

## CEDAR RAPIDS AIRPORT COMMISSION

August 5, 2025 7:30 a.m.

### BOARD ROOM, THE EASTERN IOWA AIRPORT

Present: Robin Therme, Chairman  
Clayton Parks, Secretary  
Duane Smith, Acting Secretary  
Barry Boyer, Past Chairman

Also Present: Marty Lenss, Airport Director  
Kathy Bell, Director of Finance & Administration  
Pam Hinman, Director of Marketing & Communications  
Caleb Mason, Director of Properties & Business Development  
Vanessa Chavez, City Attorney (Zoom)  
Elly Whitson, Administrative Services Coordinator

The August 5, 2025 special meeting of the Cedar Rapids Airport Commission was called to order by Chairman Therme at 7:30 a.m. in the Board Room at the Eastern Iowa Airport. Chairman Therme verified that a quorum of Commission members were present. The Commission provided Zoom videoconferencing as an alternative to attending the meeting in person. Members of the public were able to attend this meeting in person or via Zoom.

### **New Business**

#### Discussion on Proposed Alliant Energy Utility Plant Site

Airport Marty Lenss gave an overview:

At last week's Commission meeting, the Commission unanimously ratified a contract with Foth engineering and their sub-consultant Atkins for the purposes of studying in detail the proposed development project of a gas-fired power plant located near Traverro site in the city of Fairfax.

The task order was, just over \$67,000. The proposed location of the gas-fired power plant poses several threats to the current and future operations of CID. The location is about four miles from the west end of our main runway 9/27, less than three miles from the northwest end of runway 13/31, and it would be less than a mile from the west end of the future third runway, which has been in our plans as an airport for decades.

Alliant's plant would have two exhaust stacks of somewhere between 190 to 250 feet above the ground. These stacks will create a vertical obstruction in the critical approach and departure airspace. The stacks will create heated exhaust plumes that will create additional hazards such as fog.

To correct some false understanding that can occur in these situations; the FAA will not approve or disapprove of this project. The FAA will not approve or disapprove of the proposed location. Local communities must decide local land use issues and the FAA will hold the airport accountable via grant assurances. Should the airport and the community make poor decisions and not protect the federal investment in the airport through compatible land use protections, the FAA may take action via our federal grant program.

Dennis Jordan introduced Alliant Team Members:

- Eric Curtis, Senior Project Manager, Eric will lead the discussion
- Dennis Jordan, Director of Customer, Community & Economic Development
- Emily Kaiser, Manager, Community Development
- Dave Herkert, AVP Strategic Projects
- Ali El-Zein, Director, Strategic Projects
- Andrew Heidt, Manager, Strategic Projects
- Taylor Adams, Senior Communications Specialist

Dennis Jordan stated Alliant does value the relationship that they have with the Eastern Iowa Airport and recognize the importance that both organizations have on the economic growth of our communities. Second, they strive to be transparent with our communications and actions. Third, they plan to follow all FAA regulations, local land use requirements, and safety standards.

Dave Herkert spoke more about the project. He said Alliant has an obligation to provide energy to their customers, both existing and new customers, and they need to do that reliably and cost affordably. There's a process that Alliant goes through from a regulatory perspective with the Iowa Utilities Commission. That process also provides the opportunity for significant input from the public. There's a public meeting that they have to have prior to filing that application, and then there's opportunity throughout the Iowa Utilities Commission for input to that process.

Eric Curtis stated this natural gas fire generation plant is two-on-one combined cycle, so two-on-one meaning two combustion turbines fired by natural gas and combined with one steam turbine. This decision allows us to use approximately one twentieth of the water that a standard wet-cooled that you see elsewhere in the community, so reducing our water, and also this decision to go to an air-cooled condenser eliminates any plume from the cooling water system. There will be a plume out of each of those stacks, but they will be at approximately 220 degrees.. Certain weather conditions will dramatically affect that. Sometimes you won't see anything, other times you could see it just all based on ambient conditions. Curtis said Alliant is working with Burns & McDonnell for their study.

Six letters received by the commission opposing this site from Todd Gibbs, Martin Pauly, Clint Gosch, Peter Nielsen, James Sampers, and Salah Faik

Public comments from the following:

Tim Busch, Atkins, Coe College Flight Instructor and private pilot

Chris Phillipp, City of Fairfax Building Administrator


Pat Baird, Former Airport Commissioner

JoAnne Beer, Mayor of Fairfax, Iowa

James Stanford

The commission will work with all to figure out common ground.

Motion by Smith, second by Boyer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 a.m. – all aye.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clayton Parks", is written above a horizontal line.

Clayton Parks, Secretary