

# Leaders poised to back Alliant

By Whitney Helm [whelm@beloitdailynews.com](mailto:whelm@beloitdailynews.com) | Posted: Thursday, August 27, 2015 4:00 pm

Rock County and Town of Beloit supervisors both will be voting to send resolutions of support for Alliant Energy as the company faces a battle for its proposed power plant.

The energy company faces a challenge from Milwaukee-based Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WE Energies) over the planned Riverside Power Plant. WE Energies recently got the go-ahead to challenge Alliant's power plant from the state's Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, to present an alternative to the \$750 million proposed plant in the Town of Beloit.

"I think its a very good idea. We fully support the expansion," said George "Skip" Rath, supervisor number one for the Town of Beloit board.

In documents submitted to the PSC, WE Energies urges delaying the power plant until 2024. WE Energies claims holding off on the plant would save consumers \$46.5 million.

Amy Jahns, spokesperson for WE Energies, told the Beloit Daily News the company has a sufficient amount of energy to meet client needs.

According to calculations from Alliant Energy, a new power plant would bring an additional \$433,333 to the Town of Beloit and \$866,667 to the county. The current estimated Utility Shared Revenue for 2015 for the Town is approximately \$1.1 million with Rock County getting approximately \$1.8 million.

Town supervisor two Steve Heumiller said he was also in support of the resolution.

He added the resolution was still being drafted.

James Otterstein, economic development manager for Rock County, said the resolution passed unanimously at the county board Staff Committee meeting on Tuesday.

Otterstein said a new power plant would bring 200-300 construction jobs, which would boost the local economy.

"In addition to addressing (Alliant Energy) power reliability, efficiency and environmental standards, this new power plant also provides a significant economic development boost, specifically as it relates to energy reliability and cost. An increasing number of businesses, including but not limited to health care, information technology and manufacturing require consistent (and in some cases redundant), predictable and affordable power supplies. Whether providing secure data and/or integrated technology applications; producing sophisticated medical

diagnostics and tracers; delivering specialized medical care; and/or manufacturing specialized food, metal or plastics products where there is zero financial tolerance for scrap or waste, affordable and reliable power makes a difference. Simply stated, relying on imported power from outside of the grid and/or from more costly, less efficient source drives local utility rates up. Higher rates, less reliability is not a recipe for success,” he said in an emailed statement.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin will hear WE Energies’ proposal on Sept. 10 , followed by a detailed proposal and testimony from Alliant Energy on Sept. 22. A final decision is expected in May 2016, which would not delay the company’s anticipated summer 2016 start date.

Both proposed resolutions are expected to be voted on during the September meetings of each government body.