

Supplementary Appropriation #1

Additional Information - FibreOptics

Q1: What equipment was purchased for the system?

- Following award of the contract for provision of fibre services, PWS tendered separately for the supply of switches (routers) and cabinets
- The cabinets valued at \$40,373 were awarded to Decision One of Burnaby BC
 - See attached purchase order
- The switches valued at \$337,512 were awarded to Northwestel
 - See attached purchase order

Q2: Is the system in place?

- Installation is currently underway. The first sections were cut over on November 14, 2000. Remaining sections are scheduled to be completed over the next three weeks.

Q3: Is the contract exclusive?

- The contract with NWTel for provision of fibreoptics is for connection of specified buildings and does not give exclusive rights to supply fibre for any future requirements.
- It is unlikely that a business case could be made for use of an alternative fibre optic service provider. Additional costs would be incurred to connect the service provider to the government datacenter. Additional complexity would be added to the management of the government network through use of an additional service provider. Additional contracting costs would be incurred.
- An alternative supplier would be required to supply the service in accordance with the government's preference for fibre only.