



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

CC: Marc A. Ott, City Manager

FROM: Mark Dombroski, Interim General Manager

DATE: January 25, 2016

SUBJECT: Procurement of emergency repair services for transmission towers

ACTION

As detailed below, and in accordance with City Council-approved purchasing procedures, I am designating as an Emergency Purchase, the expedited purchase of repair services for two transmission towers to maintain public safety and electrical reliability for customers.

BACKGROUND

The contract is for the purchase of emergency repair services of two electrical transmission towers. One tower is on 345kV Transmission Circuit 3131 connecting the Fayette Power and Lost Pines Power Plants. The other tower is on 138kV Transmission Circuit 920 connecting the Austrop and Dunlap Substations. Both circuits provide major transmission paths from the east to provide reliable transmission service.

During routine inspections, two towers were identified to have lattice tower legs with severe corrosion at the ground line. Corrosion in these steel members can reduce the compressive, tensile and ductility properties. If repairs are not made, and given the right weather conditions (e.g., freezing rain), the towers could fail, posing a serious safety risk to personnel and the public. Additionally, if these structures fail it will cause a significant system event including localized or cascading power outages impacting both Austin Energy and the ERCOT grid.

Therefore, Austin Energy immediately ordered repair services at an estimated cost of \$70,000 to Osmose Utility Services, a company specializing in full turn-key structure repairs (i.e., analysis, design, fabrication and installation). Austin Energy and the Purchasing Office will bring an item forward for ratification by City Council on a future agenda. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at (512) 322-6148.