



April 22, 2015

Mr. Christopher D. Coughlin, RA
Principal
Hallgren, Restifo, Loop & Coughlin Architects
4380 West 12th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16505

Re: Erie County Technical School
Chimney Modification Project
Bid Award Recommendation

Dear Mr. Coughlin:

Pursuant to the contract documents, sealed bids for the above mentioned project were received Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., then publicly opened and read aloud.

The bid prices received, from the two lowest HVAC bidders, were less than 6% apart. The overall difference in the HVAC bid prices received, from high bidder to low bidder, was less than 16%. Based upon this, and review of breakout cost data received from the two lowest bidders, we conclude the actual cost of the work has been represented in the bid results.

The low HVAC bid price is far greater than the initial cost projection, made prior to design, during the project conceptual phase. We attribute this cost difference to the following:

1. Chimney ventilation system features added to increase reliability:
 - a. Redundant variable speed drive.
 - b. Redundant chimney fan.
 - c. Automatic dampers to allow for continued boiler system operation under fan failure conditions.
2. Increased breeching system materials & labor. The conceptual cost was based upon penetration of the roof, and location of the fans, directly adjacent to the existing chimney. As the design was developed, the equipment location changed, and the amount of breeching required increased, due to:
 - a. Constructability issues associated with placement of the roof penetration/equipment in close proximity to the roof edge.
 - b. Development of the final breeching configuration to achieve stable fan system operation in response to system pressure.
3. The conceptual HVAC estimate did not account for roofing or structural framing.
4. The conceptual costs were prepared based upon Means Cost Estimating Data which will vary with actual costs.

Tower Engineering recommends that the contract be awarded to the apparent low bidder, Scobell Company. We respectfully present this recommendation for your review and consideration.

We will be pleased to answer any questions concerning this recommendation.

Very truly yours,

TOWER ENGINEERING

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David J. Kuretech". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "K".

David J. Kuretech, P.E