

Project Name	Code	Docket Number	County	Size (MW)	Developer	Evidence of Project
Trimont Area Wind I (upgrade)	A-SSW	13-258	Jackson, Martin	100.5	Avangrid Renewables f/k/a Iberdrola Renewables, LLC)	Edockets
Blazing Star 2	A-SW	17-700	Lincoln County	200	Geronimo Energy & Xcel	Edockets
Lake Benton (Retrofit)	A-SW	13-294	Lincoln County	107.25	Allete Clean Energy, Inc. w/ Excel	Edockets
Lake Benton II Re-power		18-179	Pipestone, County	137	NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER	Edockets
Nobles 2 Wind Project	A-SW	17-597	Nobles County	260	Tenaska & Project Resource Corporation (PRC)	Edockets
Dodge County Wind Farm	SE	17-307	Dodge	170	NextEra Energy Resources, LLC	Edockets
Bitter Root Wind Project	A-W	17-749	Yellow Medicine County	152	RES Americas	Edockets
Praire Rose Wind Farm 2	A-SW	N/A	Rock, Pipestone	100	Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC	Edockets
Oza Tanka Wind Farm	B-SSW	N/A	Faribault	200	Oza Tanka Wind Farm w/ EDF Renewable Energy	Article/Developer Profile
Rose Lake Wind Farm	B-SSW	N/A	Martin	200	EDF Renewable Energy	Article/Developer Profile
Wilder Junction Wind Farm	B-SW	N/A	Jackson	40	Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC	Article/Developer Profile
Big Bend	B-SW	N/A	Cottonwood	300	Apex Clean Energy	Article/Developer Profile
Fourmile Wind Farm	B-SW	N/A	Jackson	300	TradeWinds Energy Incorporated	Article/Developer Profile
Plum Creek Wind Farm	B-SW	N/A	Cottonwood	400	Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC	Article/Developer Profile
Redwood River Wind Farm	B-SW	N/A	Lyon	200	EDF Renewable Energy	Article/Developer Profile
Ceres	B-W	N/A	Stevens County	100	TradeWinds Energy	Article/Developer Profile
Little Rock Wind Farm	B-W	N/A	Big Stone	150	National Renewable Solutions	Article/Developer Profile
County Line Wind Farm	C	N/A	Benton, Marrison	250	Apex Clean Energy.	Article/Developer Profile
County Wind Energy Center	SE	N/A	Steele, Dodge	170	NextEra	Article/Developer Profile

*Article/Profiles Attached

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Big Bend Wind planned for Comfrey area

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Source: *Business and Financial Times*

It looks like more townships in Cottonwood County could see wind farm dollars blowing their way in the near future. Selma, Delton and Amboy townships are in the footprint of a project planned by Apex Clean Energy of Virginia. The project as currently planned is 100 percent in Cottonwood County, said Norm Holmen, Cottonwood County commissioner.



Dave Wagner, senior development manager of the project for Apex, said the company hopes it may secure permits within the next two to three years with a goal to begin construction sometime in

early 2020. Though we're still in the early planning stages, we hope to have a 300- to 500-megawatt project called Big Bend Wind, Wagner said. If the project gets built, Cottonwood County can expect revenue of between \$1.5 to \$2.5 million per year and \$46 to \$77 million over the life of the project, depending on its final size. Payments to landowners could range from \$67 to \$94 million over the life of the project, usually calculated at 30 years. The current area of interest ranges from Comfrey to two miles south of Highway 30 and then west of Highway 71 a mile. Apex is considering including about 85 to 140 towers.

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Ceres

Where is the project?

Stevens County, MN just southwest of Morris, MN.

What is the size of the project?

100 MW

Landowners and Acreage Involved:

The project area encompasses approximately 15,000 acres and is expected to involve around 60 landowners.

Who is developing the project?

Ceres Wind Project, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tradewind Energy, Inc.

For questions about the Ceres Wind Project, please contact the Project Developer, Tom Swierczewski, at 913-322-7555 or tom@tradewindenergy.com (<mailto:tom@tradewindenergy.com>).

For more information about the benefits of our projects, please click [here](http://tradewindenergy.com/wind-energy-information-resources/) (<http://tradewindenergy.com/wind-energy-information-resources/>).

