

Headlines



Rock Island Finalizes the White Hydropower Plant Purchase

May 22, 2008

On Monday, May 19th the Rock Island City Council approved the payment of \$1,330,000 for the White Hydropower Plant. The closing is scheduled for Monday, June 2nd. The capacity expansion planning and design remains on schedule and the additional generation capacity should come on line in December 2008. Mayor Mark Schwiebert said, "This is a major step for the city of Rock Island. It really puts us at the forefront of communities across the country."



The hydroelectric power plant is located in Rock Island on the north bank of the Rock River near 11th Street. The plant was constructed in 1912 and abandoned after about fifty years of service when operating costs began exceeding the value of the power being produced. During its peak, the plant was capable of producing about two megawatts of power.

The White Hydropower Company put the facility back in service in the early 1980's. Since its acquisition by White Hydropower Company, the plant has been in continuous operation generating up to about 600 kilowatts (0.6 megawatts). The power generated by the plant is currently sold to MidAmerican Energy Company at rates regulated by the Illinois Commerce Commission. The city of Rock Island plans on doubling the plant's current capacity which will in return provide 65 percent of the power for all city-owned facilities. This is a great way for the city to save money over the long term as the cost of energy increases.

According to City Manager, John C. Phillips, "This is an exciting opportunity to advance the City's desire to support sustainable technologies and seek low cost energy for the future."