

Quick Facts: The Clear River Energy Center

What is the Clear River Energy Center?

Inenergy is proposing to invest nearly \$1 billion to build the Clear River Energy Center natural gas-fired power plant on 20 acres in the Town of Burrillville. Using the industry's most advanced technology, the Clear River Energy Center will be among the cleanest and most efficient power plants in the country and, when fully built, could generate roughly 900 megawatts of energy for the region. Construction could start in 2018, with the plant up and running by 2019.

Local project benefits will include:

Tax Revenue: This project will contribute \$94 million in tax revenue for the Town of Burrillville over the life of the project. It will be one of Burrillville's **largest taxpayers**.

Good local jobs: The Clear River Energy Center will hire more than **300 local** construction workers – primarily members from Rhode Island's local labor unions – to build the facility. And we'll create **24 new, permanent, well-paid jobs** once the facility is operational.

Why do we need a new power plant in Rhode Island?

New England faces a looming energy shortfall – 4,200 megawatts will be coming off the grid by 2019, and a total of 10,000 MW in the next decade. That's roughly 30 percent of the energy New England needs on a daily basis. region's independent electric grid manager, ISO-New England, recently warned that the region is at-risk of not having enough reliable energy supplies. ISO's president and CEO has said that the grid may need to “employ suboptimal solutions” to meet demand, and that could mean keeping aging and expensive power plants like Brayton Point online.

Renewable energy alone can't fill the looming gap. We need a diversified energy mix, and it's clear natural gas must play a role in that energy portfolio. ISO-New England clearly sees the need for Clear River to be part of that future mix: The grid operator selected 485 megawatts of energy from our project in its auction for 2019 supplies. No new generation was selected in this year's auction, but we expect to bid in future auctions to provide additional megawatts to the grid.

The state's Public Utilities Commission's opinion on the project confirmed the need for the Clear River Energy Center to “meet Rhode Island's clean energy goals.” The PUC's opinion stated that “CREC is needed in order to meet the electric generation reliability needs of Southeastern New England and Rhode Island consumers” and that “energy efficiency and renewable energy supply cannot, at this time, reliably meet the need for which CREC will be built.”

Where does the power generated at Clear River end up?

The power we generate at the Clear River Energy Center will supply the regional grid serving Rhode Island and the other Southeastern New England states only. Like other states across the country, Rhode Island is served by a dynamic, regional energy system. In Rhode Island's case, the system is controlled by independent grid operators ISO-New England, which is tasked with managing energy demand and supplies across the region on a minute-to-minute basis.

What will this project mean for my electric bill?

The Clear River Energy Center will bring down energy and capacity prices, which will lead to lower electricity rates in Rhode Island – more than **\$210 million in Rhode Island ratepayer savings** in just the first four years of operations. The state’s PUC determined the project will provide “meaningful savings” in the capacity market as well as “savings to wholesale energy prices in New England, the effects of which should benefit Rhode Island consumers.”

How was this site chosen?

The location of our proposed site, off Wallum Lake Road, is zoned for power generation and is close to a major gas pipeline and electrical lines. The site is well buffered by woods and more than 1,800 feet from the nearest residence. Taken together, these factors make this a potentially good fit for a power plant.

Where will Invenergy get its water?

We’ve identified the Town of Johnston as our water supplier, eliminating the plan to use the contaminated Pascoag wells. Our amended proposal cuts our water use by 100,000 gallons a day. The water will be delivered by 2 to 3 trucks per typical day, and that means we won’t have to tear up local roads to construct any new pipelines.

What will this project mean for air quality and Rhode Island’s climate goals?

The Clear River Energy Center will be among the cleanest natural gas plants in the country – running much more efficiently than New England and New York’s existing power plants. By displacing those older, less efficient power plants, we’ll reduce carbon emissions in the region by more than **one million tons each year**.

The Resilient Rhode Island Act establishes economy-wide emissions goals for Rhode Island. Rhode Island is a small state geographically and interconnected to the New England electric grid. To meet the goals of the Act, reductions must be viewed on a regional basis. This approach is consistent with the Act, which obligates the Climate Change Coordinating Council to “work with other New England states to explore areas of mutual interest to achieve common goals,” recognizing the regional nature of greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

What will be the visual and sound impacts?

The project is set back from the nearest residence by more than 1,800 feet and surrounded by wooded buffer, so there will be little to no visible impact. Combined-cycle plants like this one do not emit any odor. Normal operation of the project will meet Town noise limits (the ambient noise level in the neighborhood is currently above that limit).

What about truck traffic?

The Clear River Energy Center will collaborate closely with town officials on our work plan to minimize disruptions during construction, and we’ll do that work only during daytime hours. A gas plant like this one requires little truck traffic during operation – much less traffic than the Ocean State Power facility.

What will this project mean for property values?

We do not anticipate any negative impacts to property values in town. Our infusion of tax revenue will strengthen the Town's tax base – and that could actually improve residential property values. As a further protection, we are offering a property value protection plan to direct abutters within half a mile of the plant itself.

Learn more:

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