

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: December 7, 2017

Item Number: **002**

Austin Energy

Authorize negotiation and execution of a membership agreement with the Electric Power Research Institute for a term of three years in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000, for research programs related to: advanced distribution operations and planning, more efficient transmission, distribution, and generation operations, integration of distributed energy resources, demand response, and electric vehicles.

Lead Department	Austin Energy
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$400,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for remainder of the agreement is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.
For More Information	Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Issues (512) 322-6087; Khalil Shalabi, Vice President, Strategy, Technology, and Markets (512) 322-6520.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action	November 13, 2017 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 7-0 vote, with Fath and Hadden absent, and with two vacancies.

Additional Backup Information:

Membership in the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) will focus on programs that will allow Austin Energy to collaborate with other utilities and increase its understanding of technologies such as advanced distribution operations and planning, more efficient transmission, distribution, and generation operations, integration of distributed energy resources, demand response, and electric vehicle adoption. Austin Energy has been a member of EPRI for 11 years.

As the advancement in technology continues, the understanding and participation in the research and development required to advance relevant technology becomes more critical. Membership in EPRI provides a cost effective way for utilities to pool resources and participate in research projects that add value to their present and future operation.

The Electric Power Research Institute was established in 1973 as an independent, non-profit center for public interest energy and environmental research. EPRI brings together member organizations, its scientists and engineers, and other leading experts to work collaboratively on solutions to the challenges of electric power. These solutions span nearly every area of power generation, delivery, and use, including health, safety, and the environment. EPRI's members represent over 90 percent of the electricity generation in the United States and several European and other utilities. EPRI members includes several large municipal power peer utilities such as New York Power Authority, Seattle City Light, CPS Energy, and Nebraska Public Power, and public power is represented on the EPRI governing board.