

IURC News Release

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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Approves Renewable Energy Project in Benton County and Duke Energy Request to Purchase Generation

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission today approved a request from Benton County Wind Farm L.L.C. to build and operate the first phase (130 MW) of its proposed 230 megawatt wind-powered generating facility in Benton County, Indiana. The Commission also approved a power purchase agreement requested by Duke Energy to buy 100 MW of the power generated from the first phase of the wind farm project.

The Commission believes the project will not only produce truly emission free electricity, but will also help increase awareness and interest in the availability of renewable energy technology in Indiana. This also recognizes the Commission's commitment to support viable environmentally friendly energy sources.

The evidence in Cause Nos. 43068 and 43097 supports the finding that the construction of the Benton County Wind Farm will benefit ratepayers in Indiana. The Commission finds that power purchase agreement between the Benton County Wind Farm and Duke Energy supports Duke's balanced portfolio approach to buying needed generation.

To allow the IURC to keep track of electric systems across the state, the order requires the company to keep the IURC informed of progress during construction. The company is also required to seek prior approval of any transfer of assets owned by Benton County Wind Farm L.L.C and is further required to file any a copy of annual report that is required by Federal Regulators with the Commission.

Benton County Wind Farm L.L.C. also agrees to operate its facility in a manner consistent with good utility practice that will not harm or cause harm to Indiana retail customers. The portion of the electricity generated at the facility not dedicated to Duke Energy will be sold solely on the wholesale market. Benton County Wind Farm L.L.C. does not intend and is *not* authorized by the IURC to sell any electricity generated from this facility to the public on a retail basis and is *not* granted powers of eminent domain.

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