

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM MEMO
REGULAR MEETING**

SUBJECT: Ordinance waiving competitive bidding requirements and awarding UUSCO of Illinois, Inc. the purchase order for 21 switchgear units.

Staff Contact: Blake Toliver, Electric Operations Superintendent

Summary:

Over the past year we have had 6 ABB pad mounted switchgear fail. These switchgears were purchased between 2011 and 2016. The normal expected lifespan of a pad mounted switch gear is 25 to 30 years. The ABB units have been failing after being installed for 10 years or less. After 2016 we switched to only using S&C switchgear not only for reliability but ease of serviceability with only having one brand of pad mounted switchgear on our system. We have identified 21 switchgear units that remain to be replaced to improve the reliability of the 13.8kV distribution system.

S&C has a great track record of having a reliable and robust product. They have also offered that if at any time we were to experience a failure they would come onsite and repair the gear in the field. The reason we are asking to waive the competitive bidding is because UUSCO is the manufacturers representative for S&C and no other vendor is allowed to bid equipment in this territory. The Price that is quoted reflects the price given to us when the first switchgear was replaced early 2021. The factory has had 2 materials increases since that order was placed.

These switchgear are a vital part of our underground infrastructure and not replacing the failing equipment will result in unplanned costly downtime for our industrial customers We have confirmed that these failures are not a result of any wrong doing on the utilities part these failures are happening internally. We have an active case open with ABB's representative in hopes that we can remedy the issue at hand either with repairs to the failing gear or sending them back for a partial refund of the original purchase price.

Funding Sources:

Source:	Budgeted Amount:	Proposed Expenditure:
Electric Bonds	\$ 0	\$ 457,900.00

Strategic Plan Goal Application: Continue to develop and implement a plan to improve infrastructure to work in concert with CIP

Recommendation: To approve ordinance waiving competitive bidding requirements and awarding UUSCO of Illinois, Inc. the purchase order for 21 switchgear units.