

On April 13, 2013, Board Member Chuck Shaw, asked the following question regarding Board Meeting 4/17/13 Agenda Item: P-2 Waive the Competitive Bid Process to Purchase from a Single Source for Siemens Fire Alarm System Replacement Parts and Service. A response is provided below.

Question: Briefly describe overall conditions of the system and explain what we would do when a system fails.

Response: The condition of Fire Alarm devices varies in facilities based on their installation date. When one fails, our in-house crew is often able to restore the system to service; when they cannot, we contact the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).

Question: Is this system sustainable for a long time?

Response: Fire Alarm System life spans are generally sustained by the OEM for 15 years. Fire Alarm Systems are mostly proprietary, requiring that we use the OEM to maintain parts of their systems. The sole source is related to Siemens parts and services (like programming), and adding additional fire alarm devices, that only the OEM can supply. We have several other OEMs with Fire Alarm systems in our facilities.

Question: What is long term reliability and when or if we might have to look at a different vendor?

Response: When a Fire Alarm wears out and needs to be replaced, we open up competition to all vendors.

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