

Did you know?

Next Event: Ag,Zoning,and Emergency Services committee meeting: Tues, Sept 2

This meeting of this committee will be next Tuesday, Sept 2, at (6pm?) at the historic court house. At the last special county board meeting held Aug 21st, the chairman of this committee, Bob Young, said he will form a group of people, possibly even including some private citizens, about updating our wind ordinance. I'm not sure of the exact details of what they will be doing, hopefully this will be discussed in this meeting, and hopefully the group will be formed. So, once again, the more people that are there to show support for updating our wind ordinance, the better. If you want to help our cause, please attend, and bring anyone else that cares also. **PLEASE COME! This may be a very important step in updating our ordinance.**

Fairbury, Cropsey, Forrest, Strawn and Chatsworth are about to get a BIG wind farm!

A wind energy company is about to unleash a massive 136 turbine project between Fairbury, Forrest, Strawn, and Chatsworth from the Vermilion River south to Cropsey.

They've been getting contracts and partners in the area since 2008... the public hasn't really heard much about it yet.

But it's coming **QUICK**. On Aug 20th, they applied for a permit. And 15-30 days after only **SOME** neighbors get notice, the county will hold a hearing. And then the Livingston county board will vote. If approved, we will have windmills here. They leave very little time for the citizens to react.

Have you been asked if you want this? Or even told about this? They *are* wanting to start construction in the fall of 2014.

If you don't want this, **NOW** is the time to let the 24 county board members know that you are opposed. They are the only ones who can stop this, and at this point, they think everyone is on board unless we tell them otherwise.

IMPORTANT ADVICE IF YOU LIVE IN OR NEAR THE WIND FARM ZONE:

- Get an official estimate of your property value in writing now, before the wind farm is approved.
- Refinance your home or get that 2nd mortgage now, while your property values are high.



Wind Farm Area

(Click image to enlarge)

[Or Click Here To Open an interactive, Google Map of the region and affected homes and turbine locations.](#)

These are not going to be cute little turbines like the one at the Fairbury sewer department. These will be MASSIVE with blade tips in the 400 - 500 feet range, some of the largest in the state and even nation.

30,000 acres!

