

COUNCIL ACTION FORM


SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF 161 KV TRANSMISSION LINE FROM AMES PLANT TO NE ANKENY FOR IOWA D.O.T. – REPORT OF BIDS

BACKGROUND:

On July 26, 2016, City Council approved preliminary plans and specifications for the Ames Plant to NE Ankeny 161 kV Transmission Line Iowa DOT Relocation. The Iowa Department of Transportation is **carrying out two highway improvement projects** in the vicinity of the Skunk River, and along Interstate 35 at the Highway 30 interchange. In this report, staff refers to these as the **Skunk River project** and the **I-35/Hwy 30 relocation project**. These two projects require relocation of a portion of the new Ames 161kV transmission line.

These two projects were packaged into one bid and were issued to twelve companies. The bid was advertised on the Current Bid Opportunities section of the Purchasing webpage and a Legal Notice was published in the Ames Tribune. The bid was also sent to one plan room.

On August 10, 2016, five bids were received as shown below:

	INVITATION TO BID NO. 2017-007 AMES PLANT TO NE ANKENY 161 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IOWA DOT RELOCATION BID SUMMARY		
Bidder	I-35/Hwy 30 project	Skunk River project	Bid Total
Hooper Corporation Madison, WI	\$286,004.06	\$709,028.37	\$995,032.43
PAR Electrical Contractors, Inc. Kansas City, MO	\$381,387.50	\$618,612.40	\$999,999.90
Michels Power Neenah, WI	\$343,278.43	\$735,523.60	\$1,078,802.03
M. J. Electric, LLC Iron Mountain, MI	\$346,885.96	\$763,543.70	\$1,110,429.66
Ward Electric Company, Inc Longmont, CO	\$431,784.92	\$1,226,119.79	\$1,657,904.71

Staff feels that additional time is needed to evaluate each bid in order to recommend an award that best meets the City's needs.

All engineering and construction expenses for both relocation projects will be reimbursed by IDOT. Staff is working with the DOT to formalize this understanding in an agreement. **A separate IDOT construction reimbursement agreement for both projects will be brought to Council for approval at the same time as the award recommendation for this construction phase of the project.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the report of bids and delay award for the Ames Plant to NE Ankeny 161 kV Transmission Line Iowa DOT Relocation.
2. Award a contract to the apparent low bidder.
3. Reject all bids which would delay the IDOT's project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

In order to facilitate these IDOT improvements, the City's 161 kV transmission line must be relocated in both areas. Some of the bidders have taken exception to our requirements, and staff needs additional time to review the bids.

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

Of note, staff is also working with IDOT on finalizing a reimbursement agreement on the construction portion of the project. The City will proceed with the project when both the construction bids and the reimbursement agreement are brought before Council for approval at a future meeting.