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SUN PRAIRIE - Officials from Wisconsin Public Power Inc. (WPPI) signed an agreement with Escanaba Thursday to both pay for a firm to conduct a feasibility study on a new power plant in Escanaba.

Escanaba officials signed the agreement last week.

The two parties jointly issued a request for proposals for the feasibility study Friday. The study is expected to be completed by May 1, 2007.

The purpose of the study is to determine the most appropriate technology and size of plant to match the Escanaba site. The study will determine what it would cost to build, own, and operate the power plant. The study will also determine information needed to apply for licenses and permits required to build and operate the power plant if WPPI and the City of Escanaba proceed with the project. Escanaba is looking into building a new power plant because its existing 26-megawatt facility is old and the city's power needs are increasing.