

Wind developer tells some project details

Midwest Wind Energy Project Coordinator Patrick Dalseth held a preliminary meeting with Boone County Commissioners on Monday, Aug. 31, to discuss plans for the wind field near Petersburg.

Dalseth discussed various aspects of the Loreda Ridge Wind Farm project, including zoning matters, roads agreements, decommissioning plan, various environmental studies already underway and a general schedule for the project.

He noted that Nebraska Public Power District will be building a new substation across Highway 32 from its present substation east of Petersburg. This work could begin in the fall.

An operation and maintenance building for the wind farm will be built in the project area, and 54 wind turbines will be erected. Locations for these facilities, as well as underground cabling, will be determined before Dalseth comes back to make a formal presentation of the wind farm in November.

Commissioners said that if the wind towers are in compliance with zoning regulations, the County Zoning Administrator would be authorized to issue construction permits for each without a public hearing. However, if setback requirements are not met, a hearing would be required. A hearing would also likely

be required for the operation/maintenance building.

Dalseth had a busy schedule while in Boone County. He held a meeting with the project land owners on Monday evening, and was scheduled to meet with the Boone County Development Agency and the Petersburg community on Wednesday. He will return to Boone County often in the coming months, but residents in the wind project area "won't see a lot of action there until next March or April," said Dalseth. "As details come forward, we will try to keep you informed."

Various personnel are working on studies required before construction can start.

Dalseth explained that Midwest Energy is the project developer, but once the project reaches the construction stage, management transfers to their partner, Edison Midwest Energy. That company will have both a construction manager and a project manager to see the wind farm through to completion.

Before leaving the courthouse, Dalseth visited the offices of Zoning Administrator Barb Hanson to discuss zoning requirements and Highway Superintendent Darrel Thorin to discuss road and bridge requirements.