

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

JAMES OTTERSTEIN
INITIATED BY
COUNTY BOARD STAFF
COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY



JAMES OTTERSTEIN & NICK OSBORNE
DRAFTED BY
AUGUST 14, 2015
DATE DRAFTED

SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE RIVERSIDE ENERGY CENTER

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL), a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corporation,
- 2 has significant power generation assets and supportive energy infrastructure throughout Rock County; and
- 3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, since the mid-1950's WPL has produced power from its Town of Beloit campus, which is
- 5 anchored by the Riverside Energy Center; and
- 6
- 7 **WHEREAS**, critical economic and environmental considerations necessitate the need for WPL to
- 8 generate additional power from more energy efficient, cost-effective and environmentally-friendly
- 9 sources; and
- 10
- 11 **WHEREAS**, after a comprehensive analyses of its Wisconsin service territory options, WPL has chosen
- 12 to invest and expand its Riverside Energy Center, and has filed the appropriate Public Service
- 13 Commission of Wisconsin Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct an approximate
- 14 650 megawatt combined cycle, natural gas power plant; and,
- 15
- 16 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors has reviewed the need of this proposed project,
- 17 including its important financial impact to both the County and Town of Beloit from the Riverside Energy
- 18 Center's gross receipts tax payments.
- 19
- 20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
- 21 this 10th day of September, 2015, hereby fully requests the Public Service Commission to give
- 22 favorable consideration to WPL's application to expand the Riverside Energy Center; and,
- 23
- 24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to
- 25 the Public Service Commission, as well as to Rock County's State of Wisconsin Elected Delegation, the
- 26 Governor's Office and other relevant entities.

15-9A-374

Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

Russ Podzilni
Russ Podzilni, Chair

Sandra Kraft
Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

Eva Arnold
Eva Arnold

Henry Brill
Henry Brill

Betty Jo Bussie
Betty Jo Bussie

Mary Mawhinney
Mary Mawhinney

Louis Peet
Louis Peet

Alan Sweeney
Alan Sweeney

Absent
Terry Thomas

FISCAL NOTE:

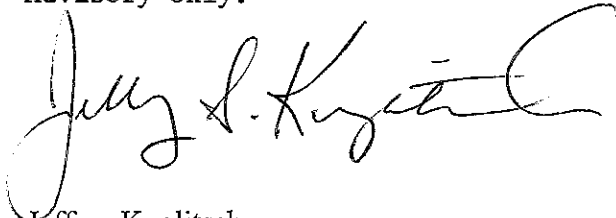
This resolution has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

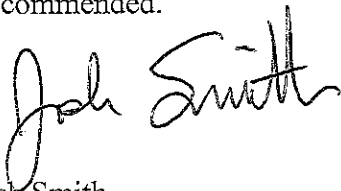
Advisory only.



Jeffrey Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE RIVERSIDE ENERGY CENTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the mid-1950's, Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL), a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corporation, has been generating power from its Town of Beloit campus. The campus, which was originally fueled by coal, has since been 100% converted over to natural gas. Today, the Riverside Energy Center serves as one of WPL's natural gas generation portfolio anchors.

Due to increasing economic and environmental considerations, WPL must continually invest in energy-efficient, cost-effective and environmentally-friendly power generation sources. In response to these demands, WPL conducted a comprehensive analyses of its Wisconsin service territory options and concluded that expanding the Riverside Energy Center presented the optimal choice. In addition to leveraging its existing onsite assets, the Town of Beloit location affords WPL with a turnkey energy infrastructure. Plus, WPL already has a sizable land holding; thereby, reducing the need to acquire prime farmland. Lastly, this existing location has over 60 years of operational history with the adjacent property owners and the Town.

That is why this past spring, WPL filed its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) to construct a 650 megawatt (+/-), combined-cycle natural gas power plant. With an estimated project investment of \$750 million dollars, this new plant - projected to be operational in 2019 - will supply the power needs of business and residential customers alike.

In addition to addressing WPL's power reliability, efficiency and environmental standards, this new power plan also provides a significant economic development boost. From an employment perspective, an average of 200-300 jobs will be directly supported by this project during its two-year plus construction period. A portion of the power plant's gross receipts tax payments, which are collected by the state and then redistributed through its shared revenue formula, will provide a significant financial lift to the local Town and Beloit and the County of Rock, respectively. When the Riverside Energy Center first began operating in 2004, the annual revenue stream to the Town was initially at \$375,000 and the County's share was double that amount.

Energy generation operates within a highly competitive and regulated environment, involving layers of state and federal requirements. As such, the approval processes for power plants and their related infrastructure support networks are extremely detailed and not without controversy. By approving this resolution, the County Board of Supervisors is leveraging, as well as capitalizing locally on, the economic development opportunities that come from these types of critical statewide infrastructure projects.