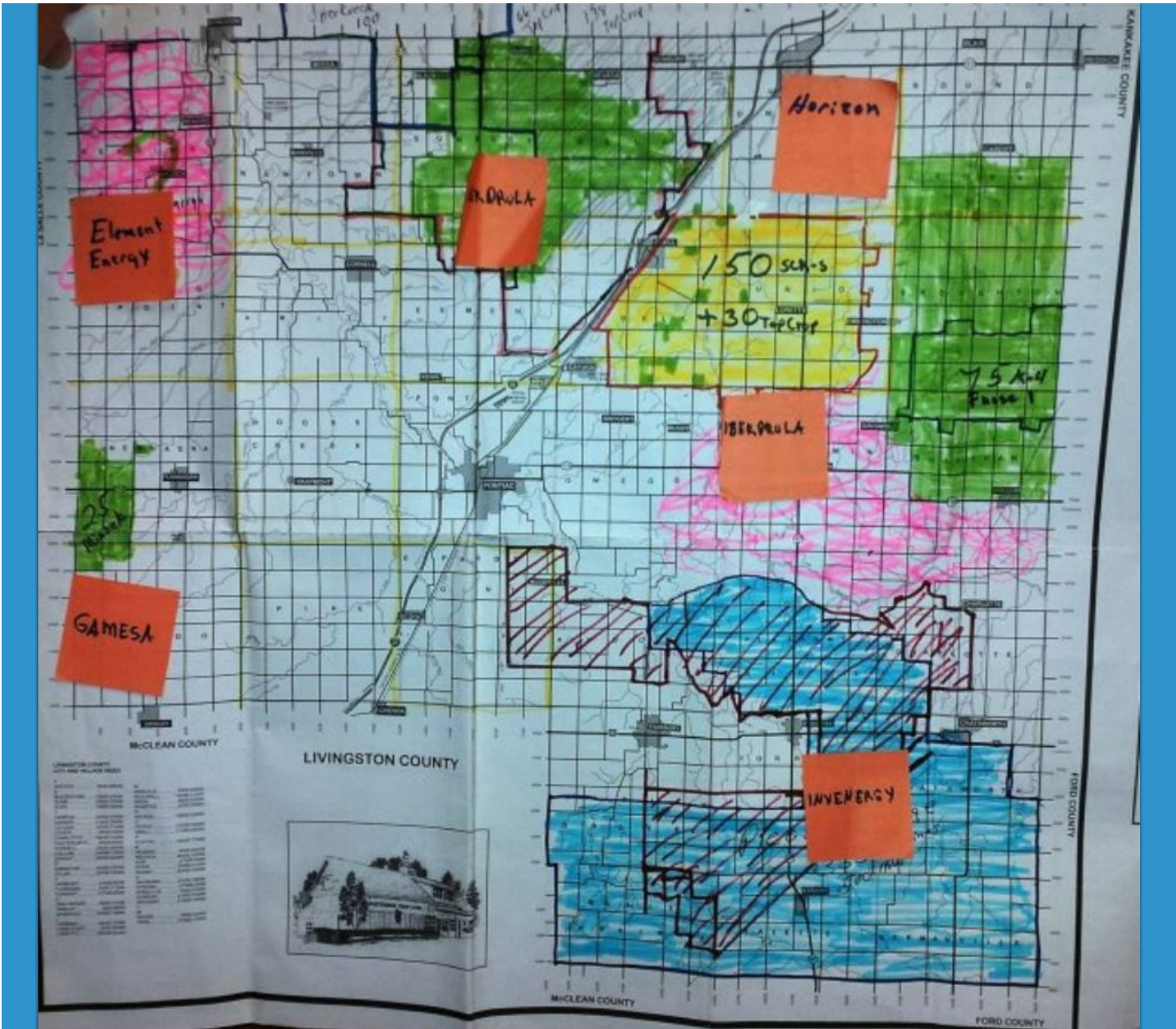
UPDATE: Turbine positions now added. Lookup your home's red marker name like "Point 151" and then open this file and find your marker name. This will list any turbines within a mile of your house. May not be correct, so don't get too excited.

NEWS! 8/14 - Application for Amendment for Zoning Text Amendment

Stephen Weeks (Forrest, IL) has filed an "Application for a Zoning Text Amendment to Chapter 56 - Zoning Article VIII. Wind Energy Section 56-626. Property Value Agreement of the Livingston County Zoning Ordinance." This amendment would cause the windfarm to guarantee any property values within 1/2 mile of a turbine, if approved. Since the wind farms and wind supporters say that turbines don't reduce nearby property values, everyone on both sides should be agreeable to this, right? See the full text below:



Wind Weeks
Zoning.pdf



Here are all the planned wind farms in Livingston County. Until we update our zoning laws to protect citizens instead of the wind farms, they will keep coming here. Let's fix this!

7/21/2014 Wind Farm Q&A @ Country Club

At the public informational meeting put on by the wind farm at the country club today, they answered some questions:

- When will the public get to see the proposed windmill and transmission line locations? **ANSWER:** Not until after we get our permit approved by the county. Maybe in October/November.
- What model turbines are you planning to use? **ANSWER:** GE 1.79 MW Capacity, the model may be called 1.7-100 or 1.5-100.
- Hub height/blade diameter? **ANSWER:** 100 m diameter rotor, 80 m hub height. [editor:Doing some math this is $80+100/2=130$ m to blade tip, or about 425']
- What is the closest planned setback distance to a participating owner's home? **ANSWER:** 1500 feet.
- What is the closest planned setback distance to a non-participating owner's home? **ANSWER:** Same distance, 1500 feet.
- What is your shutdown policy at night if a family can't sleep? Because in the Ted Hartke case [Your Vermilion County wind farm], they wouldn't shut them down consistently every time the family complained: **ANSWER:** The same policy as Vermilion County, sundown to 1 curtailment as needed.
- What percent of people living in the affected area refused to sign up and do not want windmills near their house? **ANSWER:** About 80% signed up in the Northern part of the project, and about 60% in the Southern part.
- What percent of the signed up landowner's live outside Livingston County? **ANSWER:** Just a guess, but about 90% of the ones signed up are local.

Who profits from this?