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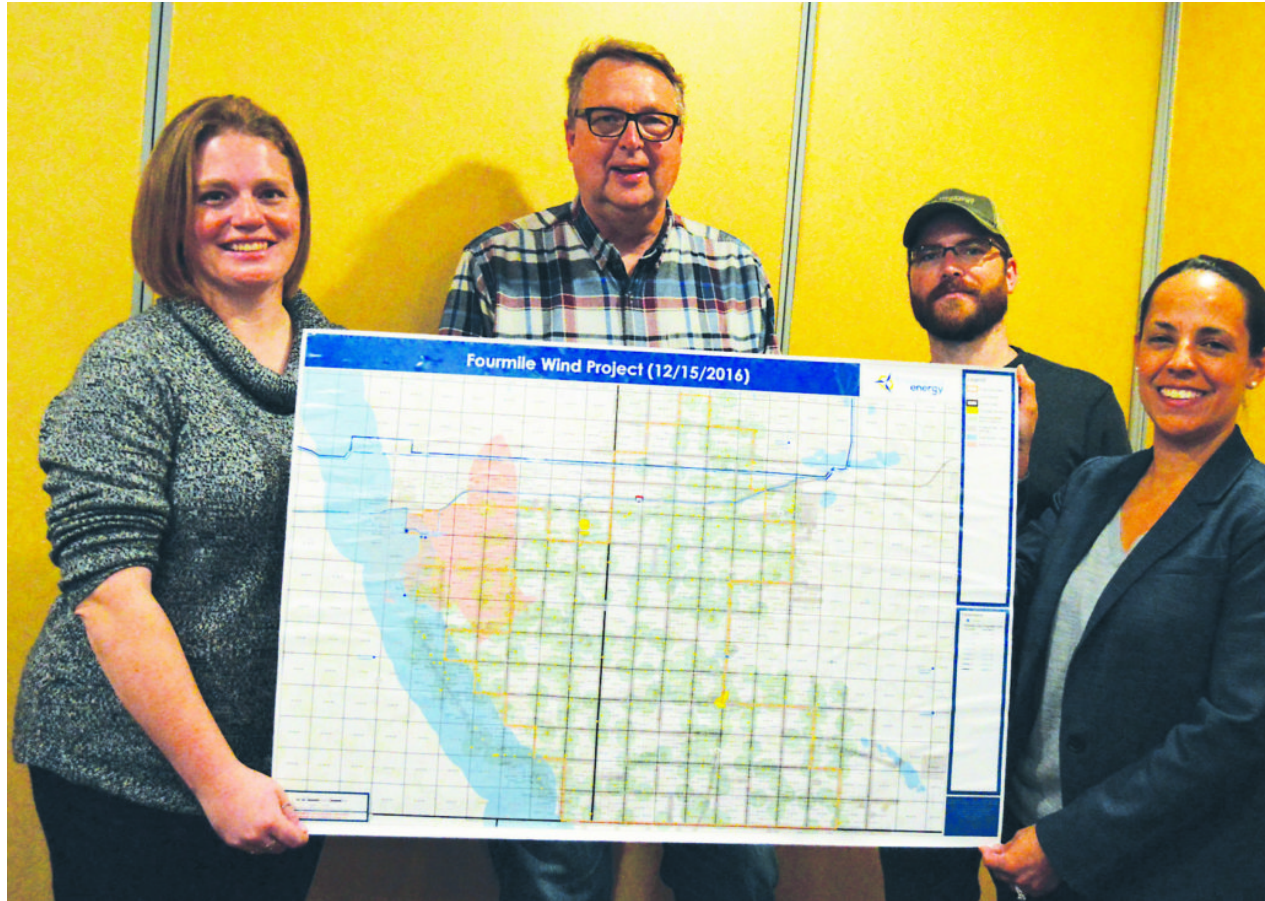
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Sentinel

Tradewind planning wind farm



PLANNING STAGES — Representatives of Tradewind Energy, from left, Amber Zuhlke, Howard Krueger, Nate Bauer and Christina Yagjian, display the map for a proposed wind turbine project straddling Jackson and Martin counties. The long body of water on the left is the Blue Earth River, and Fox Lake appears in the upper right.

FAIRMONT — A quartet of representatives from Tradewind Energy recently visited the Fairmont Exchange Club to share information about the Fourmile Wind Project proposed for Jackson and Martin counties.

Over the past several months, Tradewind agents have met with more than a dozen residential, civic and governmental groups to explain the wind

farm project, which would generate \$1.5 million annually in landowner lease payments and \$1.2 million annual in taxes, mostly in Martin County.

