

Power association triples size of Peru solar park project

Carson Gerber | Posted: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 12:00 pm

PERU – After doubling the size of a new solar park to be constructed in Peru, the Indiana Municipal Power Association said it now plans to triple the size of its project.

The company, which provides 59 cities and towns in Indiana with wholesale electricity, last year approved a \$2.1 million park that would contain 3,900 solar panels and produce 1 megawatt of energy.

In February, the utility announced it would double the size of the project, which would increase the investment to \$3.6 million.

Power company expanding Peru solar park

PERU – The Indiana Municipal Power Association said it will double the size a new solar park to be constructed this year just outside Peru.

The IMPA said this month it will now invest \$5.36 million to install 11,850 solar panels that will generate 3 megawatts of energy.

Jack Alvey, IMPA's senior vice president of generation, said the utility is installing solar parks throughout the state this year in order to meet its goal of generating 10 megawatts of solar energy in 2015.

The company decided to triple the size of the project after hitting roadblocks in acquiring land for solar parks in other Indiana towns, he said.

The Peru park will be built on 30 acres of land the IMPA is leasing from Peru Utilities on East Wabash Road, just outside the city limits.

Brooke Robertson, director of business retention and expansion for the Miami County Economic Development Authority, said another factor in the company expanding the project is the support from county and city officials.

“They’ve decided to make more investment in the communities that are working well with them,” she said. “The company wanted me to extend a big thank you (to the city and county) for being so easy to work with.”

New solar farm to be built near Peru

PERU – The Indiana Municipal Power Association said Monday it will construct a new \$2.1-million

solar park just outside Peru next year.

Alvey said construction will begin in late April and should be finished no later than September.

The Miami County Council Tuesday approved a 10-year tax abatement on the project, which is estimated to net more than \$640,000 in new tax revenue for the county over the next decade.

The utility is constructing two other solar parks this year in Tell City and Crawfordsville. Last year, the company built 1-megawatt parks in Richmond, Frankton and Rensselaer.

Alvey said building the solar parks will help the utility diversify its power sources and prepare for any potential regulations that could affect the kinds of energy plants they can build.