



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-1515, Agenda Item #: 21.

4/13/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for design and construction services for the Brackenridge Gas Insulated Switchgear Substation - Reissue project with Jingoli Power, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$33,949,201.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 7.61%MBE and 3.51% WBE participation].

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Managing Department

Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Purchasing Language:

Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of three firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

Prior Council Action:

December 5, 2019 - Council approved a resolution using the design-build method of contracting for the rebuilding of the Brackenridge GIS Substation.

For More Information:

Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Shawn Willett, 512-974-2021, Beverly Mendez, 512-974-3596, or the Project Manager, Brandy Teague, 512-482-5415.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

March 20, 2023 - This item was not recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 5-1 vote, with Commissioner Chapman voting against, Commissioners Bowen, Ferchill, Hadden and Jonker absent and one vacancy.

Additional Backup Information:

The project is to upgrade and reconstruct the aging Brackenridge Substation as a gas insulated switchgear (GIS) substation. GIS technology allows for a compact, high voltage substation that can be upgraded in its current footprint without acquisition of prime downtown land. The reconstruction will accommodate three new network transformers to replace existing 1970's era equipment.

The project is a key component, in addition to the newly constructed Rainey Street GIS substation, of the “Repowering Downtown” initiative, which consists of a series of projects to increase electric grid capacity, resiliency, and reliability to meet the rapidly growing needs of our customers. The pace of downtown development is close to exceeding the electrical facility requirements needed for the near and long-term future. Downtown Austin will be at an increased risk of recurring power outages if electric capacity is not increased, and electrical equipment is not upgraded.

The design-build contract is recommended for award to the design-builder providing the best value to the City, as established through a qualifications-based selection process. A design-build solicitation is a two-step process consisting of Request for Qualifications and Request for Additional Information. A diverse City-staffed evaluation panel comprised of technical experts reviewed, scored, and shortlisted design-builder firms. The result of which was the selection of the highest-ranked firm. Council’s authorization is requested to negotiate and execute an agreement with the highest ranked firm to begin design phase services. MBE/WBE goals are initially established for the design phase services only. When design is sufficiently complete and prior to the construction phase, MBE/WBE goals will be established based on identified construction trades.

Austin Energy began community outreach in 2016 with the “Repowering Downtown” initiative and will continue to perform public and community engagement for this project. Since the majority of the work will occur on City property that is surrounded by concrete walls, limited public impact is anticipated during construction.

A delay in this award may negatively impact Austin Energy’s ability to keep up with the increasing demand for services in the rapidly growing Central Business District.

The contract sets a substantial completion date of December 31, 2026. This project is located within zip code 78701 (District 9).

Jingoli Power, LLC is located in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All.