

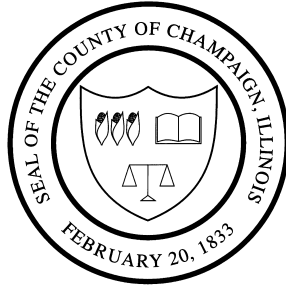
C. Pius Weibel

Chair

email: cweibel@co.champaign.il.us

Thomas Betz

Vice-Chair



Brookens Administrative Center

1776 East Washington Street

Urbana, Illinois 61802

Phone (217) 384-3772

Fax (217) 384-3896

**Office of
County Board
Champaign County, Illinois
Press Release**

Today (July 11, 2011), the Champaign County Planning and Zoning Department received its first application to build a Wind Farm in the county. The application is from Invenergy, Inc., a Chicago based company that has built numerous wind farms throughout the United States. Invenergy plans to build the California Ridge Project, a multi-county wind farm that will have 134 wind turbines, 30 in Champaign County, and 102 in Vermilion County. The Champaign County portion of the wind farm is located in northern Ogden Township, just north of Royal, and in the southern half of Compromise Township.

Each wind turbine (General Electric) will have the capacity of producing 1.6 megawatts. The hub of the each rotor will be 100 m tall (328 ft) and each rotor will be 50 m in length. The total height of each turbine and rotor will reach 150 m (492 ft) above ground surface. The minimum setbacks for the turbines will be 1,200 ft from non-participating residents, 1,000 ft from participating residents, 1 mile from conservation recreation areas, and 1.5 miles from incorporated municipalities with zoning. About 37.5 miles of access roads will be constructed for the entire project. Direct land use by the turbines, collection lines, and access roads in Champaign County is estimated at 16.5 acres. Invenergy is currently in negotiations to finalize a comprehensive road use and repair agreement with Champaign County and Ogden and Compromise townships.

Electricity produced by the wind farm will be collected and moved to a substation located in Vermilion County and from there to an existing Ameren transmission line.

From a taxing revenue perspective, each turbine will provide about \$14,400 in revenue each year, the majority of which will benefit school districts in northeastern part of the county (most likely Gifford Elementary School, Armstrong Township High School, Rantoul Township High School, Prairieview-Ogden Elementary School, and St. Joseph-Ogden High School).

Each site also will require a building permit from the County, which will cost \$4,500 each. The public hearing for the proposed wind farm is anticipated to begin on or about August 25, 2011, at the Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals, and may be decided by the County Board as early as October 20, 2011. If the permit is approved, construction is anticipated to begin in 2012.

In addition, these Wind Farm Projects also will create jobs in a rural part of the county where the local economy is largely dependent on agriculture. These local jobs include

construction - related jobs, operation and maintenance of the facility after it is constructed, and jobs induced by the additional money the workers spend in the local economy.

For additional information please contact Mr. John Hall, Director of the Champaign County Planning and Zoning Department at 217-384-3708 or Mr. Al Kurtz, Head of Environment and Land Use (217-356-0011).