



Rockport Energy Center Proposal Signals New Economic Chapter for Spencer County

ROCKPORT, Ind. — Indiana Michigan Power’s (I&M) proposed Rockport Energy Center could mark a major economic turning point for Spencer County, replacing uncertainty surrounding the retirement of the site’s coal-fired units with the potential for significant new investment, job creation and continued energy production.

I&M, an American Electric Power (AEP) company, announced Monday that it has asked the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to approve a 1,520-megawatt natural gas combined-cycle generation facility at its existing Rockport site.

If approved, the project is expected to support about 1,200 construction jobs and create 30 to 40 ongoing operating positions. I&M anticipates a regulatory decision in early 2027, with construction beginning that year and the facility beginning operations in summer 2030.

“This proposal is a pivotal opportunity for Spencer County,” said Heather Gries, chair of the Spencer County Economic Development Authority (SCEDA) and a Spencer County commissioner. “For decades, our county has helped power Indiana, and this proposal positions us to continue that legacy while building an even stronger future. AEP and Indiana Michigan Power’s proposed investment has the potential to create high-quality careers, attract new businesses, strengthen our local economy and reinforce Spencer County’s role as a leader in the world’s evolving energy future. SCEDA is committed to working with our local, regional and state partners to ensure this opportunity creates lasting benefits for our residents and future generations.”

For more than four decades, the Rockport site has been a significant source of energy production, skilled employment and economic activity in Spencer County. Its existing infrastructure, available space and experienced workforce position the site to support new generation and remain an important part of Indiana’s energy future.

SCEDA and county leaders credited AEP and I&M for recognizing the site’s continued strategic value and proposing a major new investment in Spencer County.

“This proposal builds on a relationship that has been important to Spencer County for more than 40 years,” said Jim Seiler, president of the Spencer County Board of Commissioners. “We appreciate I&M recognizing the long-term value of the Rockport site

and continuing to invest in our community. The commissioners, County Council and SCEDA have worked together to prepare for opportunities like this, and we will continue working together to make sure this project is handled responsibly and benefits Spencer County residents.”

County leaders also recognized the Spencer County Council for its fiscal stewardship and continued partnership in strengthening the county’s economic development capacity. The commissioners, council and SCEDA bring complementary responsibilities to the work ahead, including public leadership, disciplined planning, infrastructure coordination and economic development implementation.

As the proposal moves through regulatory review, SCEDA will coordinate the economic development work surrounding the project. That work will include connecting I&M with workforce, education, labor, business and regional partners; identifying infrastructure and supplier needs; and helping local workers and businesses prepare to compete for opportunities associated with the project.

“Today’s announcement is about securing the future of Spencer County,” said Mac Webb, a Spencer County commissioner. “This investment strengthens our position as a leader in energy production while creating a foundation for sustained economic growth and fiscal stability. I’m excited about the opportunities this creates for future generations and proud of the collaboration that helped make it possible.”

County leaders also emphasized that current Rockport employees and future generations of workers must remain central to the transition. Workforce preparation, skills development and coordination with education and labor partners will be critical to connecting residents with opportunities created by the proposed investment.

The Rockport Energy Center remains subject to review and approval by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. SCEDA and the commissioners will continue to communicate with residents, employers and regional stakeholders as the process advances. They will also work with I&M and local partners to maximize the project’s potential long-term value for Spencer County and southwestern Indiana.

For Spencer County, the proposal represents more than a new generation facility. It is an opportunity to sustain a critical economic anchor, strengthen the county’s competitive position and build a durable foundation for future growth.

About the Spencer County Economic Development Authority

The Spencer County Economic Development Authority leads countywide efforts to attract investment, support existing employers, advance infrastructure and workforce readiness, and build a resilient, prosperous and connected Spencer County.

About the Spencer County Board of Commissioners

The Spencer County Board of Commissioners is the executive body of Spencer County government and provides leadership on county operations, infrastructure, economic development and services for residents and businesses.

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