

# LEEDCo seeks support to earn new grant

BY MARIAN MCMAHON

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LAKE COUNTY — Lake County Board of Commissioners' President Bob Aufuldish gave a brief report on Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo — a regional nonprofit and economic development organization working to build an offshore wind energy industry in Ohio) of which he is a board member, representing Lake County.

"Earlier in the year it was announced LEEDCo had received a \$5 million Department of Energy Grant," Aufuldish said. "We put together a proposal for the construction of five to nine wind turbines ..."

The turbines are to produce 3 megawatts of energy each.

Currently LEEDCo is seeking firm commitments from power companies to purchase power generated by the wind turbines. Cleveland Public Power has already committed to purchasing 25 percent of the power generated.

"Another thing LEEDCo is trying to do is get public involvement and what they've done is put together something called "Take the Power Pledge" ... " Aufuldish said.

The form, to be signed and submitted to LEEDCo, states, "I want to promote offshore wind energy by purchasing electricity from "Icebreaker," America's first freshwater offshore wind project, located on Lake Erie. We can bring a new industry to the Great Lakes region that improves the environment, creates local jobs and advances our nation's energy security.

"I pledge to buy a portion of my electricity from the Great Lakes' first offshore wind project."

The pledge would not be a formal contract and would not bind the person signing it in any way. The forms would merely be used to show DOT there is a market and support for offshore wind energy.

Aufuldish said eight organizations received a \$5 million grant of which only three will be awarded \$40 million grants.

"If LEEDCo does not receive the \$40 million grant, there will be no construction of wind turbines on the lake," Aufuldish said.

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