“We have a pretty strong track record,” Christina Yagjian, senior development manager, said in introducing Tradewind Energy, based in Lenexa, Kan. *“We’re one of the most successful wind and solar developers in the United States. We have a long-term partnership with Enel Green Power North America. They have purchased the majority of the projects that we develop, typically just before construction.”*

Selecting and securing a project site is a multi-year, multi-phase process. Teams of analysts evaluate areas, searching for optimal places for renewable energy projects.

“They look at migratory bird patterns. They look at energy prices. They look at what different permitting processes are. They look at transmission lines, and they identified Jackson and Martin counties as possible places to site a wind facility,” Yagjian said.

The general project boundary straddles the Jackson-Martin county line, with the total project footprint encompassing about 60,000 acres that would support a maximum of 150 wind turbines.

Once a possible project site is identified, a multi-phase environmental impact study begins.

“It starts very early on and is very critical to a project,” Yagjian said.

The Fourmile environmental study began last year with an eagle survey. Helicopters are used for an overhead view of the area, and high resolution photographs are taken to identify nests to determine if eagles are using the nests and if eggs are present. Biologists do ground studies, using binoculars to track migrating bird patterns. There are cultural studies that search for relics, such as arrowheads.

“It is a two-year long process,” Yagjian said.

Amber Zuhlke, director of environmental studies and permitting with Tradewind Energy, said each of the company’s projects includes a bird and

bat conservation strategy.

“This outlines everything we do before the construction phase, things we do during construction and post construction to address any kind of impact to birds and wildlife,” Zuhlke said. “In every one of our projects, we know there will be a minimum of two years of pre-construction bird and eagle surveys. We also do two years of pre-construction general bird surveys focused on migration seasons, both spring and fall. There’s a lot of different things we factor in.”

The environmental study for Fourmile Wind Project began last year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources monitor the study and must approve the project, and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission also reviews the project.

“Three different governmental bodies take a look at these issues before you can put a shovel in the ground, and they monitor you after the project is completed,” said Howard Krueger who, with Nate Bauer, has been in the area for the past 15 months laying groundwork for the project.

Once the environmental study is complete, the next step is obtaining state permits, a process that takes about 18 months. Tradewind anticipates completing the permitting process by mid 2020.

“The earliest the project would come online would be 2021, but reality is that it would be closer to 2022,” Yagjian said.

Wind energy projects are not eligible for eminent domain so land use must be secured through lease agreements with landowners. Krueger said Tradewind negotiates long-term leases with annual payments and built-in increases with landowners, both those on whose property the turbines will be built as well as those in buffer zones.

“We tend to hold the line that everybody gets paid the same. Nobody is going to get a sweetheart deal,” Krueger said. *“For the most part, it pays \$55 an acre, even if you have nothing on your land.”*

Prior to the construction phase, Tradewind works with county management on a road improvement plan and also focuses on drainage

issues. Krueger said a project near Dexter culminated with three new bridges and 65 miles of roads rebuilt within the project area. He added that the company bonds for drainage and road work.

Noise levels of the turbines have become a contentious issue with a Faribault County wind farm, but Krueger said that Tradewind Energy is cognizant of the turbine noise.

“Our goal is to be at 45 decibels, and 45 decibels would be the sound of a brand new refrigerator running,” he said. “Most of the time, especially in the summer and fall, the ambient noise level from the wind passing through crops and trees is much greater than the wind turbines themselves, but it’s still an issue we are very concerned about.”

Selecting a site and satisfying all the requirements to obtain a state permit is costly.

“Environmental studies alone will probably \$1.5 million,” Zuhlke said. “Just the state permitting process costs a couple hundred thousand dollars. You’re probably close to \$10 million just for developing costs.”

One concern residents often have is being blanketed by clusters of turbines, but this shouldn’t be an issue with the Fourmile development. A senior development official from Tradewind Energy told the Martin County Planning Commission in November that the project will only take 1 percent to 2 percent of the impacted area out of service, including all land for roads and turbine foundations.

“We’ve got 60,000 acres in the boundary, and there are many different ways within that boundary that we can set the array (of turbines) to reach our 300-megawatt target.”

“It would be spread over a very large area,” Krueger said. “You won’t get the feel that there are a lot of turbines around because they’re spread out over a greater distance.”

