

FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Item # 4

Meeting Date: 3/29/05

SUBJECT: Consideration of Leasing the Use of RPU's Electric System to a BPL Service Provider

PREPARED BY: Walt Lorber, Director of Core Services *WLF*

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

RPU and HBC have concluded a field trial of Broadband over Powerlines (BPL) communications. Conclusions from the trial will be shared with the Board at this meeting. RPU staff believes that the trial, related staff investigations, and ongoing developments in BPL support a conclusion that a business case can be made for RPU to lease the use of the City's electric distribution system to a BPL communications provider.

RPU staff will present its trial findings, summarize input received from the City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting on March 28, and present a preliminary business assessment of the potential benefits and risks associated with BPL implementation.

To obtain the specific data required to develop a formal business case, staff believes that it would be appropriate to solicit proposals and negotiate leasing terms with a vendor. Based on proceeding in that manner, staff would expect to bring a detailed business case to the June Board meeting.

UTILITY BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff requests the Board to approve advertising for proposals to lease the City's electric distribution system under an agreement that would allow a vendor to install a BPL communications network for use by the vendor in the deployment of commercial services and that would also be available to the City for electric and water utility applications.

Larry Koshir
General Manager

3/24/05
Date