



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
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January 29, 2025

Re: Application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company for a Certificate of Authority to Construct and Operate the Riverside Enhancement Project, Consisting of Seven Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines Capable of Generating up to 17.5 MW Total, at its Riverside Energy Center Facility in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin 6680-CE-187

To the Person Addressed:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) received an application from Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL) for construction of the Riverside Enhancement Project (project). ([PSC REF#: 495931](#)). The project would require the construction of seven Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE) capable of generating up to 17.5 MW total, at its Riverside Energy Center (REC) in the Town of Beloit, Rock County.

Commission and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff analyzed the application, conducted a review of the environmental impacts of the proposed project, and prepared an environmental assessment (EA). ([PSC REF#: 515164](#)). To inform the preparation of the EA, an EA scoping letter was issued to solicit comments regarding environmental impacts as a result of the proposed project. ([PSC REF#: 506192](#)). After preparation of the EA, a preliminary determination letter was issued to solicit comments on the determination of no significant impacts to the human environment that would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement according to Wis. Stats. § 1.11 ([PSC REF#: 509577](#)). The EA was posted on the Commission's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) System on August 26, 2024. ([PSC REF#: 515164](#).) The Commission has identified new local information and intends to prepare a supplemental EA to address the project's potential to affect the quality of the human environment in a manner or extent not already considered in the EA.

The Commission is sending this letter to notify property owners near the proposed facilities, as well as individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list, that the Commission will be conducting a supplemental EA for the proposed project. This letter is also being sent to public officials who may wish to place this notification in a location where it can be viewed by the public. This letter is also being sent to the Janesville Gazette and Beloit Daily News with the intent to solicit comments from members of the public who may have local information to provide.

The intent of this letter is to notify any interested persons that the scoping period for the supplemental EA for the proposed project has begun and encourage persons with local

information or environmental concerns to submit comments on the proposed project to the Commission. Commission and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff will review the scoping comments for environmental impact concerns that were not addressed in the original EA, and discuss them in the supplemental EA.

Comments regarding the scope of the supplemental environmental assessment of the proposed project can be submitted through:

- The Commission's website at <https://psc.wi.gov> where you can scroll down to the E-Services heading toward the bottom of the webpage, then click "File a Public Comment" in the middle of the page, then locate docket 6680-CE-187, or
- A letter addressed to the Commission's Environmental Review Coordinator for this docket (see contacts at the end of this letter).

Please note that comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's Electronic Records Filing System. Personally-identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions. Effective topics to mention in comments on the scope of the supplemental environmental assessment may include:

- Any new local potential human and environmental impacts from the proposed project facilities,
- Any specific comments regarding particular locations of project infrastructure, or
- Any specific actions or changes to the proposed project that could minimize or mitigate potential local impacts from the proposed project.

**The deadline for submitting scoping comments on the supplemental environmental assessment for the Riverside Enhancement Project is Wednesday, February 12, 2025.**

There will be an additional public comment period during the Commission's review process of the proposed project where the Commission will solicit comments from the public regarding the preliminary determination of the supplemental EA.

**General Project Description**

The proposed project would include construction of a new electric generation facility with a total nameplate capacity of 17.5 MW. Major components of the project include seven Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (RICE) units, which would all be fueled with natural gas. The facilities would also include accessory structures for water preparation and storage, fuel storage and handling, electrical interconnection, and other support functions. Water for nitrogen oxide control and closed cooling would be provided by the existing plant well water supply system. WPL proposes to construct the proposed project, which would be 100 percent-owned and operated by WPL.

### **Project Location**

As shown on the attached map, the proposed project is comprised of a RICE generation facility and associated equipment and facilities at the existing REC site. The project would be located on the south side of Town Line Road between S. Duggan Road and USH 51/S. Riverside Drive within Township 1, Range 12 East, Section 2 in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin.

### **Project Need**

The proposed project would provide additional reliability and resiliency to the electrical transmission system.

### **State and Federal Agency Jurisdiction**

The proposed project requires a Certificate of Authority from the Commission before construction can begin. Based on the record of analysis of potential environmental and societal impacts, the Commission will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny the applicant's proposal. DNR will consider the application for wetland and waterway permits, if applicable under Wis. Stat. ch. 30, potential impacts to rare species, and other affected resources under its jurisdiction. Other reviews, approvals, or permits may be necessary from local, state, or federal entities.

### **Environmental Assessment**

The proposed project is a Type II action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10 (2). The Commission will prepare a supplemental EA for this project that will evaluate the project's potential to affect the quality of the human environment in a manner or extent not already considered in the EA. There will be a supplemental preliminary determination when the supplemental EA is complete that will determine whether the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary under Wis. Stats. § 1.11. Comments on this supplemental preliminary determination will be accepted and considered before a final determination is made. At the time of the supplemental preliminary determination, the Commission shall make copies of the supplemental EA available to those persons that request it.

Additional opportunities for public participation include the opportunity to comment on the supplemental preliminary determination on the need to prepare an EIS for the project. Notifications for these comment periods will be sent to the mailing list for this project, and you can be added to this mailing list by contacting the PSC Case Coordinator for this project listed below under project contacts.

### **Information and Contacts**

*To review project application materials and additional related documents:*

- PSC website (<https://psc.wi.gov>) under the docket's "eServices" tab, click "Docket Search (CMS)" link, and search case number 6680-CE-187.

#### Agency Contacts:

- PSC Environmental Review Coordinator  
Tyler Tomaszewski  
(608) 266-2730  
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Sincerely,



Tyler Tomaszewski  
Environmental Analysis & Review Specialist, Adv.  
Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental Affairs

TAT:bs DL:02054527

Attachment: Riverside Enhancement Project Map

### Riverside Enhancement Project 6680-CE-187