The Tradewind team will continue speaking to small groups in the area. As part of the state permitting process, the Minnesota PUC will host three public meetings in the impacted area to give residents and landowners, as

well as Tradewind experts, an opportunity to give testimony about the project.

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filed: May 10, 2018 • Minnesota

New wind energy center in the works for Steele, Dodge counties

Credit: By Annie Harman | May 9, 2018 | www.southernminn.com

STEELE COUNTY – Renewable energy has been a hot topic for years throughout the United States, and southern Minnesota is not exempt from trying to find a way too be more green.

NextEra Energy Resources approached the Steele County Board of Commissioners at the board's regular meeting on Tuesday to inform the commissioners of a new potential project that could be coming to the area as early as next spring.

“We analyze the area we wish to develop in for the best resource in that area,” said Mike Weich with NextEra. “We determined that wind is the best resource for energy development in this area of the country and in these specific communities.”

NextEra is proposing a County Wind Energy Center project to span across Steele and Dodge counties. It would be owned and operated by a subsidiary of NextEra and is expected to have a maximum capacity of up to 170 megawatts produced by up to 71 wind turbines. Each turbine will be up to 88 meters tall from the ground to the hub in the center of the blades. The areas in Steele County that would be impact include Aurora and Havana townships.

“With all the work we’ve done and the analysis we’ve done, I just want to clearly update you on where we see the benefits of the project and how the communities will be impacted,” Weich said to the commissioners. “The project will provide approximately 200 construction jobs during the construction timeline.”

The proposed timeline is currently projected to begin in the late spring/early summer of 2019, with completion of the project four to six months later. Weich also stated that upon project

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completion there will be about a dozen full-time operation jobs created and will collect more than \$15 million in property taxes through year-end 2032.

“During the construction timeline, all those construction workers will be in and around the communities, so we typically see an economic boom in the counties that we set up in across the country,” he added. “We will also continually receive any information you guys have throughout the life of the contract regarding local contractors or local companies that feel they can provide help and aid during the project.”

“We have a meeting in June set up with the Chamber of Commerce,” said Kimberly Dickey, also with NextEra. “We will identify a host of businesses and hotel accommodations and restaurants that we’ll put on a big list we supply to our contractors so that your local businesses are benefiting.”

Despite all the direct impact the project could have on Steele County, whether or not the project happens is actually beyond the county’s control.

“The projects of this size are permitted by the State Public Utilities Commission, not local government. They are exempt from that permitting,” explained Dale Oolman, the planning and zoning director for Steele County.

Dickey explained that the draft application has already been submitted to the State Director of Commerce. Once comments are provided back, NextEra will move forward with the permit application, which will then be followed by a public comment period.

“There is an entire 12-month period with public hearings,” Dickey said. “That’s a lot of opportunity for comments

“Yes, the state has the permitting process we have to adhere to in order to build the project,” Weich added. “But in parallel, we want to also interact with the townships and counties and get your feedback so we can work with the communities along the way as well. Wind farms don’t get built without community participation.”

Weich also explained that if the project were to move forward, upon the expiration of the contract in 2032 there would be a couple options on how to move forward with the energy center.

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German firm in bid to develop tallest turbine in north of Scotland

Letters, Maine:
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Maine:
Meeting on transmission line project draws a crowd

Illinois:
Wind farm tower permits move to county board

Missouri:
Mo. Supreme Court lights way forward for Grain Belt Express energy line

Missouri:
Missouri Supreme Court

“We have the opportunity to find another contractual partner in the project and conduct a repower,” he said. “That can be seen in two processes: either we just conduct the maintenance on those given turbines and enhance their technology, which we’re currently doing throughout the country, or depending on where technology is we might be able to minimize the size of the site. We would decommission the current ones and build new ones, meaning we could go from 71 turbines to maybe 35.”

Weich added that the turbines would never be decommissioned and left standing, stating that they are too valuable not to recycle.

The next step of the process is to wait out the next couple of weeks and see if the state decides that wind truly is the next step for home-grown energy in Southern Minnesota.

Source: By Annie Harman | May 9, 2018 | www.southernminn.com

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Fourmile

Where is the project?

Sherburn, MN extending west to Jackson, MN and south to the Iowa border in Martin and Jackson Counties.

What is the size of the project?

Up to 300 MW

Landowners and Acreage Involved:

The project area encompasses approximately 60,000 acres and is expected to involve around 150 landowners.

Who is developing the project?

Fourmile Wind Project, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tradewind Energy, Inc.

