

AGENDA



Thursday, February 28, 2008

Public Works**Item No. 36****RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with WESTON SOLUTIONS, INC., Austin, TX for planning and preliminary engineering services for the Holly Street Power Plant Decommissioning Project in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Austin Energy Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Rose San Miguel 322-6260, Rosie Truelove 974-3064, Robin Field 974-7064

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of six statements received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals. 16.5% MBE and 14.2% WBE subcontractor participation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission.

The Holly Street Power Plant's four generating units were completed between 1960 and 1974. The generating units are gas fired units with fuel oil back-up capabilities. Holly units 1 and 2 ceased operations in October 2004 and Holly units 3 and 4 will cease operations on September 30, 2007. In response to the Holly neighborhood's concerns regarding the plant's impact on the neighborhood and the environment, City Council issued resolutions mandating the closure and decommissioning of the Holly Street Power Plant. Austin Energy is initiating activities to decommission the plant and all plant-related structures and to prepare the site for its future use.

Decommissioning of the Holly Street Power Plant will be executed in three phases. Phase 1, the planning/preliminary engineering phase will include site evaluation, plan development, a project implementation plan, cost estimates, and other items. Phase 2 comprises the Decommissioning and Demolition Design, and Bidding Phase. Phase 3 comprises the Decommissioning and Demolition Phase. Requests for Council action authorizing Phases 2 and 3 will be brought forward in the future.

This authorization provides for funding of services related to planning and preliminary engineering services only. The plan development, implementation plan and cost estimates resulting from the planning/preliminary engineering phase will determine the amount of additional funding needed for design and construction phase services.

This request allows for the development of a professional service agreement with the recommended firm. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the recommended firm, negotiations will cease with that firm. Staff will then return to Council and request authorization to begin negotiations with the alternate recommendation listed below.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the subject services was sent to 322 firms on September 25, 2007. The RFQ was obtained by 27 firms, and six firms submitted qualification statements. None of the firms were certified M/WBE firms. Of the six firms evaluated, three firms were short-listed and interviewed. Interviewing of the short-listed firms resulted in the following recommendation:

Participation subgoals stated in the solicitation were 1.7% African American (MB); 9.5% Hispanic (MH); 5.3% Native American (MN) / Asian Americans (MA); 14.2% WBE. The recommended and alternate firms provided an M/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and were approved by the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources.