

Video Transcript: “A Message from the Inspector General: Report on the BOP’s Contract Awarded to Sealaska Constructors, LLC to Build Facilities at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut,” September 2018

Hello, I’m Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today our office released a report examining the Bureau of Prisons’, or BOP’s, 28 million dollar contract with Sealaska Constructors to build facilities at a Federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut. We found that Sealaska constructed the prison facilities in accordance with BOP’s specifications. However, we identified several areas of concern with BOP’s management of the contract.

The BOP didn’t adequately plan for the construction project prior to awarding the contract. They didn’t consult with subject matter experts on the needs of the prison, such as programming, food services, and health services, until after the contract was awarded, which extended the project’s duration. Additionally, the BOP didn’t anticipate significant problems with its plan, which caused the BOP to pay over 1.7 million dollars to construct a building that was ultimately unnecessary.

We also identified issues with BOP’s acquisition plan, which didn’t include a plan to address specific areas of concern identified by the Warden, including:

- a lack of indoor and outdoor recreation;
- a lack of medical space for inmates;
- inadequate office, classroom, and leisure space; and
- a lack of food service space.

We made several other findings and recommendations, all of which are detailed in today’s report. Overall, we found that there was significant lack of coordination between different BOP components involved in the project. And BOP’s top-down effort didn’t adequately involve the different BOP stakeholders, which caused unnecessary building costs and delays.

To read the report, please visit our website, oig.justice.gov, or go to Oversight.gov. Thank you for joining us.