

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FURNISHING 69KV SF6 CIRCUIT BREAKERS

BACKGROUND:

Electric Services needs to procure 69kV SF6 circuit breakers for replacement of existing three-tank oil filled circuit breakers at the Ames Plant Switchyard. These circuit breakers are utilized to disconnect portions of the electric transmission system when there is a fault on that portion of the system. This helps prevent damage to property and equipment, reduces the length of an outage, and minimizes the risk to staff or the public who may be near an electric fault.

On August 26, 2014, City Council approved preliminary plans and specifications for Furnishing 69kV SF6 Circuit Breakers. The bid due date of September 10, 2014, and date of hearing and award of contract of September 23, 2014, were each established.

Staff has received multiple requests from potential bidders to extend the bid due date so all of the bid submittal requirements could be met. Staff has determined that it would be in the City's best interest to extend the bid due date so more competitive bids can be obtained.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the requested date changes for the Furnishing 69kV SF6 Circuit Breakers, set September 25, 2014 as the new bid due date, and set October 14, 2014 as the new date of hearing and award of contract.
2. Reject the request and leave the dates as currently established.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The purchase of this equipment is necessary to replace antiquated three-tank oil circuit breakers. Replacement parts for these circuit breakers are becoming more difficult to procure and repair work more costly to perform. The replacement of these breakers will reduce the risk of oil leakage should the circuit breaker fail. They will also improve the reliability and speed of response of the protection schemes on this portion of the electric transmission system. **Extending the bid due date will increase the probability that the City will obtain the maximum number of competitive bids at the best price.**

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.