

The road to municipalization

Over the last 40 years, only a handful of Iowa cities have filed to the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) a request to municipalize the electric utility system in their community. The last city allowed by the IUB to municipalize was Aurelia in 1975. Since then, a number of other cities have completed feasibility studies and almost all have decided to remain with their utility provider.

A costly challenge

Municipalization can be a slow and expensive process for a city. It requires a vote of the community, approval by the IUB and an uncertain future. The process can take three to five years. The most recent attempts have cost cities over \$100,000 just for initial studies and information. This doesn't include the cost of purchasing and operating the system.

The public interest

Cities must make a case that municipalization would be in the public interest. The last attempts at municipalization were turned down by the IUB due to a "wide range of cost factors, retail service access and reliability, electric rate forecasts, purchase power costs, potential transmission impacts, and operation and maintenance expenses for new utilities."

Some public interest factors include:

- **Higher rates** – On average, about 75% of municipal electric utilities in Iowa charge more than Alliant Energy.
- **High cost to operate** – The municipal incurs all the costs to manage the system.
- **Reduced oversight** – Customers would lose oversight provided by the Iowa Utilities Board and Office of Consumer Advocate. Oversight and regulation of rates, reliability and service quality would no longer be available.

Alliant Energy is working for Decorah

- "Best in class" energy-efficiency programs – \$136,000 in rebates were paid to Decorah customers in 2015.
- Alliant Energy paid \$161,000 in property taxes in FY 2015-2016.
- Alliant Energy has 18 employees based out of Decorah.

Focus on a clean energy future

- Alliant Energy is moving to a clean energy future with more wind, solar and natural gas and less coal.
- In 2016, we announced plans to add 900 megawatts of wind to Alliant Energy's system by 2020.
- Support of customer-owned generation through net metering and safety inspections for homes and businesses.
- Community solar buy-in options are coming soon.
- Alliant Energy's Second Nature Green Pricing Program – Up to 100% green power right now.
- Electric vehicle charger rebates for homes and businesses.
- Electric forklift rebates for local businesses to reduce emissions and costs.

