

# **Columbia Energy Center**

## **IRP** Recommendation



• "Prepare in early 2010 to install two engine generator sets of approximately 8 MW each for a commercial operating date of 2012."





## Columbia Energy Center

- As a result of the IRP process a very attractive alternative has been offered
- Ameren has offered 25% undivided interest in the Columbia Energy Center



WAT

## Columbia Energy Center



- Consists of four simple cycle combustion turbines
- 144 MW net capacity
- Located within Columbia city limits
- Typically only dispatched during peak hours

## Columbia Energy Center WATER }



- Currently the city has purchase power contracts for 50% of the output
- Contracts provide option to purchase 25% undivided interest in the project in 2010 and another 25% in 2013
- Ameren is interested in selling the remaining 50% of the project now
- Units have only been run about 400 hours since installation in 2001

Cost Comparison of Options		
Wartsilla Engines	CEC Combined Turbine	
Two: 8.4 MW units	One: 36 MW unit	
\$1,155/kW	\$499.72/kW	
\$19.4 million	\$17.99 million	
8,642 Btu's/kWh	12,793 Btu's/kWh	

## **Burns & McDonnell Financial Analysis**



- Completed another run of the Strategist Power Supply Model
- Based on current conditions, the purchase would save Columbia \$6,652,000 over 20 years
- Natural gas prices have fallen since the model was rerun

CEC

### Areas of Risk That Could **Escalate Costs**



Inflation	NO
Currency Exchange Rate	NO
Transportation Issue	NO
Permitting Issues	NO
Pipeline Construction	NO
Construction Risk	NO
In-service Delays	NO

#### <u>Wartsila</u>

YES YES (built in Finland) YES YES YES YES YES

## **CEC Summary**



- Already permitted
- In service
- Natural gas supply in place
- Capable of converting to combine cycle
- No need to train employees on another generation source

## **Financing Options**



- Missouri Public Utility Alliance: low interest loan currently at 4%
- Fund from retained earnings
- A combination of above

## Conclusion



 Staff is recommending proceeding with contract negotiations to purchase 25% of Columbia Energy Center









