Thursday, April 2, 2009

Austin Energy RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 3

Subject: Approve issuance of a rebate to The University of Texas PRC (J.J. Pickle Research Center) for the installation of energy efficient lighting, in an amount not to exceed \$68,805.24.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of Austin Energy Conservation Rebates and Incentives Fund.

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

For More Information: Fred Yebra, P.E., Director, Energy Efficiency Services, at 482-5305 or Steve Saenz, Unit Manager, at 482-5325.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Resource Management Commission.

Austin Energy requests authorization to issue a rebate to The University of Texas PRC in the amount of \$68,805.24 for the installation of High Efficiency T-8 Fluorescent lighting, High Output T-8 Fluorescent lighting, and Compact Fluorescent lighting in Buildings 24, 120, 130, 132, 137, and 160 of the J.J. Pickle Research Center, in accordance with the City of Austin's Commercial Rebate Program guidelines.

This program is one element of Austin Energy's comprehensive Energy Resource Plan, approved in December 2003 by City Council, designed to reduce local air pollution through energy conservation, to reduce peak demand, and to assist customers in reducing electric consumption. Within currently approved budget funding levels for commercial conservation rebates, this effort will provide Austin Energy with a constructive market transformation opportunity while adding a value-added service to encourage customer retention.

The University of Texas PRC is located at 10100 Burnet Road in Austin, Texas. The demand (kW) savings associated with the high efficiency lighting installed in this project is estimated at 236.41 kW, at a program cost of \$250 per kilowatt saved. The avoided kWh, estimated at 785,704 kWh per year, represents a major benefit to the local environment. The University of Texas PRC project will save the following air pollutants from being emitted: 508.3 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO2), 0.32 tons of Sulfur Dioxide (SO2), 0.35 tons of Nitrogen Oxides (NOX), 24.44 pounds of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), 87.1 pounds of Total Suspended Particulates (TSP), and 0.25 tons of Carbon Monoxide (CO). The project will also save the following toxic metals from being emitted: 0.2187 ounces of Mercury (Hg), 0.00995 ounces of Cadmium (Cd), and 0.3236 ounces of Lead (Pb). In addition to the reduced air and toxic metals pollution, the project savings are also equivalent to an estimated 892,244 vehicle miles traveled, the removal of 111.4 cars from our roadways, the planting of 17,424 trees or 871.2 acres of forest in Austin's parks.

The City will not exceed the rebate offer of \$68,805.24 should the final installed measures be eligible for a higher rebate at the time of the final inspection due to changes in quantity or efficiency of equipment.