

# HOW DOES PREVAILING WINDS DECIDE WHERE THE WIND TURBINES GO?

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In light of a few comments in local papers recently and approval of new wind energy zoning in Bon Homme County we thought it would be helpful this week to briefly explain how wind turbines get placed and who makes the final decisions.

First we work with landowners to determine if they want a wind turbine. The fact is that local landowners through their participation, actually create the project footprint. Prevailing Winds can only place turbines on property where the landowner agrees to have them; we cannot force anyone to accept a turbine.

Then within that project footprint we look for sensitive areas that we will have to avoid. These include places like wildlife areas, historic sites, wetlands, streams, natural prairie remnants, parks and Towns. Then we identify all homes and farms in the project footprint. Yes, we do everything we can to avoid them too! Then we add County, State, and Federal setbacks and limits to the project footprint.

We need to stop here for just a minute and clarify how setbacks work for wind energy. **Setbacks that control where turbines go are NOT 1000 or 500 foot setbacks, what controls are limits on sound and shadow flicker. Limits placed on sound and shadow flicker act as setbacks and create a much greater setback than 1000 feet.** The 1000 foot or 500 foot setback in County Zoning is simply a safety standard and are never used because the requirements for sound and shadow flicker far exceed these minimums.

Now with this site information Prevailing Winds wind assessment staff begin to look at the best places to locate the turbines. Their job is to create preliminary layouts that produce the most electricity based on the information above and onsite wind data. They then use those layouts to create very accurate sound and shadow flicker computer models to determine if there is any sound and shadow flicker impacts at any homes, farms or receptors inside or outside the project footprint. Following the results of this work the turbines with impacts are adjusted again to reduce any sound and shadow flicker impacts further. We keep doing this adjustment until we begin to see a reduction in energy output of the Wind Project to ensure we keep the turbines as far away as possible.

Finally, after all this work is done and redone many times then the turbine locations are given to Prevailing Winds local Board of Directors. The Board reviews the layout and has veto power on all locations if in their opinion any turbines impact anything too much. If that veto happens then the wind resource staff process starts over, because wind turbine layouts are like dominos move one and it triggers other moves.

After months of work a layout is ready to present to landowners and get their comments on it. We typically create several more versions of the turbine layout to incorporate landowner's requests and comments.

We hope that you realize that a great amount of thought and care goes into laying out the turbines before any turbine is constructed and Prevailing Winds Board has final say on everything. Also please realize that the reality is that the more places we have to put turbines the more we can avoid homes, farms, towns, any place where people are. Luckily the new wind energy zoning adopted by the County allows us the flexibility to place turbines in the right places and avoid impacts to people and sensitive areas. Unluckily, the opposition to Prevailing Winds is actually removing good areas where we could place turbines that would help reduce impacts to everyone... Beethoven Wind used this same process and because everyone in that project worked together we were able to create a great project for everyone.

*Thank You for your time and support!*

Paid for by Prevailing Winds, LLC;  
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EXHIBIT

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