

Company Seeks to Build Wind Farm in Southeast Neb.

More wind turbines could soon be dotting the landscape in southeast Nebraska.

The Johnson County Zoning Board gave its consent, during a hearing Monday that drew a standing-room-only crowd to Tecumseh, for Chicago-based Invenergy to build a wind farm in the western part of the county.

Company spokesman Jim Frager says the proposed wind farm encompasses an area from near Sterling to Crab Orchard. (play audio :17)

Frager estimates that between 60 and 80 people attended Monday's Zoning Board meeting, with only a couple people opposed to the proposed wind farm. He says what the next step is in the process, now that the Zoning Board has given its approval. (play audio :20)

The Johnson County Commission can either approve or reject the proposal. If the project is approved, Frager says they hope to start construction this year. (play audio :14)

Invenergy is headquartered in Chicago. Frager says it is the largest privately held wind development company in the United States, with more than two thousand megawatts of wind energy in production. The company has several wind farms in the Midwest, California, and Colorado.

Frager says they are developing two projects in northern Nebraska, including one near Bloomfield that is in the same stage of development as the Johnson County project.

He says 40 landowners are involved in the Johnson County project.