



## Recommendation for Action

---

**File #:** 21-3541, **Agenda Item #:** 26.

12/9/2021

---

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Southwire Company, LLC d/b/a Southwire to provide overhead conductor lines and accessories, in an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.

(Note: This contract was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods required for this contract, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Client Department(s)**

Austin Energy.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Austin Energy is designating this purchase as a Critical Business Need in accordance with Senate Bill 7, as adopted by the City as Resolution No. 040610-02.

### **For More Information:**

Inquiries should be directed to DeJuan Brown, at [DeJuan.Brown@austintexas.gov](mailto:DeJuan.Brown@austintexas.gov)  
<<mailto:DeJuan.Brown@austintexas.gov>>.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

November 8, 2021 - Unanimously recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on an 8-0 vote with Chair Hopkins absent and two vacancies.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The contract will allow Austin Energy to upgrade Circuit 972, the 2.7-mile transmission line running from McNeil Drive to Howard Lane, which currently exceeds its emergency thermal limits under various contingencies. Taking the typical approach to reconductor Circuit 972 would necessitate a rebuild of almost the entire line and require easement acquisition on 62 parcels. To reduce that scope and avoid the extensive delays associated with easement acquisition, Austin Energy evaluated a class of new conductors, which replace the conventional steel core strands with core strands made from carbon fiber. Austin Energy determined that the conductor type sold by the contractor were the most suitable for this application. This conductor will reduce the amount of structure replacements resulting in a shorter construction and outage duration. Furthermore, use of this conductor will reduce the number of easement acquisitions required from 62 to 2. Completion of the Circuit 972 upgrade at the earliest possible time will enable Austin Energy to meet its reliability requirements and minimize congestion costs. Due to the accelerated timeline of this project, Austin

Energy declared a Critical Business Need to expedite this purchase.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Government that Works for All.