

Jennifer Anders
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Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Richard Devlin
Vice Chair
Oregon

Ted Ferrioli
Oregon

Jim Yost
Idaho

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho

August 6, 2019

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Kevin Smit, Senior Analyst

SUBJECT: Tom Eckman Contract

PROPOSED ACTION: Recommendation to contract with Tom Eckman for services in Fiscal Year 2020

SIGNIFICANCE: Tom Eckman provides support and representation for the Council in a working group formed by the Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee (ASRAC) and advice to staff on federal energy efficiency standards and rulemaking processes

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Staff proposes contracting with Tom Eckman for support and advisory services from October 1, 2019 until January 31, 2020 for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$48,400, including travel expenses.

BACKGROUND

Tom Eckman is a widely recognized regional and national leader in energy efficiency, particularly in the important and expanding field of federal appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards. He has been appointed to a number of national advisory panels sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Energy, state and local governments among others.

The primary purpose for this contract is to provide the Council with continuing expert representation on a key federal working group formed by ASRAC that is negotiating test procedures and minimum efficiency standards for Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF)

heating and air conditioning equipment, and to complete the mentorship and transition of the federal energy efficiency standards work fully to the Council's power division staff. Mr. Eckman is currently the Council's representative on the VRF working group, which is expected to complete its work by the end of 2019.

ANALYSIS

Staff has reviewed the alternatives for providing these services, which are described below.

ALTERNATIVES

The only alternative available is to not contract for the requested support. Mr. Eckman has been involved in the VRF test procedure revisions and initial standards negotiations as the Council's representative. To contract with another person or entity at this stage in these processes would disrupt the Council's participation in these negotiations, would reduce the Council's influence and effect on these negotiations and would be more costly and time consuming for staff. He has unique experience with the Council in a number of roles and unmatched expertise on federal energy appliance standards as well as regional energy efficiency programs.

ATTACHMENTS

Sole source justification.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Kevin Smit, Senior Analyst

SUBJECT: Sole Source Justification – Tom Eckman Contract

The purpose of this contract is to provide the Council with continuing expert representation on federal energy efficiency standards and test procedures work and to conclude the mentorship and transition of the federal energy efficiency standards work to the Council's power division staff. Mr. Eckman has earned a regional and national reputation in energy efficiency and has unique expertise in federal appliance and equipment standards.

This contract addresses the need to maintain expertise and high-level representation for the Council on the federal working group formed by the federal Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ASRAC) of the U.S. Department of Energy to negotiate test procedures and minimum efficiency standards for variable refrigerant flow (VRF) heating and air conditioning equipment. The federal working group was formed a year and a half ago and the group has been working on this VRF standard since that time. Mr. Eckman is identified as the Council representative in that working group, and Mr. Eckman has provided quality representation for the Council as his expertise and advice are highly valuable assets. The working group is set to complete its work at the end of this year. More generally, Mr. Eckman's experience makes him especially capable of advising staff and assisting staff in developing an in-depth knowledge of appliance standards rulemaking processes so that staff may adequately represent the Council in the federal standards development actions as well as national and regional panels on energy efficiency. Choosing another contractor would negatively impact the Council's participation in the federal working group as well as the transition of the federal energy efficiency standards work to the Council staff. Mr. Eckman is the only individual capable of providing the services needed consistent with the schedule of the working group, which cannot be relaxed by the Council.