

WIND

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A-1, which is the county's zoning district for agricultural areas with low-density residential uses, Giecek said.

Bill Brian, an attorney representing neighboring property owners who oppose the project, objected to the basis Giecek had provided for his assertion that the project would be in harmony with the area.

John Morrison, an attorney advising the county, asked Giecek if he would provide a "better foundation."

In response to further questioning, Giecek said he had been in the area a great deal and looked at the properties included in the project. He added that he also had been on many of the adjoining properties.

After hearing Giecek's additional testimony, Morrison instructed the commissioners that they could accept the testimony from Giecek and give to it whatever weight they chose.

Brian asked a series of questions challenging Giecek's claim that the Timbermill Wind Project would be in harmony with the surrounding area.

In response to Brian's

cross-examination, Giecek acknowledged there were "a couple" of properties in Chowan County that are not part of the proposed project but are surrounded by properties that are.

Giecek said he did not know whether those non-participating properties included occupied dwellings.

Asked how close the nearest turbine was to the Town of Edenton, Giecek said that it was a little over a mile from the town limits.

When Brian asked if there were any other industrial uses in the area, Giecek said large machinery is used in the area and a railroad runs through it.

Brian described the proposed wind energy as an industrial use — essentially a type of manufacturing — because it would take a natural resource and convert it into something else. Converting wind into electricity is a manufacturing process, Brian said.

Giecek said he views wind energy generation as "a process that is much like farming."

In response to further questioning, Giecek allowed that the wind turbines would convert wind into electricity "through a mechanical process."

Brian noted that the portion of the project located

in Chowan would include 48 turbines and that the turbines would be nearly 600 feet high.

Giecek said the wind energy project would support the area's agricultural character by providing revenue to farmers and timber owners.

"Diversified revenues help them to maintain their agricultural practices," Giecek said.

Campen pointed out in his opening statement that the county commissioners were meeting for a quasi-judicial hearing and the purpose was not to consider the wisdom of the project but to gather evidence. The decision must be based on competent evidence, he said.

Campen indicated the county ordinance places the burden on the applicant to prove that the application complies with ordinance requirements but places the burden on opponents of the application to prove that the proposed use would endanger danger public health, safety or welfare; would substantially harm adjoining property values; would not be in harmony with the area; or would not be in general conformity with the county's land use plan.

The proposed Timbermill

Wind Project as submitted in the application meets and exceeds the ordinance's setback requirements, shadow flicker requirements, and standards for design and installation, Campen said.

The decommissioning plan that has been submitted meets ordinance requirements, he said, adding Apex would be providing a \$7 million cash bond for decommissioning.

Campen said the presentation of evidence would show that Timbermill is regularly consulting with state and federal environmental agencies.

Testimony by a medical doctor will show that there is no clear and consistent relation between wind turbine sound and disease or other negative health impacts, Campen said.

A licensed real estate appraiser will testify that the proposed project will not substantially damage adjoining or abutting property values and is in harmony with the area, Campen said.

Steve Weber, another attorney for Apex, called Thomas Blackwell of HDR as a witness.

Blackwell explained he is an environmental scientist with HDR, an engineering firm that has an extensive

environmental sciences planning department.

HDR is the firm that was hired by the county to assist county staff in the technical review of the CUP application for completeness and compliance with industry standards.

During cross-examination by Brian, Blackwell confirmed that the industry standards for the wind industry have been developed by the wind industry itself.

Blackwell testified that the HDR review had determined that the application had not failed the requirement to include any required Environmental Assessment since no EA had been required at that time. He acknowledged that the CUP application indicates a wetlands permit likely will be necessary for the project and that the wetlands permit could include a requirement for an EA.

At the present moment, no determination has been made by the Army Corps of Engineers in terms of what type of permit would be required, Blackwell said.

If an EA is required, then it should be a condition of the CUP that the EA be provided to the county once it's completed.

During cross-examination by Brian, Blackwell

confirmed that the county commissioners would not have an opportunity to consider environmental impacts under the process recommended by HDR.

Blackwell said the environmental review would be done by state and federal agencies.

Commissioner Alex Kehayes asked Blackwell what triggers the section 404 permitting process that he had referred to in his testimony.

Blackwell said the trigger is "impact to the waters of the U.S." He went on to explain that the determination of the type of permit required is made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

If the Corps of Engineers requires an "individual permit," a higher level of review is called for in order to obtain the permit, Blackwell said.

Kehayes asked Blackwell if he was aware of the wetlands impacts associated with the proposed Timbermill project. He said he was not.

Commissioner Greg Bonner asked if it was possible that an Environmental Assessment might not be required for the Timbermill Wind Project.

"It is very possible that one will not be required," Blackwell said.

CONCRETE

Continued from 1

tested before it was poured, McPherson said.

The 104 wind turbines that will soon dot the landscape will tower more than 400 feet into the air, but they're anchored by a base made up of concrete plus reinforcing steel.

Each foundation required 640 cubic yards, or roughly 64 truckloads. A cubic yard of concrete is roughly 4,000 pounds, and a truck can carry about 10 yards.

The developer of the project — Avangrid Renewables — is building 104 of the wind turbines in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

Most of the concrete was made at a batch plant constructed on site off Four Mile Desert Road. The Elizabeth City yard was available as a back-up source.

The concrete work went on six days a week.

"We never worked on Sundays," McPherson said.

It started about 7 a.m. and went all day long. Sometimes crews might start earlier or work later in order to beat the

heat.

