

# NEBRASKA

## OPPD agrees to buy from Pet

### World-Herald News Service

A wind farm planned near Petersburg will add jobs and help diversify the economy, project backers said Thursday after the Omaha Public Power District agreed to buy the electricity that the development's 27 turbines will create.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to partner with OPPD, Third Planet Windpower and the community," Ross Knott, president and CEO of Petersburg State Bank, told the utility's board as it approved an agreement to buy the project's 40.5 megawatts of electricity.

Erecting the turbines, which will each produce 1.5 megawatts of power, will require about 150 workers at the peak construction period and nearly a dozen full-time employees after completion, officials said.

Output from wind farms varies depending on weather conditions, but on average the turbines in the Boone County area are expected to produce enough elec-

tricity to power a small town for 20 years, with an option to buy the wind farm after those 20 years.

The operation will be located near turbines expected to produce 80 megawatts of electricity for the Nebraska Public Power District. That wind farm is being developed by Midwest Wind Energy/Edison Mission Midwest.

The two projects together mean a lot for Boone County, said Shannon Landauer, executive director of the Boone County Development Agency. About 388 people live in Petersburg, and about 5,500 live in the county, she said.

Boone County Commissioner Hank Thieman said the deal demonstrates that rural Nebraska and the Omaha area can work together, despite a perception among many that the city pulls young people away from smaller communities.

"We do get something in return," Thieman said. "This proves we can be partners."

Consolidation of that young people ture have hurt the wind farm will bring he said.

Larry Temme, burg and Lindsay, his business. Tem about three turbin at least \$8,000 per while allowing the Similar payments

as well, Temme said. "Over 20 years i Third Planet W lage, Nev., will dev subsidiary of Thir generate the power The wind farm