

MANITOWOC

## Herald Times Reporter

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## OPINION

Posted Mar. 10, 2005

## Letters to the editor:

Get serious about wind farm plan

**DEAR EDITOR:**

It's time Manitowoc County citizens get serious about the proposed wind farm ordinance. What happens here in the three towns involved sets the standard for the next wind system to come to Manitowoc County — possibly Newton, Meeme, Rockland or Franklin townships.

A second wind turbine company has attended every town, village and county meeting dealing with the wind ordinance, looking to place their system.

Our town and county officials decided on their own to allow wind turbines without input from town residents, town zoning committees, land use committees, nor did they hold public hearings. The town residents were never notified, one can only speculate why. When asked they only refuse to answer — ethics.

Decisions on wind turbines were made on information from a sales pitch only. Navitas chose Manitowoc County not because of wind; they came here because there was no wind ordinance in place. They were able to dominate the ordinance to fit their needs.

Example: Allowing taller towers closer to homes other than what the state recommends for smaller towers, grant 31 variances at once (Board of Adjustment Dec. 20, 2004). Try telling that to the average landowner or business. Navitas allowed and the Board of Adjustment granted \$7,000 financial assurance per turbine to remove tower, concrete base (to a depth of 4 feet) underground wires, roadbed and remediate 25 years from now. A few phone calls to local contractors could rebut that. What Navitas wanted the county granted blindly.

A NIMBY story? For me I have a high power transmission line about 1/3 mile to the east of my house, another 1/2 mile to the south, a third 1/2 mile west, a nuclear reactor 3 1/2 miles to the north, two reactors 1 1/4 miles to the east and an above ground nuclear waste storage 3/4 of a mile from my home, and still choose to live here.

**Dan Koehler,****Two Rivers**



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Mishicot's wind farm decision wise

**DEAR EDITOR:**

I am writing to commend the village of Mishicot board for tabling the adoption of Manitowoc County's ordinance creating Manitowoc County Code Chapter 24, (Wind Energy System Ordinance) at its Monday, March 7 board meeting.

They stated they have decided to go slow and study the issue before making any decisions.

Again, I commend them for helping to protect my health and safety and that of my family, my neighbors, and the future generations of this county.

**Vickie Young,**

**Denmark**

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