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## LOCAL NEWS

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## Manitowoc Co. considered for more wind turbines

By Neil Rhines

*Gannett Wisconsin Newspapers*

MANITOWOC — Three wind energy farms in Manitowoc County could soon be spinning out electricity.

Mike Demske, director of the Manitowoc County Planning and Park Department, said he has been contacted by three companies, including Navitas Energy Inc., interested in erecting wind turbines in the county. One farm could include eight to 10 towers in the town of Cato, near Grimms. Another would involve another eight to 10 towers west of land on which Navitas plans to erect 49 towers in Two Rivers, Two Creeks and Mishicot.

Airtricity Mid-America LLC, based in Minnesota, and Emerging Energies LLP, based in Hubertus, have expressed interest in wind energy in Manitowoc County, but neither company yet has made a formal application, Demske said.

Navitas received a conditional use permit from the Manitowoc County Board of Adjustment on Dec. 20 for its project, which they plan to have in service by 2007.

Wind energy seems to be on the verge of blooming not only in Manitowoc County but also across the nation and Canada.

According to Emerging Energy Research, the annual investment in wind power in the United States and Canada is expected to top \$2 billion in 2005. Megawatts derived from wind energy, under this model, would be about 26,000 by 2010.

The Navitas project, called the Twin Creeks Wind Farm, would have a capacity of 98 megawatts, or two megawatts per \$1 million tower.

Why all the attention in Manitowoc County?

According to Bill Rakocy, a partner with Emerging Energies, several factors contribute to the focus on the area (including parts of Kewaunee and Manitowoc counties) as a potential powerhouse of wind-produced power.

- The area is graced with what Rakocy called a “wind rich resource,” especially considering the predominance of high open ground. “The first thing ... you need to look where the wind is,” Rakocy said. “This is one of the better areas.”
- A number of existing transmission lines. Transmission lines laid in connection with Point Beach Nuclear Plant make the area a prime location.
- Gov. Jim Doyle’s interest in renewable resources, and the goal of 10 percent of the state’s energy coming from renewable resources by 2010.

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Also, the federal production tax credit is in effect through the end of 2005, and turbines placed in service during this period would receive the credit, said Jerrid Anderson, senior project developer with Navitas Energy.

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