

# Wind turbines to be built in North Perry Village

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By the end of this year, North Perry Village will be home to one more form of energy production in addition to nuclear.

Construction is slated to begin this September on two 426-foot-tall wind turbines, to be located on Antioch Road.

Juhl Energy, based in Woodstock, Minn., has leased the property from Losely Nursery, and has contracted two construction companies in Minnesota for the \$10 million project.

The two turbines are expected to begin operating sometime in the fourth quarter and produce an average of 11.6 million kilowatt hours of energy per year, which will be sold to Painesville Municipal Electric, said Yusef Orest, project developer for Juhl Energy.

"In 2011, the average U.S. home used 11,280 kilowatt hours per year," Orest said.

Altogether, the two wind turbines can power an average of 1,028 homes each year, he said.

The energy produced from the turbines will account for 10 percent of Painesville Municipal Electric's daily usage, said Jeffrey McHugh, superintendent of the electric division.

"It is adding to our renewable energy portfolio," McHugh said.

Most customers serviced by the city, including those in portions of Perry Village, Perry Township and Painesville Township, will not notice a difference in their electric bills, he said.

However, the city will change North Perry's out-of-town rates to its cheaper in-town rates when the turbines come online, McHugh said.

The project is Painesville's first venture into wind energy and is expected to reduce its carbon footprint.

The city, which is a member of American Municipal Power, uses natural gas, landfill gas and water-powered turbines to fill a majority of its energy portfolio, McHugh said. Its coal plant at 325 Richmond St. supplements 10 percent to 30 percent of its portfolio, he added.

"We pick our spots to pro-

duce," he said.

"We can use our plant, but it is based on market decisions now rather than base-load decisions."

McHugh said the city, which is looking into adding solar energy to its portfolio, doesn't yet have plans to add more than the two wind turbines.

But more turbines also may be on the way in other parts of Lake County.

County commissioners are still in an agreement with Apex Wind Energy Inc. on building a wind farm on top of a county-owned landfill in Painesville Township.

Executives at Apex said they are still studying the area and have no timetable yet as to when or if wind turbines will be built.

Juhl Energy completed a feasibility and due diligence study for the two wind turbines in North Perry.

Its findings, presented at a Village Planning Commission meeting on May 14, stated that bird fatalities are expected to be lower than the level allowed by regulators at the nearby Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

The study also stated that

only 11 residents will hear a faint noise from the turbines. "Sound effects are marginally audible," Orest said, adding that its noise level is less than the chirping of crickets.

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