

CONSTRUCTION ON ALLIANT'S NEW POWER PLANT BEGINS

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Photo provided This is a rendering of Alliant Energy's West Riverside Energy Center. The project is estimated to create more than 1,000 construction jobs per year from 2017-2020.

TOWN OF BELOIT— Construction on Alliant Energy Corp.s new power plant began in mid-April despite its existing plant needing \$25 million in repairs.

The Madison utility companys key power plant, the Riverside Energy Center, has been out of service since September. The Associated Press reported the 13-year-old plant in the Town of Beloit isnt expected to restart until July. Alliant spokesman Scott Reigstad said he doesnt expect a shortage of power on hot days, when electricity use is at its highest.

The facility shut down in September for regular maintenance.

Trouble at the station was detected in November. Reigstad told the Associated Press its unclear if utility customers will be asked to pick up all or part of the \$25 million repair tab.

Construction on the West Riverside Energy Center, formerly known as the Riverside Expansion, began on April 11, Reigstad said.

"The work needed at the Riverside Energy Center will have no impact on the construction schedule of the West Riverside Energy Center," Reigstad said.

An official groundbreaking event for the new plant took place on Sept. 22, 2016. Though on-site work began on Aug. 22, 2016, Reigstad said the work has been mostly site preparation that included general earthwork, the installation of power sources and the expansion of the high capacity well. Construction on the facility itself began in April.

He said construction crews will work on laying foundation during the third and fourth quarter of 2017. Reigstad estimates most of the exterior structure will be complete by the end of 2017. The 730 megawatt natural gas-fueled facility is expected to be completed by early 2020. He estimates the project is approximately 3.5 percent complete as of April 19.

The \$700 million investment is estimated to be able to power 550,000 homes. The 90 acre project site is located on the western edge of Alliant's 315-acre energy campus in the Town of Beloit and is expected to create approximately 1,000 construction jobs per year between 2017 and 2020, Reigstad said. The Rock River Solar Facility is a part of the energy campus and started generating power in early 2016.

Alliant is constructing a second solar facility on the campus that's expected to go into service in early 2020. Reigstad said the new West Riverside Solar Facility is expected to have the capacity to generate around 2 megawatts.

"The power it generates will be used to offset the power usage of the West Riverside Energy Center," Reigstad said.