

MANITOWOC

## Herald Times Reporter

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## LOCAL NEWS

Posted Feb. 27, 2005

## Public hearing set on wind energy

**By Neil Rhines***Herald Times Reporter*

MANITOWOC — Changes could be made on Monday to the County's ordinance on wind turbines.

The Planning and Park Commission will have a public hearing at 7 p.m. Monday on the Wind Energy System ordinance at the Manitowoc County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive. The meeting is being held to discuss three possible changes to the ordinance, including a proposed noise limitation, some adjustments to property line setbacks, and adjustments to the divisions of wind turbines dependent on blade size and tower height.

A group calling themselves COWS, or Citizens Opposing Wind turbine Sites, believes the adjustments to the ordinance don't go far enough.

Lynn Korinek, of COWS, said the proposed noise ordinance restrictions (50 decibels at any location on the property line on which the wind tower is placed) aren't restrictive enough, and could be difficult to measure and enforce.

Korinek begged the questions that if a complaint is filed, how would authorities measure the volume, and what would be done about it if the noise level exceeded 50 decibels.

Noise, potential groundwater contamination and property values are some of the potential issues Korinek said COWS would like to see addressed. These are also issues that she believes should have been looked at before the County Board of Adjustment gave the go-ahead for a 49-turbine site to be developed by Navitas Energy in the towns of Two Creeks, Mishicot and Two Rivers.

Jenny Eigenberger, involved with Lakeshore Technical College's renewable energies program and an instructor of electrical apprenticeship, said she understands the value of setbacks because, "no one wants their back yard to be tampered with."

That isn't to say that she agrees with everything COWS says, however, and goes so far as to say that some of the issues raised by COWS, like ice fling and the notion that wind turbines cause stray voltage, are contrived at best.

"There are legitimate concerns that need to be discussed, and there

  

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are some myths that need to be dismissed," she said.

According to County Executive Dan Fischer, he believes the three issues to be addressed Monday are fairly non-controversial, and also believes that instituting a noise ordinance will address any gap that existed in the county's wind energy ordinance.

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