

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

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Polar Consulting Proposal for Integrated Resource Plan Development

Staff Contact: Blake Toliver, Superintendent of Electric Operations

Summary: Staff recommends accepting Polar Consulting's September 25, 2026 proposal to develop an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for Rochelle Municipal Utilities. The IRP will evaluate existing resources and future needs over a 20-year horizon and provide a resource strategy and five-year action plan.

The Municipal and Cooperative Electric Utility Transparent Planning Act (220 ILCS 31/), enacted by Public Act 104-458 and effective June 1, 2026, requires this planning. Section 1-15(a) requires municipalities serving more than 7,000 retail electric customer meters to initiate the IRP process by January 1, 2027 and every five years thereafter, with a preliminary plan posted by January 1 of the following year. RMU serves approximately 7,500 electric customers and falls within this requirement. Section 1-20 requires public stakeholder meetings before and after issuance of the preliminary plan, and Section 1-25 establishes public posting, comment, and final-plan procedures.

The scope includes load forecasting, resource screening, five portfolios and six sensitivities, risk and resilience analysis, customer bill impacts, and stakeholder engagement. RMU-specific assessments address battery storage, local resiliency, large-load growth, transmission access, and municipal utility benchmarking.

Polar was selected based on the completeness of its proposal and its staff's familiarity with Illinois utilities. Chris Jewell, the proposed Project Manager and Technical IRP Lead, spent approximately twelve years at the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) as a Resource Planner/System Administrator. His experience managing municipal power supply portfolios provides knowledge directly relevant to RMU's planning needs.

Polar's fixed fee is \$329,832. The proposed schedule begins October 12, 2026, with final completion by October 15, 2027. Payments will follow accepted milestone deliverables, with no upfront deposit. Optional services are excluded from this acceptance.

Funding Sources:

Source	Budgeted Amount	Proposed Expenditure
Electric Fund	\$550,000	\$329,832

Strategic Plan Goal Application: Core Service Delivery

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Council accept Polar Consulting's proposal for IRP development services at the fixed fee of \$329,832 and authorize the City Manager to execute the professional services agreement, subject to legal counsel's review.