

AGENDA



Thursday, June 21, 2007

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 79**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a contract with GENERAL SUPPLY AND SERVICES, Austin, TX, for the purchase of polyphase meters with two way radio modules in an amount not to exceed \$2,120,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Dolores Castillo, Senior Buyer, 322-6466

Purchasing Language: Sole Source.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in accordance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

This contract will provide Austin Energy with 10,000 polyphase meters furnished with two-way radio communication. Austin Energy is converting the current one-way network to the Utilinet two-ray radio technology which is manufactured by Cellnet. One way radio only provides the meter reading. Two way radio will provide customer information and advanced meter applications such as time of usage, load profile, and other applications which are vital to the commercial and industrial customer.

These "smart" meters or automated meter reading (AMR) meters can beam meter reads every 15 minutes to the City's utility billing system by radio wave. This eliminates the need for the meter to be read manually by a meter reader. AMR meters have a battery-type device that sends a signal when they are not receiving power. The electric meter is the device that measures the customer's electric usage. In 2003, Austin Energy replaced the standard electric meter with AMR meters at approximately 127,000 apartment units. This initial conversion eliminated some 140,000 vehicle trips annually for monthly meter reads, or to collect ending or starting meters reads each time a tenant moves into or out of an apartment. The first conversion is planned for the Oak Hill Cellmaster location. A separate contract will be issued for the installation of these meters.

General Supply & Services is currently the only authorized supplier being furnished the two-way radio technology from Cellnet, the manufacturer.