



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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Iowa Interstate Railroad to Receive ASLRRRA's Environmental Award *Company's Renewable Energy Center Supports Midwest's Wind Energy Industry*

WASHINGTON, February 26, 2025 – ASLRRRA has selected the Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS) as the short line industry's 2025 Environmental Award recipient. The award showcases the short line industry's efforts to reduce the environmental impact of freight rail transportation, recognizing a Class II or III railroad that has implemented innovative programs that have reduced the railroad's environmental impact or contributed to meeting sustainability goals for the railroad and/or their shipper(s).

The IAIS has continually worked to reduce its environmental footprint in its railyards and in its offices, but the opening of the Renewable Energy Center catapulted their drive to be good environmental stewards to the next level.

Having the good fortune to be operating in the heart of one of the best wind resource areas in North America, the company identified Newton, Iowa as the opportune place to build a facility that would service the growth and repair of wind farms across the state. The Renewable Energy Center will allow the IAIS to serve new construction and replacement programs, a fiberglass blade manufacturer and a turbines tower all located within one mile of the new facility. Additionally, the Center will provide a custom transloading and storage solution for wind energy components, and offer connections to every Class I railroad operating in North America.

"Rail is the most environmentally friendly way to move freight over land. Rail also can move unique and oversized components, such as wind turbine blades that are more than 170 feet in length, safely and reliably, and importantly, not on public roadways," said Chuck Baker, President, ASLRRRA. "The IAIS has long been a leader in considering their environmental impact on the communities they serve. Its

Renewable Energy Center provides a triple beneficial impact for their customers and local economies. It supports a growing industry that provides alternative low emission sources of energy, adding skilled local jobs in the renewable energy sector; it provides safe and efficient access to the entire North American market for manufacturers; and it delivers all of this with low emissions in the heartland of our country.”

Providing a rail shipping option for manufacturers and suppliers also reduces the dependence on trucks to move heavy goods over long distances and reducing congestion, particulate and emissions pollution, and taxpayer-funded roadway repair.

Groundbreaking for the 25-acre Renewable Energy Center took place in May 2024 and construction was completed in December. The facility, centrally located in Newton, Iowa, offers connections to every Class I carrier in North America through IAIS. This unique connectivity provides shippers additional flexibility in seeking nearby ports for inbound shipments, factories for domestic manufacturing, and different route options as needed.

The IAIS will be honored at ASLRRRA’s upcoming Annual Conference & Exhibition, April 6-8, in Denver, Colorado.

For more on ASLRRRA’s Environmental Award, click [here](#).

About ASLRRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation’s 603 short line and regional railroads and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 47,500 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 29% of the national railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every five cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network. www.aslrra.org