



Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Wind Farm a Breath of Fresh Air!



Over two years of planning is finally coming to fruition for the Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative. The RECC's plan to construct the Gob Nob Wind Project near Farmersville is on schedule to be generating power for almost 300 customers this fall.

A 20-year lease has been signed and all funding has now been approved. After hearing about funding opportunities at a 2006 Energy Solutions Workshop sponsored by the Energy Education Council, David Stuva, RECC President/CEO and former chairman of the Council, and his organization pursued a renewable energy grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In September of 2006 the USDA announced a grant of \$375,000 to help make the turbine project more economical. The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation approved \$150,000 and another \$225,000 was received from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The

remainder of the expected \$1.8 million cost will be covered by interest-free financing through the federal Clean Renewable Energy Bond program.



The inner cylinder arrives and is lowered to the ground

In July of 2007 the RECC made a \$313,750 down payment on a 900-KW turbine from America's Wind Energy. The 220-foot tower will sit on a 60-foot hill that rises from the prairie, created from coal mine wastes, or gob, at the former Freeman I coal mine site in Farmersville. The 14 acre plateau is 60 feet above surrounding fields and creates a unique opportunity to catch the high elevation winds. The reclaimed mine land is owned by the Illinois Department

of Natural Resources and, thanks to an innovative license agreement, RECC has use of the site. Upland hunting is still allowed at the site and the turbine will not interfere with the area's waterfowl population.

All of the energy generated will be used by area RECC members through its Farmersville substation just across the road from the old mine. The clean, renewable wind energy will replace some of the current coal generated electricity.

“The co-op committed to purchasing a wind turbine to reduce our current wholesale power requirements and act as a hedge against rising fuel costs”, says Stuva. “Over the life of the wind turbine, the savings in wholesale power costs will cover the construction costs.



20 foot long bolts attach the turbine to the foundation

The wind turbine provides a very cost effective way to meet our members' desires for renewable energy sources.”