

Commissioners updated on proposed wind farm

**(KNZA)--Brown County Commissioners received an update on a proposed wind farm when they met this week.**

**County Attorney Kevin Hill reported on a meeting he and Commissioner Dwight Kruse had last Friday with a representative of Chicago-based Invenergy.**

**The company is proposing the Pony Express Wind Farm in northwestern Brown County and northeastern Nemaha County. It would consist of 200 to 300 wind turbines, generating 800 megawatts of power.**

**Hill says the county can require a conditional use permit under its home rule authority, which could contain set back requirements for the wind turbines from residences.**

**Hill says the county will also need to negotiate a road use maintenance agreement and payment in lieu of taxes ( PILOT) agreement.**

**The company is expected to seek a 10-year property tax abatement from the state.**

**Hill says the county will also need to hire an engineering firm to conduct a pre-and post construction assessment of roads the company will be using during the construction phase. The company would pay for the engineering costs.**

**He said the project is probably a year away.**