



Meeting Date: May 26, 2026 **Agenda Type:** Consent Items for Action

From: Jeff Morriss **Reviewed by:** Justin Green
Substation Manager Director of Electric Operations
and Compliance

Submitted by: Mark Steelman **Approved by:** Ryan Kelso
Chief Operations Officer Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the CEO Or His Designee to Execute a Professional Service Agreement with Burns and McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. for Engineering, Design, and Construction Management Services for the Sheriff’s Posse Substation and T340 Upgrade Project

BACKGROUND

In four previous annual Transmission Planning Assessments, NBU’s T340 transmission line, connecting the Marion Substation to the Sheriff’s Posse Substation, was identified as experiencing thermal violations under certain grid conditions. These findings indicate that the line’s existing capacity is insufficient to meet growing transmission demand in the area.

To address these constraints, NBU’s Corrective Action Plans submitted to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (“ERCOT”) include upgrading the T340 conductor, increasing its capacity from 221 MVA to at least 381 MVA (the “Project”).

T340 operates in a double-circuit configuration with T339 on shared steel lattice structures. These structures have been evaluated by the Lower Colorado River Authority (“LCRA”) and determined to be inadequate for the increased mechanical loading associated with a higher-capacity conductor. In addition, their rigidity makes them more vulnerable to torsional stresses during high-wind events. As a result, full structure replacement is recommended as part of the upgrade.

The proposed Professional Services Agreement (the “Agreement”) includes engineering design, procurement support, and construction management services to:

- i. Remove the existing conductor and lattice structures
- ii. Evaluate and select the optimal conductor
- iii. Design a new double-circuit transmission line on modern structures
- iv. Upgrade shield wire to Optical Ground Wire (“OPGW”) and transfer existing LCRA OPGW

NBU issued a publicly solicited Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) and Burns & McDonnell was selected as the most qualified firm to provide these services.

NBU staff recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Burns & McDonnell to support the T340 upgrade project and improve system reliability and resilience.

This item is presented to the Board because the total contract amount exceeds \$500,000.00.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total financial impact for the Agreement with Burns and McDonnell for the Project is \$2,801,387.00. The proposed agreement also includes \$308,789.00 for supplemental services. The Project is currently budgeted within Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028 and is proposed to be budgeted within Fiscal Years 2027 through 2029 in NBU’s pending Capital Improvement Budget.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Infrastructure and Technology

Safety and Security

EXHIBITS

1. Professional Service Agreement with Burns and McDonnell
2. 2023 RFQ Summary Letter
3. Evaluation of Qualified Responses - RFQ 23-003

The Evaluation resulted in qualified status in the following ranking:

	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5	Cat 6	Cat 7	Cat 8	Cat 9	Cat 10	Cat 11
Olsson											
SEL Engineering Services, Inc.					Q			Q			
M&S Engineering, LLC	Q	Q			Q	Q				Q	
Schneider Engineering, LLC	Q	Q		Q	Q	Q	Q		Q		Q
Sherwood Surveying & SUE, LLC										Q	
Westwood Prof Services											
Cobb Fendley			Q							Q	
Stanley Consultants, Inc											
Burns & McDonnell Eng	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q			

Note: Gray box indicates Firm did not submit for the Project Category
 Q = Qualified in the Specific Category