Duke Energy’s coal-gasification plant in Edwardsport went online in June 2013. Ready are on the hook for much of the plant’s construction costs. The December glitches took the plant offline repeatedly and squeezed its generating output to about 23 percent of capacity that month, Duke Energy said in a recent filing with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Over the 23 months the plant has been in service, it has generated electricity as a technological marvel and a producer of reliable, low-cost energy, has faced a string of construction, operating and maintenance setbacks.

Now, a good chunk of the repair costs could be passed along to Duke Energy’s 790,000 customers in Indiana, who are on the hook for much of the plant’s construction costs.

For a brand-new, $3.5 billion construction project, Duke Energy’s Edwardsport power plant already is showing a lot of bumps and scrapes.


And all that was just in December.

The plant, heralded by Duke Energy as a technological marvel and a producer of reliable, low-cost energy, has faced a string of construction, operating and maintenance setbacks.

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Over the 23 months the plant has been in service, it has generated electricity at a cost.

The Edwardsport plant cost $3.5 billion, nearly twice the original estimate of $1.985 billion.

Problems pile up at Edwardsport Power plant bedeviled by repairs; technical setbacks could cost customers

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» See EDWARDSPORT, Page 10A

GARFIELD PARK IS BIG CAR’S NEXT BLANK CANVAS

Open a record store and radio station to boost struggling corridor

The Garfield Park house is one of the city’s more forlorn. The windows are boarded up. The front door is busted open. Trash from squatters is strewn about.

In many ways it’s another empty property, a blight, lying on a street where the interstate plowed through the Southside neighborhood in the 1970s.

It’s also a perfect place for the big idea to begin. Oh, it’s big but not unfathomable. And it works like this:

Use local artists, and their art, to transform and revitalize an urban neighborhood.

Big Car is behind the big idea. The nonprofit art collaborative plans to buy the house at 1230 Cruft St. and rehab it into not just an affordable home but also a studio it intends to co-own with artists.

But that’s just a slice of the effort to breathe new life into Garfield Park. If all goes well, it will help lead the way into a bigger idea:

Turn a vacant warehouse into community and exhibit space

Convert area abandoned homes into affordable housing for artists
The plant's bumpy ride

The plant has had a bumpy ride almost from the start. Just a few months online, rising to 75 percent in March.

Duke Energy built the plant to mod- ularly fit its aging coal-fired plants in Indians. The utility, based in Charlotte, N.C., said the plant was sorely needed to keep up with expiring emissions permits. It's operated with the hope of being able to gasify coal, strip out many of the pol- lutants and then burn that cleaner gas to create electricity. It's the largest plant of its kind in the state.

Tim Stewart, a lawyer for Lewis and Partners, said the technology was “gasify” coal, strip out many of the pol- lutants and then burn that cleaner gas to create electricity. It's the largest plant of its kind in the state.

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