



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3506, **Agenda Item #:** 2.

12/3/2020

Posting Language

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

Lead Department

Austin Energy

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$400,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for remainder of the agreement is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Prior Council Action:

On December 7, 2017, Council approved a prior agreement with the Electric Power Research Institute 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. As that agreement expires next month, this would allow the program and associated benefits to continue uninterrupted for an additional three years.

For More Information:

Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Issues (512) 322-6087; Greg Flay, Chief Technology Officer (512) 322-6599

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

November 9, 2020- Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission unanimously on an 8-0 vote, with Commissioners Funkhouser, Stone, and Wray absent.

Additional Backup Information:

Membership in the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) will allow Austin Energy to collaborate with other utilities and increase its understanding of advanced distribution operations and planning, more efficient transmission and distribution operations, integration of distributed energy resources, customer energy usage and building technologies, and electric vehicle adoption. Austin Energy has been a member of EPRI for fourteen years.

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 include 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.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government That Works for All.