- **The Wind Farm:** By taking advantage of government tax credits and green energy policies, this company (not locally owned) will make a lot of money. Millions.
- **The landowner (yearly):** Each farmer with a turbine on their property will receive a nice check every year. It might double their profits on the fields with turbines. Note: There will be 140 turbines, so only a maximum of 140 people will profit here. Many of the landowners do not even live in this area (land investors from Chicago).
- **The county (one time/yearly for a while):** The wind farm will give a one time payment to the county for each windmill. Each year will be less as the turbines depreciate over time until they are deemed obsolete or the laws change or the wind farm goes away. It's very complex.
- **The schools (not really):** The wind farm will give some money each year to the schools. But guess what? The state sees that money and lowers the amount it gives the school. It's almost a wash.

Who Loses?

1. **Property Values.** It is being quickly proven that **ANY AND ALL** property within the windmill farm will automatically be reduced by at least 20% by the banks when getting a loan. (With up to 80% reduction in value for a home near a large turbine that experiences any flicker or side effects.) This will end up translating into lost tax revenues for the county forever.
2. **People Are Driven from Homes.** Read or listen to the story of Ted Hartke. (See links below) These windmills are getting bigger and bigger each year. Massive. They can produce an air pulse that falls outside of the regulated hearing range (so there are no legal noise limits to prevent it) that can cause symptoms similar to motion sickness in 10% of the population causing sleep deprivation, which can eventually lead to abandoned homes in the windmill area. In the Vermilion County wind farm near Champaign, at least a dozen families are struggling with this. Do you know who is held accountable to protect or help those families? Nobody. Not the county board, not the government, not the wind farm.
3. **All of our Eyes:** Wind farms are ugly. With their blinking red lights at night, and their big old ugly towers, nobody wants them ... we certainly don't need them here.
4. **You can't go back:** Once the wind farm comes, it can't leave. These are massive investments in infrastructure; concrete, turbines, electrical substations, power lines, and roads. If you don't like it, you can live with it or you can move. But the countryside will never be the same again. No wind farm has ever been "decommissioned". Abandoned, yes. Removed, no.
5. **Taxpayers:** The windmills aren't profitable without massive government subsidies, they are not financially viable. But you, the taxpayers, are paying millions for this in the name of Green Energy, and only the wind farms, their lawyers and lobbyists, and a few local property owners profit. After 20-30 years of tax breaks, grants, and easy money loans, wind still provides less than 1% of the world's energy. Wind Energy isn't saving the planet.

Livingston County is out of date?

Did you also know that the Livingston County ordinance that is in place for windmills was just supposed to be temporary, a placeholder, and it was created back when turbines were smaller? It is out of date and doesn't protect the citizens.

NOTE: I apologize for my previous statement stating that the setback distances didn't take into account blade diameter, they do.

The current setback distances are defined to be tower height (to tip of blade at highest point) times 3 or a minimum of 1200 feet to the closest foundation point. For our 430' towers that is 1290' (not the fixed 1500' that I previously claimed), but the wind farm is using 1500'.

The smallest setback from adjacent property lines and roads is 1.1 times tower height, or 473'. Not sure what the wind farm is using.

Unfortunately, this distance of 1500' is less than the distances causing people like Ted issues. So it doesn't help.

I also find it odd that the wind farm is claiming 430' towers at this point, but their setback of 1500' could allow up to 500' turbines, the size used in Vermillion county that are causing so many issues. I can't wait to see that application!

At the very least, the county should update this to current standards for the new large turbines. But if they did update the standards to modern standards to protect the citizens, (and I will paraphrase something said at a board meeting) "the windmills wouldn't want to come here." **Think about that.**

Here is a link to our current zoning ordinance:
[Livingston County Wind Energy Ordinance](#)

NOW...

Why does this MASSIVE wind farm want to come to Livingston County?

- A) Because of our rich top soil?
- B) Our rich heritage?
- C) Because our outdated zoning laws do not protect us and will let the wind farm turn our farms into an industrial zone?

Farmers Bickering over property lines and TILE DAMAGE

Ever see two neighboring farmers fight over that last row of corn?

