

Asbestos

(From Page 1)

asbestos removal won't be known until the contract is awarded.

The difficulties of fulfilling legal requirements for asbestos approval had made the work expensive in the past. Not only must special precautions be taken during the removal phase, but the air must be monitored during the process and the waste product disposed of in a proper hazardous-materials dump, he said.

There is hope, however, that the actual cost may come in below the estimate, he said. "There are more licensed asbestos removal firms than there used to be," he said. "Asbestos removal is the one field of construction where there's still a wide spread between the high and low bids. We can only hope the \$18 million figure is the high bid."

Louis Cenci, Staten Island's representative on the CUNY Board of Trustees, said he had questioned the \$18.1 million price tag and that it had been explained satisfactorily by CUNY employees supervising the project.

He also said that even with the high cost of removing the asbestos, moving to the Willowbrook site was still the most cost-efficient means of consolidating the college into one campus.

Cenci said he had been assured that the asbestos removal was the only major problem with the buildings at Willowbrook. "We've taken a look at the buildings and most of them are sound," he said.

In a December interview, CSI president Volpe said 10 buildings on the site were usable. Those that aren't will be demolished and two new buildings constructed.

Page 2 of 2 Pages