COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR GT1 COMBUSTION TURBINE - GENERATOR PREACTION SPRINKLER SYSTEM, CARBON DIOXIDE SYSTEM AND FIRE ALARM UPGRADE

BACKGROUND:

The City's insurance carrier has made several loss prevention recommendations in the area of fire suppression for the Power Plant and at the unmanned gas turbine site in east Ames.

This specific project is to hire a contractor to furnish all labor, materials, system layout and equipment for a fully operating fire protection system (including automatic preaction sprinkler system, carbon dioxide system, and fire alarm system) in the Gas Turbine No. 1 facility. The new system will protect all areas and be fully compliant with the applicable NFPA standards and all other codes, regulations and laws applicable to the work.

The engineer's estimate of this project is $400,000.

Funding is available from the FY 2012/13 Capital Improvements Plan in the Power Plant Fire Protection System Project. There is currently $869,526 remaining in the Final Budget Amendments from the FY14/15 budget cycle for fire suppression projects at all power generation sites. This funding will be carried over to the FY15/16 budget to cover this project.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the plans and specifications for the GT1 Combustion Turbine - Generator Preaction Sprinkler System, Carbon Dioxide System and Fire Alarm Upgrade and set August 26, 2015, as the bid due date and September 8, 2015, as the date of public hearing and award of contract.

2. Delay the upgrades, which could increase the risk of extensive damage in the GT 1 unmanned facility if there is a fire.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

A serious fire in any one of the City's electric generation systems could force the outage of Unit #7, Unit #8, or one of our gas turbines. Replacement power during an extended period of time can be very expensive. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.