety code issues in six cottages, including fire detection, fire protection on ceilings, control panel upgrades, and carbon monoxide detector installations.

I hope this will address the Commission's concerns with the project with respect to the State Facilities Closure Act. Please contact me if you have questions or if the Department can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Arthur D. Bishop
Director