

AGENDA



Thursday, November 6, 2008

**Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 7**

Subject: Approve the negotiation and execution of a 12-month membership agreement with the ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EPRI), Palo Alto, CA, for research programs related to electric transportation, generation planning, energy storage and future generation technologies in an amount not to exceed \$570,000, with two 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 per extension option, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$970,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$570,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated financial impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Larry Alford, Strategic Planning and Enterprise Development, 322-6228.

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

Through this membership agreement with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Austin Energy will join with other utilities in providing funding to EPRI for research that will benefit decision-making about future markets and power generation. For example, EPRI Programs in which Austin Energy will participate in 2008-09 include:

1. Electric Transportation – This program includes advanced electric-drive research and prototype development for plug-in hybrid vehicles, including infrastructure advancement. Research findings will be incorporated into the Austin Energy-led Plug-in Partners national campaign.
2. TAGWeb Database & Software – Provides current cost and performance data and technology trends for fossil technologies, nuclear technologies, renewable energy, small-scale generation and storage technologies. This program will be used in making decisions about future generation requirements.
3. Mobile Energy Storage System – Provides for a field demonstration of a utility scale mobile energy storage system to store 2.8 MWh of electric energy and dispatch this energy at a rate of 500kW for 4-5 hours.
4. Advanced Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES) – Provides for the demonstration of an above-ground and below-ground bulk energy storage CAES plant for storing off-peak wind renewable energy and for electric grid ancillary services.

Austin Energy has been a member of EPRI for several years. EPRI was established in 1973 as an independent, nonprofit center for public interest energy and environmental research. EPRI brings together member organizations, the Institute's scientists and engineers, and other leading experts to work collaboratively on solutions to the challenges of electric power. These solutions span nearly every area of power generation, delivery, and use, including health, safety, and environment. EPRI's members represent over 90 percent of the electricity generation in the United States.