For questions about the Fourmile Wind Project, please contact the Project Developer, Gina Wolf, at gwolf@tradewindenergy.com (<mailto:gwolf@tradewindenergy.com>).

For more information about the benefits of our projects, please click [here](http://tradewindenergy.com/wind-energy-information-resources/) (<http://tradewindenergy.com/wind-energy-information-resources/>).

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PRESS RELEASE

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – (January 10, 2012) - National Renewable Solutions, LLC (NRS) confirmed today that Dakota Wind Energy, Norfolk Wind Energy, and Little Rock Wind each received notice of approval of \$50,000 technical feasibility grants from the Rural Development division of the USDA. These grants will be used for feasibility study work on project wind assessment, transmission interconnection and environmental assessment. The grants require matching funds and will result in completion of a third party feasibility report for each of the projects.

Dakota Wind Energy is located in Roberts, Marshall and Day Counties in Northeast South Dakota. The project company was formed in January 2008 with the goal of building 450 MW of wind generation capacity. Dakota Wind has over 50,000 acres leased representing 110 landowners.

Little Rock Wind is located in Big Stone County in Western Minnesota and plans to develop a 50-200 MW wind farm through various phases. Little Rock was formed in May of 2008 and has since also acquired the assets of Big Stone Wind, LLC, an adjacent 20MW development-stage project. As of January 2011, approximately 11,000 acres have been leased within the project site. Little Rock has plans to add an additional 6,000-8,000 acres of leased land in the near future.

Norfolk Wind Energy is a 40-150 MW project based out of Renville County, Minnesota. To date, the project has leased over 9,000 acres and will pursue an additional 8,000-10,000 acres during an expansion effort to begin soon.

National Renewable Solutions, LLC, is the project developer/manager for each of these project companies. Based out of Minneapolis, NRS focuses on the "Local ownership model" for each of their ongoing and future wind development projects, and currently manages four other wind development projects in Texas, New Mexico, Montana and Maryland.

Patrick Pelstring, President of NRS said, "We are very pleased with the USDA decision to support these projects with feasibility study funding. This decision by the USDA Rural Development continues their active assistance to promote local ownership and development of wind projects."

NRS expects the feasibility studies will be completed within a span of the next 12-18 months, and hopes to have various phases of these projects ready for construction in the next 24-36 months.

###

National Renewable Solutions, LLC (NRS): National Renewable Solutions, LLC is a national leader in developing community wind energy projects. NRS forms community wind energy partnerships with property owners, and in many cases, public and private institutions. Patrick Pelstring is cofounder of National Wind and a former owner and board member. During his tenure at the company, National Wind completed development of nearly 300MWs of projects using the community ownership model. NRS currently has approximately 1,500 MWs in development around the country. **Contact: Patrick Pelstring at 952-473-7500**
www.natrs.com

Dakota Wind Energy, LLC (Dakota Wind): Dakota Wind Energy, LLC is a community wind project company seeking to install 450 MW's of energy within the Northeastern portion of South Dakota. Dakota Wind's manager is National Renewable Solutions, LLC out of Minneapolis MN and has a local Advisory Board consisting of nine community members. **Contact: Gerry Fischer, Advisory Board Member at 651-503-7421** **www.dakotawindenergy.com**

Little Rock Wind, LLC (Little Rock): Little Rock Wind, LLC is a community wind project company seeking to install 50-200 MW's of energy within Big Stone County, Minnesota. Little Rock's manager is National Renewable Solutions, LLC out of Minneapolis MN and has a local Advisory Board consisting of eight community members. **Contact: Paul Strong, Advisory Board Member at 320-808-6665** **www.littlerockwind.com**

Norfolk Wind Energy, LLC (Norfolk): Norfolk Wind Energy, LLC is a community wind project company seeking to install 40-150 MW's of energy within Renville County, Minnesota. Norfolk's manager is National Renewable Solutions, LLC out of Minneapolis MN and has a local Advisory Board consisting of seven members. **Contact: David Scheibel, Board of Governors at 320-579-0442**
www.norfolkwindenergy.com

Sentinel

Proposed wind farm stirs debate

BLUE EARTH — Faribault County commissioners heard from both sides of the wind turbine debate at their meeting on Tuesday.

