

Groundbreaking held for power plant

By RYAN SILVOLA Staff writer | Posted: Friday, September 23, 2016 4:00 pm

TOWN OF BELOIT — Alliant Energy broke ground on its Riverside Expansion on Thursday for the development of a 700-megawatt natural general gas-fueled generation station.

The \$700 million power facility is said to have the capacity to power 530,000 homes. Combined with the existing Riverside Energy Center, the facilities will be able to power over one million homes, said Patricia Kampling, Chief Executive Officer.

Governor Scott Walker said at the groundbreaking the expansion project shows the county's commitment to invest in the community, in cost-effective and reliable sources of power and in local businesses.

"It is a permanent fixture to remind people about how important our state's economy is and what kind of commitment is made by Alliant Energy to be a key partner in it," Walker said.

John Larsen, president of Alliant Energy Wisconsin's Utility, dubbed the 300 to 400 acre parcel of land located at 4201 S. Walters Road an "energy campus of the future."

Larsen said the goal for the power facility was to provide efficiency, competitive prices and use existing infrastructure. He added the facility has Wisconsin's largest solar facility with 7,700 solar panels producing energy.

"We will continue to be not only a good partner but a great neighbor throughout the construction of this facility," Larsen said.

Kampling said the facility's construction project will create more than 1,000 jobs annually between 2017 and 2020. Once operational, Kampling said Riverside Expansion will boost annual shared revenues to local governments by nearly \$3 million.



Going up!

The ground is broken on Alliant Energy's Riverside Expansion. Governor Scott Walker was present to speak on how the power facility's investment in the community.

“We can’t have major projects like this, let alone operate a generating facility without the support of the communities, state and local governments and our customers,” Kampling said. “The outpouring of support from this region has been amazing.”

Ellen Nowak, chairperson of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), said the plant will be providing reliable electricity for manufacturers in Wisconsin.

“We know that having affordable and reliable electricity is one of the pillars to attracting business to Wisconsin,” Nowak said.

Alliant Energy filed an application for a permit to construct the new plant on the site of Alliant’s existing Riverside Energy Center in 2015, and PSC approved the project in the spring of that year.

During his visit to the Town of Beloit, Walker also addressed the flooding in western Wisconsin, saying some of the counties have called for declarations of emergency. He said he will make a point to go visit several of the counties over the course of the next few days depending on the weather.

“Whenever I got to visit, I don’t ever want to be in the way of relief efforts,” Walker said.

He said Wisconsin Emergency Management has staff in the field, and the key currently is to work with the county’s emergency management teams and local fire and police to make sure people are safe and to track damages to see if a declaration is in order.