



Department Source: Information Technology

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 15, 2021

Re: Resolution to accept a settlement agreement with SERC Reliability Corporation

## Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a settlement agreement with SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC). On September 24, 2021 the City of Columbia requested settlement from SERC for violations of North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Cyber Security standards.

SERC and City have reached agreement and have settled on a penalty of \$36,000, in addition to two non-monetary sanctions. One (1) City Manager must sign the settlement agreement, two (2) CWLD must engage in a third-party assessment and continue training for its applicable personnel in the standards associated with the settlement.

## Discussion

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a settlement agreement with SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC). On September 24, 2021 the City of Columbia requested settlement from SERC for violations of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards

The City is referred to by SERC as the Columbia Water & Light Department (CWLD).

SERC considered several adjustment factors in the penalty determination: CWLD voluntarily provided SERC with information that was timely, detailed, thoughtful, organized, and thorough.

CWLD fully cooperated with SERC's investigation.

CWLD recognized and affirmatively accepted responsibility for its conduct.

Under the Second Joint Staff White Paper on Notices of Penalty Pertaining to Violations of Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards (Docket No. AD19-18-000), NERC will no longer publicly post redacted versions of CIP noncompliance filings and submittals.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$36,000 plus third-party assessment cost

Long-Term Impact: None



## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence,  
Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
	N/A

## Suggested Council Action

Staff recommends Council adopt the resolution.