

Department of Planning and Development
McHenry County Government Center - Administration Building

2200 North Seminary Avenue
Woodstock, Illinois 60098



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www.co.mchenry.il.us

June 17, 2010

McHenry County Municipalities

Re: Proposal to Create a Wind Energy Task Force

The McHenry County Planning and Development would like to invite you to help form a Wind Energy Task Force. The interest in wind energy generation and has grown rapidly in recent years. Since 2003, numerous individual turbines have been installed around the County and several large wind farms have been developed around the State.

State law authorizes counties to "establish standards for wind farms and electric-generating wind devices" (55 ILCS 5/5-12001) and also provides that "a municipality may regulate wind farms and electric-generating wind devices within its zoning jurisdiction and within the 1.5 mile radius surrounding its zoning jurisdiction." (65 ILCS 5/11-13-26). Generally speaking, the extent and scope of regulation in the 1.5 mile radius area of a municipality has not been tested and is a source of confusion to counties and municipalities in Illinois.

Several jurisdictions including Lake County and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) have embarked on a process of developing model ordinances that can be adopted by participating jurisdictions. Adopting common standards would help ensure wind farms and wind turbines are encouraged where appropriate and properly regulated throughout the County.

If you are interested in participating in a McHenry County Wind Energy Task Force, please provide us contact information for representatives of your municipality that will participate. We will arrange an organizational meeting.

Please provide the contact information (name, email, and phone number) for your representatives to Sean Foley at smfoley@co.mchenry.il.us by July 9, 2010. If you have any questions please call Sean at (815) 334-4215 or me at (815) 334-4548.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Sandquist, AICP
Director of Planning and Development

bcc: Village President
Board of Trustees