The Oza Tanka Wind Project is a plan by EDF Renewable Energy to install 80 to 100 wind turbines within 18,000 to 20,000 acres in Barber Township. With construction set to begin in the spring of 2020, EDF is working with landowners to participate in the project. Participation is voluntary, with landowners compensated based on acreage and wind power. At least 1,700 acres of land have been leased for the project so far.

Jacob Salisbury, land acquisition specialist, and development director PJ Saliterman represented EDF Renewable Energy at the meeting to discuss recent changes to the project that are meant to better fit the needs of the community.

“In the spirit of being proactive, we’ve been asking ourselves how we can show that we are interested in making the program work for everybody,” Saliterman said. “We want to make sure that everyone in the community feels that they are being respected. We understand that wind turbines would be a big change on the landscape and not everyone is excited about that, but we also understand that a wind project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for family farms to secure their future.”

Changes to the program include restricting the wind turbines to at least 1,400 feet from residences not participating in the program. Saliterman also said the company will make its *“best efforts”* to honor the requests of landowners for 1,500-foot buffers, and will work with landowners to find the most cost-effective options when it comes to spraying their fields.

Saliterman told commissioners that company representatives are willing to come to meetings throughout the process in order to give updates and answer questions.

Concerned landowners and members of the community attended the meeting to voice their opposition to the project. Johanna Howcker, who rents land from a local farmer, spoke out against the project. She said her main concern is the eyesore of the wind turbines, as well as the noise pollution they can produce.

“I love living in the country,” she said. “I love my fruit trees and my berries, my animals, cats and dogs and I have a really nice lifestyle out in the country. I really want to continue that lifestyle without any interference of wind turbines. I just want to state the fact that I am 100 percent totally against the wind turbine program.”

Saliterman said that while the concerns of landowners in Faribault County are common when it comes to wind turbine installations, the amount of opposition for a project of this size is unusual.

“We find many communities that we work in where wind is warmly embraced,” he said. “There are always some folks that are not excited about change. Change is hard and we understand that some people just don’t like the looks of turbines and we can’t do anything about that. We’re just looking to work with people to find a reasonable compromise.”

Saliterman believes the large pushback from landowners is due to misinformation being circulated via social media.

To combat this, EDF has set up a number of informational events and opportunities to engage with the community. Having set up an office in the former Delavan High School building, the company will host donut and coffee hours to answer questions from the community.

Salisbury hopes the events and the open line of communication will help change public opinion.

“We’re ready to work with everybody here, we just need more feedback from the community,” he said. “You can’t really get away from the

cosmetic standpoint of things, but if there's something else that we can do we want to hear about it."

Donut and coffee hours will be 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the former Delavan High School building on Nov. 8 and 15. An informational event will be held at the high school building at 6 p.m. Nov. 16.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Plum Creek Wind Farm is an up to 400 megawatt (MW) wind farm under development in Cottonwood, Murray and Redwood Counties in Minnesota. The project is a development of Plum Creek Wind Farm, LLC, a fully-owned subsidiary of Geronimo Energy. The Plum Creek Wind Farm is planned for up to 400 megawatts with the potential to be built in phases. The total Plum Creek Wind Farm footprint spans approximately 70,000 acres in the townships of Ann, Highwater, and Westbrook in Cottonwood County, Dovray and Holly in Murray County, and Lamberton and North Hero in Redwood County. Plum Creek represents a total investment of up to \$640 million once fully developed.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

All figures based on 400 MW capacity

Operational Capacity:	400 MW
Location:	Cottonwood, Murray and Redwood Counties, Minnesota
Number of Turbines:	~100-200
Acres in Project Footprint:	up to 70,000, with less than 100 acres taken out of agricultural production during operation
CO2 Emissions Reduced:	~1.1 million metric tons/ year
Local Community Fund:	up to \$80,000/ year

PROJECT HISTORY

Wind Developmen

- [Audubon Wind](#)
- [Blazing Star Wind](#)
- [Blazing Star 2 Wind](#)
- [Blue Ridge Wind](#)
- [Crocker Wind](#)
- [Dawson Wind](#)
- [Niobrara Wind](#)
- [North Fork Wind](#)
- [Plum Creek Wind](#)
- [Stutsman Wind](#)
- [Wilder Junction Wind](#)
- [Prairie Rose II Wind](#)