That's how much we value our land here. And why shouldn't we? Ever since our ancestors put in tiles to drain the marsh, Fairbury has some of the best soil anywhere.

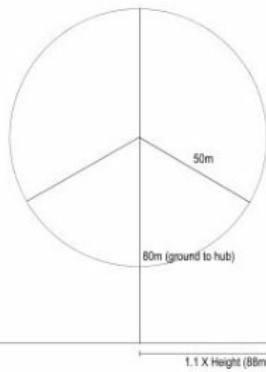
But we are willing to give these windmill companies run of our farmland?

They will have to run underground cables to connect all the turbines... do you think they will fix all the tiles properly? They will take up valuable farm land with access roads. They will bury miles and miles of cable.

These tiles are important to the area. If you're a farmer, you know how much it costs to add tile and keep them functioning. Why even mess with this? Especially considering the rain we've seen this summer.

There will also be new large overhead transmission lines stretching through the project.

There are even cases in other counties where the windmill companies are ordering farmers off of their own land/access roads claiming that they hold the lease.



To-Scale Diagram of currently allowed minimum setback distances for Livingston County for a Turbine with 100m diameter rotor and 80m hub height compared to a very large 2 story home.



Under the current Livingston County ordinance, this could be built without the homeowner's permission (they don't even have to ask). Think his property values will be ok? Imagine 3 or 4 of them circling his house.

Things Change

- Most of the landowners in the area who signed up for these turbines did this over 5 years ago.
- Things have changed in the world since then; more negative evidence has come to light.
- The turbines are getting bigger and bigger. Laws and ordinances setup to protect the citizens are not keeping up.
- Wind farms were virtually non-existent in the area when local landowners signed up... now they are all over. We can see how they impose on the landscape and we can learn from our unfortunate neighbors who have had these come into their back yards. Even as close back as 2011 Ted Hartke and his family still happily lived in his home, blissfully unaware of his coming problems. This is all very recent stuff.
- Even if you signed up for a turbine on your land, you can still be opposed to windmills; don't be afraid to admit that you made a mistake. The wind farm getting rejected by the board is the only way out of your "lifelong" contract with them. And it's a win-win. If they get the permit, you still get money for the turbine or access rights. If they don't get it, you get to keep control of your land and property values and can void out your contract when it comes up for renewal (if they haven't started building.)

Our Illinois Neighbor's Battles (Champaign, Vermilion County)

Here are some links from our nearby Illinois neighbors who are having problems with windmills and links to other groups sharing our concerns:

- WGN Farming America Radio, you can listen to Ted Hartke's Story of being forced out of their home, you HAVE to hear this: <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/2014/01/illinois-family-forced-to-move-due-to-california-ridge-wind-turbines/>
- Ted Hartke's Plea <http://waubrafoundation.org.au/resources/ted-hartkes-submission-living-near-wind-turbines/>
- Wind Farm Attorneys "Caught In A LIE" <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/2013/12/invenegy-attorney-lies-to-vermilion-county-board/>
- ..And another LIE: <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/2014/01/invenegy-not-being-truthful-again/>
- Vermilion County Links to Issues: <http://www.fairwindenergy.org/VermilionWind.php>
- Fair Wind Energy Site: <http://www.fairwindenergy.org/>
- Property Values, 25% loss to TOTAL LOSS, plus setback recommendations: <http://www.fairwindenergy.org/propertyvalues.html>
- Edgar County Watchdog Articles: <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/category/wind-turbine/>
- Our own Livingston County Board Member Judy Campbell's report on our current wind farm HEALTH issues already here in Livingston County: <http://www.livingstoncountyenvironmental.org/blog/wind-turbine-health-study-press-release>
- For more information on Livingston County Environmental concerns go to <http://www.livingstoncountyenvironmental.org>
- Wind Turbine Syndrome: <http://windturbinesyndrome.com>
- Wind Farm Impacts Exist: <http://betterplan.squarespace.com>
- "Windfall" a documentary you can watch on Netflix (DVD, not streaming), see a trailer here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OZgoERceSU>
- Someone made a Facebook Page "Say NO to Windmills in Livingston County": <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Say-No-To-Windmills-In-Livingston-County/678040582279274>
- Adams County, Illinois Wind Farm Page, SOME VERY GOOD info. Especially on the 1.5 mile setbacks, and mistakes made in Illinois, highly recommend reading: <http://www.adamscountywind.com/index.html>

Plus many more.... just Google around ... it's actually depresssing. Here are some affected families who you can Google for: Cary Shindelcker, Enz family, Hulthen family, Flex family, Alyssa Ashley. People from all around the world reporting the same issues near wind farms.

