Thursday, February 10, 2011

Purchasing Office RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 21

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a contract with POWER SUPPLY, INC., Austin, TX for the purchase of transient voltage recovery capacitors for Austin Energy facilities in an amount not to exceed \$74,120. Power Supply, Inc. is the sole source provider for these products.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$47,800 is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding in the amount of \$26,320 is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Gage Loots, Buyer II/512-322-6118

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance 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.

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

This contract is for the purchase of three sets of transient voltage recovery (TRV) capacitors for use by Austin Energy's (AE) Electric Service Delivery group. AE currently has over 180 ABB brand 145 PM type circuit breakers. These circuit breakers require TRV capacitors in order to meet the AE short circuit interruption specifications for circuit breakers. Circuit breakers are used by AE to interrupt power in case of a fault on the system or to isolate equipment in case of maintenance. The breakers are the first line of defense in case of system disturbance and are sized according to the fault interrupt rating of a given location. Without these TRV capacitors, the breakers cannot meet the interrupt rating required to ensure safe operation.

ABB, Inc. is the only company who manufactures TRV capacitors that are compatible with AE's ABB 145 PM type circuit breakers. Power Supply, Inc. is the only authorized distributor of ABB distribution and transmission equipment and parts for Austin, TX.