On February 28, 2014, the City Council authorized the Department of Water and Power (DWP) to enter into agreements with its power distribution partners to conduct greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting related to its electrical transmission and distribution equipment.

The DWP co-owns and operates electrical transmission and distribution equipment insulated with sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) which is known to emit GHG. The DWP states that it uses SF6 to efficiently conduct electricity through its transmission equipment.

The Clean Air Act requires owners/operators of equipment that emits GHG to follow federal reporting requirements in order to mitigate SF6 impacts.

The Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the energy industry, conducts the SF6 Emission Reduction Partnership for Electric Power Systems (Partnership). The Partnership is tasked with identifying and implementing cost-effective solutions to reduce SF6 emissions. Currently, 81 utilities participate in this Partnership. However, it is unclear if the DWP is a member of the Partnership.

The DWP should report to the Council as to its membership in the Partnership and its efforts to reduce the use of SF6. In this manner, the health and welfare of the public and environment may be maintained.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power be requested to report to the Council in 30 days as to its membership in the Environmental Protection Agency’s SF6 Emission Reduction Partnership for Electric Power Systems; and the Department’s efforts to reduce SF6 emissions.

PRESENTED BY: PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 

MAR 19 2014