County Board Email List

Here is a text file containing all the Livingston County Board member's email addresses, so you can easily paste them into your email to let them know how you feel. Don't forget to thank them for their time, they are all busy people.



CountyBoardMembers
Email.txt

Vermilion County, Illinois Abandoned home next to Invenergy turbine...



"We need to challenge our board members, each one, to study wind farm problems that are developing; listen to Ted's stories and others like him; imagine how they will react if this happens to someone here. Did they do everything they could do to protect the citizens? Even if the county and some landowners make millions, is it worth it to drive **JUST ONE** family out of their home?"

What can you do?

- **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, let the county board members know that you are opposed to these windmills and our outdated zoning. These 24 people hold our countryside's fate in their hands. See the above link for their email addresses. Or click below for their names and addresses:
Livingston County Board Members:
<http://www.livingstoncountyil.gov/about-livingston/2010-2011-livingston-county-board-members-contact-info/>
- Show your support by following us (See lower right button on this page). We'll send updates with important dates and meetings.
- Get the word out, talk to people, let them know this is happening, and **PLEASE, share this link on Facebook**. (Click the **f** icon on left side of page).
- Attend any and all county board meetings and hearings between now and September.
- Form groups of citizens **TODAY**, band together, use Facebook or something. A large group of people can carry a lot of weight.
- If only 10 people contact the board in opposition, we will probably have windmills. If thousands contact the board opposing it... maybe we won't.

Questionnaire Feedback

29 people have responded to the questionnaire below (as of 7/29/2014), all answering "no" to the question "Do you want these windmills". Here are the comments:

- [Forrest] Absolutely against wind turbines! Let me know what else I can do (besides the things listed).
- [Forrest] I have a test tower in the field by my house. The turbines will be all around me but we have had no say so in the matter not been informed on anything about them yet they will be in our backyard. I say NO to these eye sores with no benefits to us.
- [Fairbury] NO WAY!! This area is extremely family oriented. In addition to all of the other issues wind turbines create ~ Rt 24 through Fairbury cannot handle the current semi traffic then to add onto the existing problems, the massive weights of moving the pieces of the turbines to the destination? AWFUL idea!! There is no benefit to OUR community to continue with this project. NO NO NO!!
- [Forrest] My son is autistic. I want these nowhere near my home and we are smack dab in the middle!
- [Cropsey] Do not destroy what we have with having windmills/turbines in our back yard. Please voice your concerns to your representative.
- [Other, In Livingston County] Farmers may make money but it is depreciating the value of our properties. It also ruins the environment with the red flashing lights. You are ruining our countryside.
- [Chatsworth] NO WINDMILLS. I can be contacted to do anything in any way shape or form to prevent this from happening. Let me know what to do, who to contact and where to be. I'll be there.
- [Fairbury] I have been born and raised in Fairbury and I do not want windmills in my area. They ruin the landscape and they have very little beneficial effects for our area. I think that our area has a lot going for it, being it is between commuting distance between Champaign and Bloomington but there will be a lot less of a draw for people like myself to live in the area if the beauty in the countryside is gone.
- [Other, in Livingston County] I moved less than a year ago from the Emington area to the Pontiac area in part BECAUSE there were no windmills. They're ugly, they're noisy, the locals get NO ELECTRICITY from them, and the vast majority of the people affected profit in no way whatsoever. The effect these monstrosities have on land values, landscape, and quality of life should be criminal.
- [Fairbury] There is absolutely nothing that is good about these turbines! Fairbury We don't need them.

Let us know how you feel

Name *
First Name Last Name

Location *

E-mail

Phone Number

Do you want windmills in the Fairbury/Forrest/Chatsworth/Strawn/Cropsey Area? *

- Yes No
 Don't Care

Optional Comments

Don't contact me in any way, thanks