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A Public Matter



PHOTO: METRO GRAPHICS

Public Utilities Commission Must Give OK To Bon Homme Area Wind Farm

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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AVON — A proposed wind farm in south-east South Dakota would require Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approval because of its larger generation capacity, a state official says.

Prevailing Winds project manager Roland Jurgens has provided the Bon Homme County Commission with an update on the proposed project. The wind farm would be located in the general vicinity of the current Beethoven wind farm operating in Charles Mix, Hutchinson and Bon Homme counties.

Jurgens indicated the proposed wind farm would generate at least 100 megawatts of power.

Any wind project with a nameplate capacity of more than 100 megawatts would first need state approval, PUC chairman Chris Nelson told the *Press & Dakotan*.



Nelson

"The (nearby) Beethoven project didn't have to come to the PUC because it produced a total of 80 megawatts," he said. "My understanding is that this Prevailing Winds project is more than what currently exists in the Beethoven project. The plan is for Prevailing Winds to produce more than 100 megawatts."

Whereas Bon Homme County officials dealt directly with the Beethoven project, the proposed larger wind farm must first receive state approval, Nelson said.

"State statute addresses any energy conversion facility which creates electricity, whether it's wind, solar, oil or natural gas," he said. "If it creates 100 megawatts or larger, the organizer of that project has to come to the PUC and obtain a siting permit."

Jurgens told the Bon Homme County commissioners that the proposed wind farm is prepared to go through the state process, according to an article in the *Tyndall Tribune & Register*, *Springfield Times* and *Scotland Journal* weekly newspapers.

The wind farm has met with the PUC and will go through the permitting process with the PUC before applying to Bon Homme County for any permits, according to the weekly papers' report.

If the PUC gives its approval, the Prevailing Winds officials would come to the Bon Homme County commissioners for their review before approving the project to be built in the county, Jurgens said in the article.

Nelson told the *Press & Dakotan* that, as of late Friday afternoon, the PUC had not received any formal application on the

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Gov. Will Decide On Delmont Declaration

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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DELMONT — With two federal agencies completing their assessment, Gov. Dennis Daugaard will now decide whether to seek federal assistance for Delmont tornado victims.

The Douglas County community of about 250 residents was hit May 10 by an EF-2 tornado with peak winds of 130 miles per hour. The Mother's Day tornado cut a path estimated at 17 miles long and 400 yards wide.

The twister injured nine persons but caused no fatalities. The western end of Delmont was hit hard, including the destruction of Zion Lutheran Church and the new fire hall which had yet to be dedicated. However, the Delmont business district and eastern part of town remained in good condition.

Daugaard had sought the preliminary damage assessment of homes and business in Charles Mix and Douglas counties, including the city of Delmont.

This week, the assessment was conducted by teams from the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA). The two federal teams focused on damage to private property, said FEMA spokesman Jerry DeFelice.

"This was for individual assistance dealing with homes, families and businesses. We did not consider the other side of recovery dealing with public assistance for infrastructure," he said. "(An assessment) has to be requested

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Movie Moves

Members of Yankton's Green Room Dance Studio are shown rehearsing Friday afternoon for this weekend's spring recital, to be presented at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. This year's performance is entitled "Dance to the Movies," directed by Rob and Timera Massey. Showtimes are 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. today (Saturday), with tickets available at the door. To see more images from Friday's rehearsal, visit www.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



3rd Bird Flu Case In Dixon County

From P&D Staff Reports

DIXON COUNTY, Neb. — A third case of bird flu has been detected in Dixon County of northeast Nebraska, state officials said Friday night.

Preliminary testing shows the presence of a third case of highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza in Dixon County, according to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA).

The third farm (referred to as Dixon 3) is within a mile of the initial farm (referred to as Dixon 1) identified last week and is owned by the same operator.

Dixon 3 is a flock of 500,000 pullets (young hens).

Additional information can be found online at www.nda.nebraska.gov.



SHAUNA MARLETTE/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
On This memorial Day, World War II veteran Howard Kussman of Centerville still recalls the war very vividly

Memorial Day

Centerville Vet Recalls Sacrifices

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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CENTERVILLE — Honoring America's veterans is what Memorial Day is about.

Remembering the sacrifices, the battles that all who have served have given and endured to help make sure the liberties enjoyed were secured.

For World War II veteran Howard Kussman, the 70 years since his war ended have passed quickly, yet his memories and his ties to the military have been the backbone of who he is.

One of seven children, five of them boys who all served in World War II, Kussman said his service was not one of battle but rather of doing a job.

Drafted on October 24, 1942 he came out December 24, 1945, a little over 38 months, during which time he served in several different overseas locations from New Zealand to Japan.

"It was either join or be drafted, I was drafted into the army," Kussman said. "I did my training in San Antonio, Texas. I was shipped from New Zealand to Sydney Australia, to a small island in Dutch New Guinea. I was in Japan and there I got my order to go home. They signed the declaration on the boat. I was in the islands near Clark Field."

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