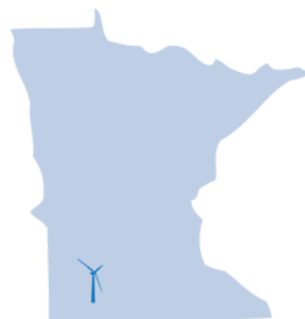
Solar Developmen

- [Community Solar Gardens](#)
- [Franklin Solar Project](#)
- [Harmony Solar](#)
- [Pipestone Solar](#)
- [Sandstone Creek Solar](#)
- [White Pine Solar](#)
- [Wild Springs Solar](#)
- [Lindy Solar](#)

The Plum Creek Wind Farm was originated in mid-2016 with initial conversations with local landowners to gauge the interest of the local community. In the past, wind development had been limited in the Plum Creek Wind Farm area due to limited transmission. However, recent new transmission additions have made wind energy development favorable. Geronimo Energy has a successful history in developing wind farms and boosting local economies in the Plum Creek Wind Farm region and is proposing to do the same for the Plum Creek Wind Farm community by building on existing local relationships. Geronimo has a local office in nearby Windom, Minnesota and has engaged the local community to build support for the project.

PLUM CREEK WIND FARM

The Plum Creek Wind Farm is located in the wind-rich region of southwest Minnesota, between the towns of Westbrook and Walnut Grove. The average wind speed, measured at 80 meters, is 8.4 meters per second, which is just under 18.8 miles per hour. The prevailing wind direction is from the northwest and south.



PLUM CREEK WIND FARM TRANSMISSION LINE

The Plum Creek Wind Farm's planned transmission line is expected to comprise a 345 kilovolt (kV) line that delivers clean wind energy to the nearby electrical grid. The Plum Creek Wind Farm transmission line will run approximately 25 miles from the Plum Creek Wind Farm south of Walnut Grove, MN to the Plum Creek Wind Farm's Point-of-Interconnect (POI), which is located north of Lucan, MN. At the POI, the power will connect to the Brookings County-Hampton transmission line on the MISO transmission system. MISO stands for Midcontinent Independent System Operator and is an essential link in the safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power across much of North America. More information about the Plum Creek Wind Farm Transmission Line can be found at the link below.

As the project begins the permitting process, this page will be updated with information regarding the proposed transmission line, including but not limited to: Regulatory Filings, Regulatory Schedule and Project Maps.

If you would like to speak to someone regarding the Plum Creek Wind Farm and Transmission Line, please contact us 952-988-9000 or at info@geronimoenergy.com.

[Community Impact Sheet](#)

[Transmission Fact Sheet](#)

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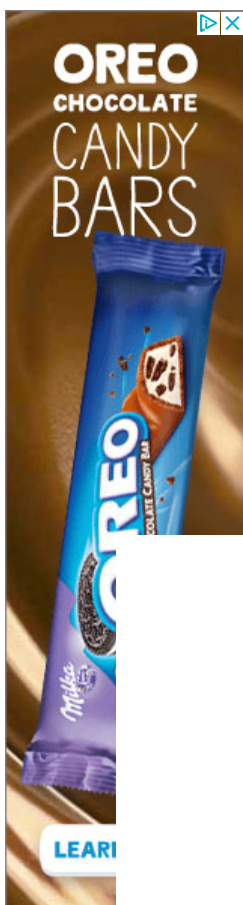
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Are more wind towers coming?

Company wants to construct 100 turbines in Barber Township

October 1, 2017

Chuck Hunt - Register Staff Writer , Faribault County Register

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A windpower company wants to invest about \$300 million into Faribault County, and erect between 80 and 100 large wind towers in Barber Township.

And, while some of the residents seem to be embracing the idea, one group is opposed and is posting anti-wind tower signs in the area.

Representatives from EDF Renewable Energy held a meeting in Delavan on Sept. 20 to explain just what the scope of the project would be. They invited landowners who are in the area of the proposed wind farm to come to the meeting. And, that did not make the rest of the residents of the township very happy.

Article Photos



"We did not invite all the residents due to the size of the meeting venue," says Jacob Salisbury, the land acquisition specialist for EDF. "This is just the beginning stage of the project and we don't know if it is for sure until we get the landowners on board."

Salisbury said they have about 1,200 to 1,500 acres of land leased for the project already.

The name of the project is the Oza Tanka Wind Project, and Salisbury says the name comes from a dry lake bed by that name that is where the towers will be built.

EDF is also busy working on another windpower project that is both in Faribault County and in Martin County. It is called the Rose Lake

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Wind Project and it is proposed for Pilot Grove Township in Faribault County and in East Chain Township in Martin County.

