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Holt County Wind Farm hits Snags

(KTNC)--A proposed wind farm in northwest Missouri has hit a bump in the road.

Holt County Commissioners met recently with representatives of Kansas City Power and Light, which had contracted to purchase power generated from the Mill Creek Wind Farm.

Chuck Caisley of KCP-and-L told commissioners that they are committed to a wind project in northwest Missouri, but Element Power, the company that was to develop the Mill Creek Wind Farm, has several challenges to overcome before they can begin construction.

The main issue, he said, is obtaining three permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Those permits are needed due to the wind farm's proximity to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

Caisley told the commission that he doesn't expect any construction activity before the end of this year. He said the future of the project could hinge on the continuation of a federal tax credit for wind production. Caisley also said that most of Element Power's staff has left the company and a new CEO is in place.

The Mill Creek Wind Farm, if built as proposed, would be the largest wind farm in the state of Missouri, producing 200 megawatts of electricity.

Element Power had hoped to begin construction this year and have the wind farm operational by the end of 2015.

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