

County approves road agreement with Invenergy

(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission has approved a revised road use agreement with Chicago-based Invenergy for the Grain Belt Express transmission line project.

The Commission took the action Monday on a 2-1 vote, with Commission Chairman Bill Pollock casting the lone dissenting vote. Pollock had proposed waiting to approve the agreement until construction begins.

County Attorney Kevin Hill said the agreement provides protections for the county, guaranteeing the the company will fix any roads damaged during construction. The company will be required to provide a one-million dollar surety bond.

Commissioner Rich Lehmkuhl said the majority of the roads that will be utilized during construction will be township roads.

Invenergy officials met with the commission earlier this month to seek approval of the agreement.

Construction on the 800-mile line, which is deliver up to 4,000 megawatts of wind-generated power from southwest Kansas to eastern states, is slated to begin in the 4th quarter of 2024. The line will go through 14 Kansas counties—including locally, Brown, Doniphan, Marshall and Nemaha.

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