

ITEM #:	27
DATE:	07-14-26
DEPT:	ELEC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE AMES MUNICIPAL ENERGY CENTER

BACKGROUND:

The Electric Services Department is in the process of designing the Ames Municipal Energy Center (AMEC), a new thermal generation facility. Geotechnical investigation and analysis is needed to design foundations for the engines. The AMEC consultant prepared specifications for the geotechnical information needed for the project.

On May 29, 2026, an Invitation to Bid was posted to AmesBids by Purchasing. On June 19, 2026, 2 bids were received as shown in the table below:

BIDDER	BID AMOUNT
Terracon Consultants, Inc. Des Moines, IA	\$189,569
Braun Intertec Corp. Urbandale, IA	\$289,348

Staff evaluated the bids and determined the low bid from Terracon Consultants Inc., Des Moines, IA, is acceptable. Funding will come from the new thermal generation CIP account. There was \$182,290 budgeted for these services. The additional \$7,279 needed to cover the remaining total will be taken from the anticipated savings when awarding the Generator Step-Up transformer.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Terracon Consultants, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa, for the Geotechnical Services for the Ames Municipal Energy Center, in the amount of \$189,569.
2. Award the contract to the other bidder.
3. Reject all bids and direct staff to rebid.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The AMEC project is an important project for the electric utility. Additional information is needed to adequately design the subsurface structures to support the equipment. A competitive bid was issued to obtain services and the services are budgeted as a part of the AMEC CIP project. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.