

Public meetings begin on proposed wind farm

(KMZA)--A large audience was on hand for the first of two public meetings on the term sheet for the proposed Soldier Creek Wind Farm in Nemaha County.

More than fifty residents voiced their opinion Monday about the proposed project to Nemaha County Commission, with the majority speaking in opposition to the project.

Those speaking in opposition voiced concerns about the impact the turbines could have on property values, noise generated and possible adverse health effects.

One resident said young families will not want to move to or back to Nemaha County if the countryside is “littered” with wind turbines.

Many speakers said they would prefer that the Commission go back to the original setback requirements that were put into place in 2012, and then rescinded in 2016, which were 3,000 feet setbacks from residences and 1,500 feet from property lines.

It was noted that more than 1,300 signatures had been received, as of Monday, on a petition in opposition to the project.

Those speaking in support of the wind farm said they felt it was a good opportunity for the county to bring in tax dollars and would provide a guaranteed income for landowners.

The term sheet was released April 1 following months of negotiations between the county and Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources.

The 16-page document lays out the rules and regulations for the construction, operation and ultimately dismantling of the 300-megawatt wind farm.

A second public meeting will be held Thursday evening, April 25 from 6 to 10 at the Nemaha County Community Building, in Seneca.