"We want to work with the local people here," Salisbury says. "We are sensitive to the issues that they are concerned about. That includes aerial spraying, hunting and others."

He adds that there is a lot of misinformation being spread around, sometimes by social media.

"I want people to hear us out, and see what we bring to the table, he said. "I want people to call me with their questions and concerns."

His phone number is (612) 419-4631.

One thing being spread around the area concerns the leases themselves, Salisbury says.

"The lease language can be adjusted," he says. "It is not a blank template lease that is take it or leave it. They can be changed to suit each landowners own situation."

EDF as a company is not new to the industry, says PJ Saliterman, project development director. They have been around since 1987.

"We have been very active in many windpower projects in Minnesota," Saliterman says. "And we have others in the works at this time, too."

He says the reason is interested in Barber Township has to do with the new electrical transmission lines and electrical substation being constructed in the local area.

"When we build a wind farm, we need to get the energy from the towers and into the electrical grid," he says. "Or else it isn't viable financially."

Another reason to choose the Barber Township location is the ridge that runs through the area. It is like a hump, Saliterman says, with higher elevation in the middle of two lower spots.

"Wind produced energy is now reliable and cost effective and it is here to stay," the project director adds. "Just look around southern Minnesota and you can see what I mean."

The Oza Tanka Wind Farm is expected to be a 200 megawatt farm and use the newest turbines available, which now is Vestas V-100 and V-110. But by the time the project is built, in 2020, there could be two plus megawatt turbines available, the two EDF employees say.

When the project is completed it is expected to generate around \$800,000 in energy production taxes for Faribault County, school districts and townships.

Salisbury pointed out that Mower County is collecting over \$2 million per year from energy production taxes.

There will also be substantial payments made to landowners for leasing the land both where the towers are, where easements are needed and where the transmission lines are placed, the company says.

EDF Renewables says that last year, in 2016, they paid out \$6.5 million in payments to landowners where their projects are located.

"This is economic development coming knocking on your door," says Saliterman. "This is a serious project that generates a lot of money for the communities where they are located."

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Wilder Junction Wind Farm is a 40 megawatt wind farm under development in Jackson County, Minnesota. The Wilder Junction Wind Farm's footprint spans across Delafield Township, and represents a total investment of approximately \$64 million once fully developed. The project boasts strong wind resource, enthusiastic landowners, a welcoming community, and available transmission opportunities.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

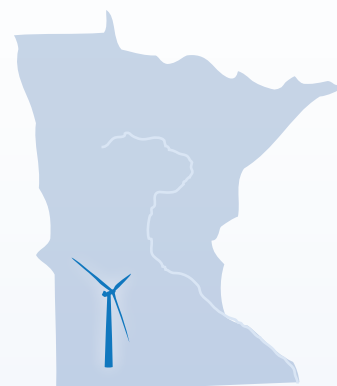
Operational Capacity:	40 MW
Location:	Jackson County, Minnesota
Number of Turbines:	~12-25
Acres in Project Footprint:	Over 6,000, with less than 13 acres taken out of agricultural production during operations
CO2 Emissions Reduced:	110,000 metric tons/ year
Landowner Payments:	~\$255,000/ year
Local Community Fund:	up to \$8,000/ year
Direct Local Economic Impact:	~\$11 million over 20 years

PROJECT HISTORY

The Wilder Junction Wind Farm was originated in 2009 with initial discussions with the local landowners and local stakeholders. Wind data collection began at the project site in 2010. The local area has seen significant wind development over the past few years, and Geronimo looks forward to bringing Wilder Junction to fruition.

ABOUT GERONIMO ENERGY

Geronimo Energy is a full-service renewable energy company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Geronimo has developed over 1,600 megawatts of wind and solar projects that are either operational or currently under construction throughout the United States. Geronimo has a multi-gigawatt development pipeline of wind and solar projects in various stages of development throughout the United States. Geronimo provides custom solutions for utilities and corporations looking to harness renewable energy for business growth. With deep roots in agriculture, Geronimo prides itself on developing wind farms that are farmer-friendly, community-driven, and beneficial for rural communities.



JACKSON COUNTY, MN

Jackson County is located in the wind-abundant southwestern portion of Minnesota.

The average wind speed, measured at 80 meters, is 8.3 meters per second, which is just under 18.5 miles per hour. The prevailing wind direction is from the northwest and south.

