

Daniel Priestley

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**From:** Jablonski, Adam (MidAmerican) <Adam.Jablonski@midamerican.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2024 4:22 PM  
**To:** Daniel Priestley; Matthew A. Ung; Daniel Bittinger; Mark Nelson; Keith Radig; Jeremy Taylor  
**Cc:** Ballard, Kelsy (MidAmerican); Pearson, Megan (MidAmerican); Wagner, Sam (MidAmerican)  
**Subject:** 9/17 Wind Ordinance Hearing - MidAmerican Comments and Project Update  
**Attachments:** MidAmerican Wind Ordinance Comments and Siouxland Update - 9\_16\_2024.pdf

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Mr. Priestley and Board of Supervisors

Please find attached, MidAmerican's comments to the proposed amendments to the Woodbury County wind ordinance you have set for hearing on 9/17, 9/24 and 10/1, and an update on the Siouxland wind farm project which has been under development since 2021. Please enter the attached information into the public record for the referenced hearings.

As you are aware, and is shown in the attached as a reminder, we have been developing the Siouxland wind farm for years and have made significant investments in the project with 130 Woodbury County landowners voluntarily participating. With this in mind, we urge you to consider our comments in the attached and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Adam Jablonski**  
Vice President, Project Development  
MidAmerican Energy Company  
Email: [Adam.Jablonski@midamerican.com](mailto:Adam.Jablonski@midamerican.com)



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September 16, 2024

Woodbury County Iowa  
620 Douglas Street  
Sioux City, IA 51101

Woodbury County Board of Supervisors:

MidAmerican has been developing the Siouxland Wind Farm since December 2021 and currently has over 24,000 acres voluntarily signed up in the project, over 130 participating Woodbury County landowners, and has made significant investments in this project.

MidAmerican is the state's leader in wind energy generation, with 37 operating wind farms totaling more than 3,400 wind turbines in 32 counties across the state of Iowa, and an obligation to serve our customers with reliable, affordable and sustainable energy. MidAmerican often hears that 'no one' wants a wind project during county meetings, often ignoring the fact that wind project participation is completely voluntary. This is exemplified by our partner landowners, over 4,200 across the state, that see the benefits of wind energy and have been able to utilize their properties the way they see fit. By participating in wind projects, these landowners have been able to take advantage of Iowa's abundant wind resource and diversify their farming income, helping to keep farms in the family.

Seeing the proposed amendment is concerning as it hinders Woodbury County residents' ability to realize benefits associated with wind generation and our ability to serve our customers, many in Woodbury County. Imagine, if during an election, you received over 90% of the votes, but were still not allowed to be elected as a supervisor – that is what this amendment effectively does to wind development – even with 90% participation, a wind project would not be allowed. You could have only one non-participant in a four-square mile area, and that one non-participant could control the entire four-square mile area and prohibit their neighbors from participating in a wind project. That is why this amendment is effectively a ban on wind generation in the county. You should consider whether it is reasonable for someone to control what their neighbor does on their property up to 3,280' (.62m miles) away. We have heard at least part of the reasoning for the setbacks is safety concerns - however to MidAmerican's knowledge, the Iowa wind industry has a perfect record regarding public safety from operation of thousands of wind turbines over the last 20 years.

An additional change in this round of ordinance revisions requires removal of all underground facilities upon decommissioning of the turbines, again attacking landowner's rights to determine what is best for their own farm and requiring higher than standard land disturbance at the end of a project.

A moratorium, or an effective moratorium through regulations like those proposed in this ordinance change would prohibit landowners of Woodbury County from realizing these benefits. With interest from landowners in Woodbury, and with already strict and prohibitive wind generation requirements, I ask that the Board not amend any setbacks or removal requirements, exempt projects like the Siouxland project that has been under development for years, from these changes to the ordinance or consider drafting a balanced wind ordinance that considers real-world wind operating facts. I also encourage your outreach to neighboring counties and across Iowa with wind generation to gain a better perspective.

Sincerely,



Adam Jablonski  
Vice President, Project Development

Attachment: Siouxland Wind Farm Project Evolution

# SIouxLAND WIND FARM — PROJECT EVOLUTION

September 16, 2024



# PROJECT VISION



The Siouxland Wind Farm is estimated to be in service in **2027** and include **38 to 61 wind turbines** and have an output of **170 MW**.



