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Wind farm big news in area

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By Kevin Crawford

Here's hoping you had a restful and exciting Labor Day weekend holiday.

This election process we are now experiencing hosts loads of discussions about the future of America's working class. As good citizens, let's make sure we pay special attention to what the candidates are saying about their plans for our collective future and hope and pray we make the right decision this November.

Wind farm

Big news in Manitowoc County that is important for all of our citizens is the discussion of locating a "wind farm" in the northern portion of our county for the purpose of generating electricity.

In order to allow this to happen, the County Board of Supervisors must pass an ordinance that details the parameters that must be met by the installer of the wind power generators.

At the offset, while the Common Council has taken no official action, our city would strongly support such an installation for the purpose of adding generating assets to Wisconsin's electric power plant inventory. As many of you know, Wisconsin is a state that neither has enough power plants to supply our entire state with power, nor does it have sufficient transmission capabilities to import needed power at certain "peak" times of the year. These wind power generators would solve some of these problems.

On the environmental side, like the large solid fuel power plant being built here in the city, these wind power generators add no mercury to our environment. This is a big plus for these types of plants when viewed by local fishermen and other sportsmen, as well as all citizens.

Mercury is a nasty pollutant, and if we can generate electric power without adding mercury to the environment we should definitely do it.

As for the question as to whether or not these wind power generators would pose a competitive threat to Manitowoc Public Utilities, the answer is no. These generating plants would be a welcome additional resource for meeting Wisconsin's energy requirements.

There also are additional benefits to building these wind turbines in Manitowoc County. Both county government and the township

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governments where these plants would be built would receive fairly substantial compensation from the state of Wisconsin through state taxes derived from the owner of the facilities. These wind generators would be built by a company called Navitas, which is headquartered in the Twin Cities.

Drive carefully

It's time for the children to head back to school. Drivers, please drive cautiously, particularly in school zones, and respect the crossing guards looking out for the safety of the children.

Kevin Crawford is mayor of the city of Manitowoc and may be reached at 686-6980.

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