Construction on the new dormitory has fallen behind schedule because of construction strikes this summer.

Delays threaten housing, ChemEng

By Mike McNamee

MIT officials are currently assessing the effects of work delays on two buildings under construction on the MIT campus — delays which could have damaging effects on the Institute housing and academic programs.

Strikes this summer by members of the Cement Finishers and Ironworkers unions against Boston-area contractors have resulted in setting back the completion dates for a new dormitory being built on West Campus and the new Chemical Engineering Building, near East Campus.

Although it is unlikely that the strikes will result in increased costs for the Institute, "completion of the building definitely will be delayed," said Paul E. Barrett, Superintendant of Engineering and Construction in the Physical Plant Department.

"We're now working with the contractors to assess the amount of delay, and should soon have an estimate," said Barrett.

The contractors, Turner Construction Company of Boston and Vaggi and Company of Cambridge, will probably have to absorb the costs of the delay, since MIT has fixed-price contracts with them, Barrett said.

But the cost to the Institute might be greater than the monetary cost, since the new dorm has been included in plans for housing students in 1975-76.

The Chemical Engineering building is scheduled for completion next summer, delays in completion could mean that the building will not be ready for use next fall.

Barrett said that there was still concern over possible shortages of plumbing fittings and other materials necessary for interior work.

"We've received requests from the contractors to substitute some of the fittings we asked for, but there have been no major problems yet," Barrett said. He added, however, that the possibility had not been ruled out.

Energy shortages this winter might also cause delays in the construction, Barrett said.

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