

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Wade, P.E., Director of Power Systems
Phil Nedved, Hydroelectric Maintenance Superintendent

DATE: October 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Award of Contract for Bowman Transmission Line Power Pole Replacement (Project #C0062) (Consent)

HYDROELECTRIC

RECOMMENDATION:

Award a contract to Henkels & McCoy West, LLC for Bowman Transmission Line Power Pole Replacement in the amount of \$ 149,126, plus a \$ 14,912 contingency, for a total of \$164,038, and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents.

BACKGROUND:

The Bowman 60KV transmission line consists of 171 power poles that transmit electricity from the 3.6-megawatt Bowman Powerhouse to the Bowman Intertie switchyard located near Lake Spaulding. Originally installed in 1983, the transmission line's poles are largely from the original construction.

In 2024, a comprehensive survey of all power poles was completed. The survey included drilling and ground-level testing and was conducted by a qualified contractor. The assessment identified 10 poles that require replacement due to wood rot. Several of these poles are in areas with limited access or embedded in solid granite, which increases replacement challenges and costs.

Hydroelectric Maintenance staff are currently clearing access to the affected poles. However, establishing adequate access remains challenging because of narrow or overgrown roads, rugged terrain, and restrictions imposed by government agencies.

Three contractors participated in a project walkdown to assess site conditions and prepare quotations for the pole replacement work. All three contractors have

extensive experience performing challenging installations in rugged terrain similar to that encountered along the Bowman 60KV transmission line.

Each contractor submitted an hourly rate schedule, and the proposed rates were very similar. However, the contractors recommended three different approaches to completing the replacements. Each approach required different specialized equipment and crew sizes, with the goal of completing the work safely and efficiently on a compressed schedule.

Drilling new holes for the replacement power poles presents challenges for both the contractors and the District due to uncertainties in subsurface conditions and the level of effort required at each location. Access to the pole sites is difficult, limiting the types and sizes of equipment that can be used. These constraints add uncertainty to the time, resources, and cost required to complete the work.

Because hot, dry weather has limited road construction activities, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) restricts the authorized work period, the pole replacement is tentatively scheduled for November 2-7, 2026.

Contractor	Quote Amount
Henkels & McCoy West, LLC	\$149,125.87
B&B High Voltage	\$140,610.00, plus additional subcontractor for drilling. *Subcontracting costs are estimated to exceed \$50,000.
Wilson Utility Construction Co.	\$600,000.00 not-to-exceed pricing based on rate sheet.

Staff selected Henkels & McCoy for award of the contract because it estimated the lowest price of the three contractors that provided bids. Wilson Utility Construction's bid far exceeded the other bids because it proposed using a helicopter to transport and set the poles. The other two contractors proposed transporting the poles via the ground.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The FY 2026 Capital Budget for this project is \$200,000, with all funds still available. After the contract amount and requested contingency, \$35,962 will remain in the capital budget.

PN