McPherson said the general contractor, Wanzek, tried to minimize the disruption to neighbors in the area. He said they kept water trucks running for up to 12 hours a day to spray down the new gravel roads to cut down on dust.

"Anything the farmers needed, they tried to help them with," he said.

Most of the people working on the concrete job were local residents who already worked for the company, said Tommy Charles of CRMP.

McPherson, who has worked for CRMP since 1984, has no plans to retire anytime soon. CRMP has another big job coming out. It will handle the concrete part for building the replacement of the Bonner Bridge.

Paul Copleman, a spokesman for the developer of the Amazon project, said the company still expects the project will be complete in 2016.

"The plan remains for the entire project to be done by the end of the year. What that means we will begin testing turbines when they are fully erected. People may see turbines spinning and that just means they're being tested and generating some power."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jimmy McPherson (first row, left) stands with the crew after the last foundation was poured for the Amazon Wind Farms East project.

Minzies Creek Sanitary District

Monthly meeting will be held on
SATURDAY, August 27, 2016
AT 10:00am

The Meeting Will Be Held at
139 Treasure Lane, Hertford

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HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PERQUIMANS COUNTY

FY 14 SINGLE FAMILY REHABILITATION LOAN POOL PROGRAM

Perquimans County has been awarded \$170,000 for a Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool Project (SFRLP) from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency funded through the HOME Investment Partnership Program. The SFR assistance is offered through a 0% interest, deferred-forgivable loan to cover rehabilitation costs. The primary goal of the SFR Program is to encourage the comprehensive rehabilitation of scattered site, single family dwellings that are listed as real property. Perquimans County is requesting qualified residents of Perquimans County apply for housing rehabilitation assistance. Pre-applications can be obtained at the Perquimans County Court House located at 128 North Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944; or by calling the County Manager's office at (252) 426-8484. All pre-applications must be returned to the above noted address as soon as possible. Perquimans County will select dwelling units to receive housing rehabilitation assistance. Eligible applicant households must be low income, include an elderly (62 years old or older) or disabled household member and owner occupied. Dwellings must be cost effective to rehabilitate and have clear titles. Manufactured homes and properties with reverse mortgages are not eligible. A household is determined to be low income based on the following income chart:

NUMBER IN HOUSEHOLD	90% OF MEDIAN ("LOW INCOME")
1	\$29,400
2	\$33,600
3	\$37,800
4	\$42,000
5	\$45,400
6	\$48,750
7	\$52,100
8	\$55,450

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con 252-426-8484 o en la Oficina del Administrador del Condado de Perquimans para esta solicitud.

S-BRIDGE

Continued from 1

from visiting Hertford during the day, it keeps the people who bring in larger boats on trailers from launching in Hertford and heading down river.

Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf said it "seems" the limiting of boat traffic is more this summer, but he added "it has also been much hotter, for much earlier (most of June) than year's past."

The issue is some boaters that want to get to Hertford to use the town's new nine-slip marina, but they can't come and go as they please during the day.

"As far as marina traffic, it seems to have had

a negative impact," Shoaf said. "From what I've heard from cruisers, if they've arrived in the mid-day hours, they've had to anchor on the outside of the bridge and wait until later in the day for it to open, when it cools off. To my knowledge, none have left and not docked at the marina because of that, but it is an inconvenience for them."

It's also an inconvenience for boaters who want to put in at the boat ramp behind Hertford Town Hall and proceed down the river.

"I do think it hurts some traffic at the boat ramp," Shoaf said. "Of course, a good number of boats that access the upper Perquimans River from here do not need the clearance of the open bridge, but there are some that do."

The issue could have been far worse. The N.C. Wildlife Commission had

planned to close the New Hope board ramp this year to make repairs.

Sara Sherman, a boat ramp engineer for the Wildlife Commission, confirmed that the repairs were pushed back because commercial fishermen protested.

"Right now we're projecting it could be sometime after Oct. 1. That could change based on input from the crabbing season."

By next summer, the situation should be better for boaters.

Abel said DOT plans to take the S-Bridge out of service in January or February and make some needed repairs and replace the asphalt surface of the road with wooden timbers. The timbers will weigh less and that will put less strain on the equipment. In the process, DOT can also shorten

the bridge by about an inch. That should be enough he said to prevent the bridge from swelling shut during extremely hot weather.

By next summer there also should be a new boat ramp. The Wildlife Commission intends to build the new one near the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Construction was supposed to start on July 1, but has been delayed. Sherman did not have a specific date on when the construction will start, but in the past she's said it would take about 90 days to complete the project.

In the meanwhile John Beardsley, the Wildlife officer serving Perquimans County, said boaters with questions about where they can launch can visit the Wildlife Commission's website, <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Boating/Where-to-Boat>

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SHERIFF'S REPORTS

Perquimans Sheriff

- 8/6 Tony Michelangelo, Longview Estates, failure to appear, \$3,000 secured bond.
- 8/7 Rochelle Reid, Howell Street, Winfall, injury to personal property, \$500 unsecured bond.
- 8/8 Edward Chappell, Belvidere Road, communicating threats, \$500 unsecured bond.
- 8/10 Arlen Colson, Hogneck Road, possession of stolen goods, larceny after breaking and entering, two counts of possession of burglary tools, two counts of breaking and entering, unsealed wine/liquor in passenger area, littering not more than 15 pounds. \$62,000 secured bond.