



Napoleon Homestead

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PSC Gives Just Wind The Green Light

The North Dakota Public Service Commission has given the Just Wind Company the approval to build a 153 wind turbine farm near Napoleon. The PSC has questions on the proposed locations of 6 of the turbines which were not at least 1,400 feet away from homes and buildings. Logan County setback requirements are 750 feet and the PSC had said at one point the towers should be at least 1,000 feet from homes and buildings.

The proposed \$950 million project will put roughly 368 megawatts of electrical power on the power grid when fully operational.

Just Wind CEO, Jeff Metzger said after the ruling that the company plans to continue to cooperate with the PSC and become compliant with their requests. Metzger said he is also working on 5-6 other wind projects throughout the state so he wants to continue to have a positive working relationship with the PSC.

The PSC says that Just Wind, the start-up company, with headquarters located in Napoleon, has agreed to protect the habitat of wildlife and the endangered whooping crane, which have been sighted in this area of the state with

strategic placement of the towers.

Metzger said the company plans to move into its newly remodeled main street office building (former Super Valu) on May 11. Current offices are located in the building along Lake Street adjoining the Logan County FSA offices. He also noted that within three weeks preliminary construction on the main county roads which will be needed for construction crews and the transporting of towers and turbines should begin. Survey crews should be in the area soon to access the situation and identify the location of the service roads and where electrical cables will be placed.

Metzger will be in Chicago, IL this week and said he plans to sign a major deal with Mitsubishi for the 2.4 megawatt turbines needed for the Logan County project. He is also working a deal with a local utility company on a power purchase agreement and says those details should be worked out shortly.

If all goes as planned, the Napoleon project will be one of the biggest wind farm projects in the state to date. Depending on the weather, Metzger said he hopes that cement foundation work for the proposed towers can begin as early as July and that by the end of November or December that the local com-

pany will be able to supply at least 100 megawatts of green electrical power to the nations power grid.

Metzger has been planning and working on the local proposed farm for over two years. He said, "We are actually one year ahead of schedule as WAPA (the Western Area Power Administration) had previously set a possible purchase agreement of 2010 and has since said they need the power sooner."

Metzger is also working with neighboring Emmons County landowners and is proposing 300 wind turbines which would produce 900 megawatts of power from that wind farm.