



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1107, **Agenda Item #:** 3.

2/6/2020

Posting Language

Authorize expenditures for annual renewals of professional dues and memberships in national and state associations and organizations related to the electric utility industry, in an amount not to exceed \$506,935.

Lead Department

Austin Energy

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

For More Information:

Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Relations (512) 322-6087.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

January 13, 2020 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 7-0 vote, with Commissioners Hadden and Reed off the dais, and Collier-Brown and Funkhouser absent.

Additional Backup Information:

The following list identifies and describes professional membership organizations of which Austin Energy is a member. The list includes dues amounts for 2020.

1. Large Public Power Council (LPPC): \$137,880
Created in 1987, LPPC consists of 25 of the nation's largest public power systems, including Austin Energy, City Public Service Energy (CPS Energy) and Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). LPPC provides forums where public power electric utility professionals exchange information and best practices. LPPC has four task forces (Governmental Relations, Environmental, Tax and Finance and Energy Regulation) that deal with federal legislation, environmental rules and regulations, tax implications, and electric and energy policy. LPPC hires professional consultants in each of these areas to assist the organization and its individual members. LPPC is extremely valuable in lobbying Congress and federal agencies on public policies related to the industry.
2. American Public Power Association (APPA): \$134,173
APPA is the national trade association for more than 2,000 public power electric utilities. Created in 1940, the Washington, DC-based association's mission is to advance the interests of its members and consumers. APPA provides an array of services to assist Austin Energy in fulfilling its mission to safely provide clean, affordable and reliable service. APPA provides detailed analyses of federal legislation related to the electric utility industry, and a full array of advocacy, education and information services and programs. APPA's policy positions emphasize the importance of hometown decision making.
3. Texas Public Power Association (TPPA): \$119,882
TPPA is the state trade association representing the interests of 72 public power providers located

throughout Texas, including Austin Energy, CPS Energy and LCRA. TPPA is a central vehicle through which members can extend their influence on policy matters affecting the public power industry, especially at the Texas Legislature. TPPA provides forums for the transfer of information, technology and training in the public power arena.

4. M.J. Bradley & Associates - Clean Energy Group: \$115,000

M.J. Bradley & Associates coordinates national coalitions to advance clean energy policy, protect air and water, reduce methane emissions, and support safe, reliable and cost-effective natural gas service. Austin Energy is a member of M.J. Bradley & Associates' Clean Energy Group (CEG), a coalition of public and private electric utilities dedicated to promoting clean energy initiatives. The CEG provides Austin Energy with a forum at the federal level to further the goals of the Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and to promote clean energy and energy efficiency. The CEG and its individual electric utilities are vocal advocates of progressive environmental policies, and Austin Energy benefits from belonging to a coalition that promotes these policies. The CEG also provides its members with technical information and analyses that address federal environmental policies, including how to respond to environmental rules and regulations proposed and administered by the Environmental Protection Agency dealing with the Clean Power Plan to reduce greenhouse gases, replacement rules for nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide cap and trade programs, ozone and new particulate matter standards, rules for disposal and processing of coal combustion products, wastewater effluent standards at utilities and cooling water intake structure standards among others.