Iowa Utilities Commission

Docket No. GCU-2026-0002 — Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL)
Proposed electric generating facility (Linn County)

IPL proposes to construct, operate and maintain a 720-megawatt natural gas-fired electric generating facility known as the Morgan Valley Energy Center in Linn County. The company filed its application for a certificate of public convenience, use and necessity on April 29, 2026.

Proposed project: The facility would be sited on approximately 160 acres over four contiguous parcels along the west boundary of Linn County. The facility would use simple-cycle combustion turbine generator technology.

Legal authority: Iowa Code chapter 476A outlines the IUC's jurisdiction and the parameters that guide Commissioners' decisions in acting on applicants' requests to build power generating plants.

Unlike local elected bodies such as city councils, school boards or county boards of supervisors, the IUC Commissioners are a quasi-judicial body appointed by the governor. Hearings are operated much like court proceedings. Commissioners cannot let personal interests or public opinion determine how they decide an issue.

Procedural schedule: On June 30, 2026, the Commission accepted the Application and set a procedural schedule, shown below.

GCU-2026-0002 Procedural Schedule	
Procedural Activity	**Date**
Intervention Deadline	August 24, 2026
IPL Direct Testimony Due	September 2, 2026
OCA/Intervenor Direct Testimony Due	October 7, 2026
IPL Reply Testimony Due	October 27, 2026
Settlement Deadline	November 12, 2026
Discovery Deadline	November 12, 2026
Statement of the Issues Due	November 19, 2026
Hearing (90-150 days post acceptance)	December 7, 2026
Post-Hearing Brief Due	TBD at Hearing

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Hearing information: December 7-10, 2026, Radisson Hotel Cedar Rapids, 1200 Collins Road N.E., Cedar Rapids. Day one hearing begins at 10 a.m.; subsequent schedules will be determined daily.

Read more about procedures for this hearing on the What to Know About IUC Contested Case Hearings webpage at iuc.iowa.gov, which includes information about how to file comments in the docket, the intervention process, and how and when a decision will be reached following the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing.

Common Questions

What is a GCU docket?
The GCU docket type is used when a company requests to build certain electric generating facilities. The owner of the proposed electric generating facility is required to request from the Commission a generating certificate and file an application for a certificate of public convenience, use and necessity. These certificates are required pursuant to Iowa Code 476A.2 and are needed before beginning construction on generating facilities with a generation capacity of 25 megawatts and more.

Was eminent domain requested by IPL?
No, eminent domain was not requested. IPL states it has obtained all necessary land rights for the proposed project.

Was there a public informational meeting?
Yes. The informational meeting was held on March 23, 2026, at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids. On April 16, 2026, the Commission filed the informational meeting checklist.

Who are the parties in the proceeding?
The Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice, represents consumers generally as a party to all IUC proceedings. The IUC also granted intervention to the Linn County Board of Supervisors; the Benton County Board of Supervisors; City of Fairfax; City of Atkins; Sheer Family; the Environmental Law & Policy Center; the Iowa Environmental Council; the Clean Energy Districts of Iowa; Concerned Citizens of Linn & Benton Counties; Royce Tyler, LLC; Guy James West; Jon Lee; John Zakrasek; Dan Wozniak; Cindy Anderson; Nate Sirotak; Kelly Goodwin-Ackerman; and MJ Hopkins.

When will the Commission issue a final decision on the application?
Following the hearing, the Commission weighs the evidence and testimony presented, along with other filings that are part of the official record. There is no statutory time frame for the IUC to issue a decision.