

Stock Story



Constructive regulation, AI/data centre load, and renewables underpin multi year growth.

Alliant Energy (LNT) offers a clean way to capture the US power-demand upcycle: a constructive Midwest regulatory regime (notably Iowa's forward test years and advanced ratemaking), a leading renewable mix (~46% wind/solar), and 3+ GW of contracted peak demand from data centres and industrials – more than half its current ~5.6 GW system peak. With ~US\$11.5 billion of capex over four years (~68% of the 2025 rate base), the company has visibility into rate base and earnings growth, supported by constructive authorised returns, cost-recovery certainty, take-or-pay contracts from data centres, and an increasingly competitive delivered cost position.

Company snapshot

Alliant, a regulated utility headquartered in the US Midwest, operates through Interstate Power & Light (IPL, Iowa) and Wisconsin Power & Light (WPL, Wisconsin). The company has a track record of disciplined capital allocation, consistent earnings delivery and constructive regulatory relationships, giving it a clear pathway to sustainable, long-term growth.

Why regulated utilities – and why Alliant?

Under the US regulatory model, prudent capital added to a regulated utility's rate base earns an authorised return, providing visibility on long-term earnings. As US electricity demand accelerates beyond the last decade's pace, regulated utilities offer resilient earnings and sustainable cash flow with limited risk.

Alliant Energy stands out as a clear beneficiary of surging US power demand from AI driven data centres and US industrial onshoring. The utility's capex is aligned to grid modernisation, reliability and decarbonisation. With the rise of commercial and industrial loads, especially data centres in Iowa and Wisconsin, Alliant is well-positioned to participate meaningfully in the next phase of US electricity system investment.

Alliant plans to invest ~US\$11.5 billion over the next four years – the largest multi year capital program in its history – equivalent to ~68% of its 2025 rate base. The spend is focused on transmission and distribution upgrades, renewables additions and enabling infrastructure for large loads. Given the company operates in a constructive regulatory regime in the US state of Iowa, we expect that execution on this plan should translate efficiently into earned returns.

Regulatory backdrop: constructive and improving (Iowa in focus)

Alliant's service territories in Wisconsin and Iowa are constructive for authorised return, capital deployment and economic development. (Given Wisconsin is covered in the recent Stock Story on WEC Energy, here we focus on Iowa.)

Iowa is turning more constructive. In particular, authorised returns are above national averages. Recently, the state has adopted forward test years and extended advanced ratemaking for renewables, allowing certain assets to earn returns comparable to, and in some cases higher than, FERC-regulated transmission. The framework provides cost-recovery certainty, sharing mechanisms that support achieving authorised returns and, where appropriate, outperformance.

Under the state's regulatory regime, Alliant also has access to flexible tariffs for large loads. Iowa's individual customer rates (ICR) enable competitive, expedited onboarding of large users (e.g. data centres), aligning economic development goals with timely utility investment.

Renewables leadership supports affordability and growth

Among the regulated utilities, Alliant is a leader in renewables. We estimate that ~46% of Alliant's resource capacity is wind and solar – clean technologies with typically low LCOE (levelised cost of electricity), supporting customer affordability and system resilience.

Furthermore, although the policy landscape has changed in the US this year, with federal tax credits for clean energy investment phased out, the company has safe-harboured incentives for almost all its renewables. These include wind and solar projects and associated tax credits. Even without IRA credits, these projects remain economic, underscoring the robustness of the build.

Through this investment pipeline, Alliant also has a strategic advantage. A cleaner, lower cost resource mix helps keep residential bills manageable while attracting large, power-intensive customers to Alliant's grid.

Demand surge: data centres and onshoring

The Midwest is at the inflection point of load demand growth, particularly in Wisconsin and Iowa. Rapid electricity demand growth is reversing decades of muted load trends, making the Midwest one of the fastest-growing regions.

Within this environment, Alliant has a strong contracted load. Alliant's 3+ GW of contracted peak demand is significant relative to its current ~5.6 GW system peak. These are resilient, durable loads supported by take-or-pay structures, minimum-demand commitments and upfront payments from data centre operators and other large customers.

Finally, we see these factors as supporting an ongoing flywheel in investment for Alliant. Load growth necessitates incremental grid and generation investment, which in a constructive regulatory environment converts directly into rate-base expansion and earnings visibility.

Fiona Wu, CFA
Investment Analyst

Connect with us **Email:** info@magellanfinancialgroup.com **Phone:** +61 2 9235 4888 or 1800 6243 5526

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This material has been delivered to you by Magellan Asset Management Limited ABN 31 120 593 946 AFS Licence No. 304 301 trading as Magellan Investment Partners ('Magellan Investment Partners') and has been prepared for general information purposes only and must not be construed as investment advice or as an investment recommendation. This material does not take into account your investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs. This material does not constitute an offer or inducement to engage in an investment activity nor does it form part of any offer documentation, offer or invitation to purchase, sell or subscribe for interests in any type of investment product or service. You should obtain and consider the relevant Product Disclosure Statement ('PDS') and Target Market Determination ('TMD') and consider obtaining professional investment advice tailored to your specific circumstances before making a decision about whether to acquire, or continue to hold, the relevant financial product. A copy of the relevant PDS and TMD relating to a Magellan Investment Partners financial product may be obtained by calling +61 2 9235 4888 or by visiting www.magellaninvestmentpartners.com

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results and no person guarantees the future performance of any financial product or service, the amount or timing of any return from it, that asset allocations will be met, that it will be able to implement its investment strategy or that its investment objectives will be achieved. This material may contain 'forward-looking statements'. Actual events or results or the actual performance of a Magellan Investment Partners financial product or service may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated in such forward-looking statements.

This material may include data, research and other information from third party sources. No guarantee is made that such information is accurate, complete or timely and no warranty is given regarding results obtained from its use. This information is subject to change at any time and no person has any responsibility to update any of the information provided in this material. Statements contained in this material that are not historical facts are based on current expectations, estimates, projections, opinions and beliefs of Magellan Investment Partners or the third party responsible for making those statements (as relevant). Such statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, and undue reliance should not be placed thereon. No representation or warranty is made with respect to the accuracy or completeness of any of the information contained in this material. Magellan Investment Partners will not be responsible or liable for any losses arising from your use or reliance upon any part of the information contained in this material.

Any third-party trademarks contained herein are the property of their respective owners and Magellan Investment Partners claims no ownership in, nor any affiliation with, such trademarks. Any third-party trademarks contained herein are the property of their respective owners, are used for information purposes and only to identify the company names or brands of their respective owners, and no affiliation, sponsorship or endorsement should be inferred from such use. This material and the information contained within it may not be reproduced, or disclosed, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of Magellan Investment Partners. (080825-#W17) UID116