MidAmerican estimates paying over **\$72 million** in lease payments to local landowners. Currently, there are **130 participating landowners** with 24,400 acres under easement.

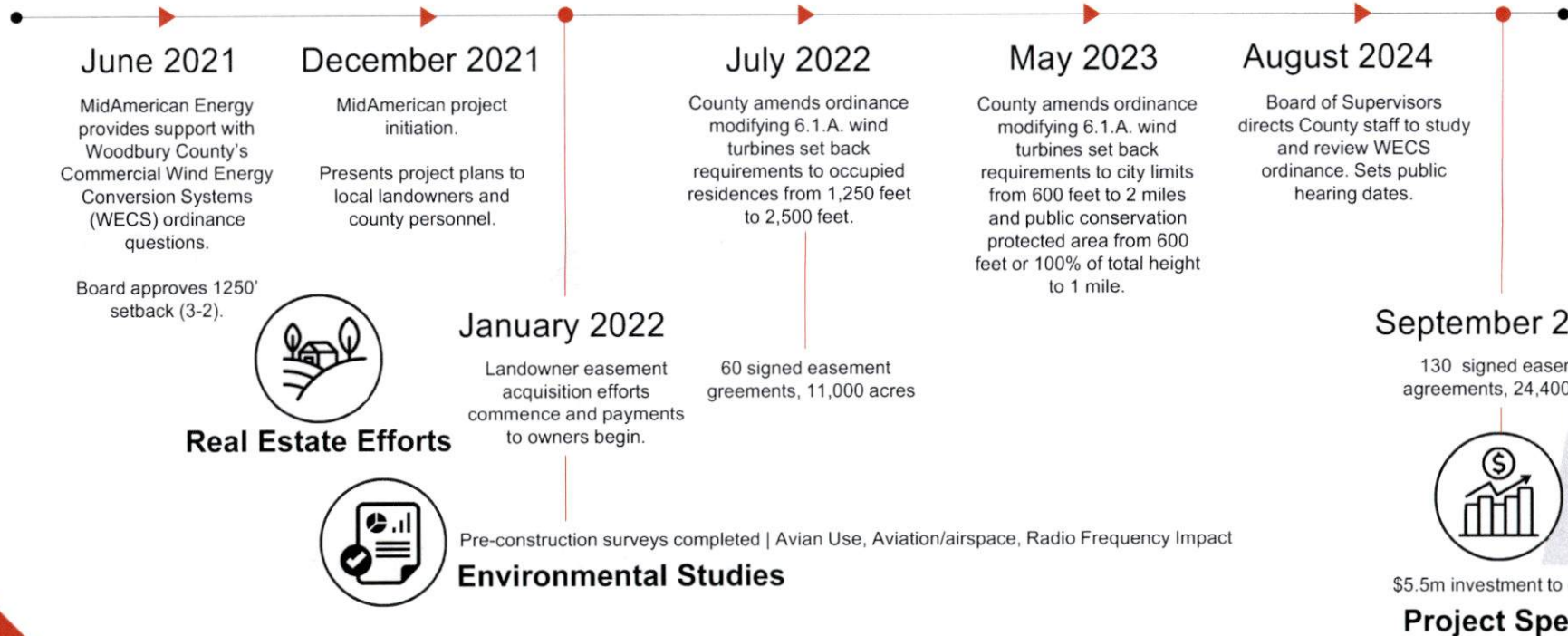


Over the 40-year life of the Siouxland Wind Farm, MidAmerican is estimated to pay up to **\$88 million** in local property taxes to Woodbury County.



The Siouxland Wind Farm will support nearly **200 temporary** and **8 to 10 permanent wind technician jobs** in the area.

# PROJECT EVOLUTION



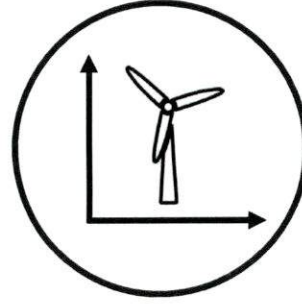
# MOVING FORWARD



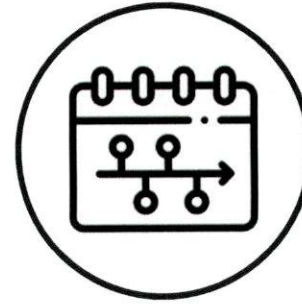
Landowner participation



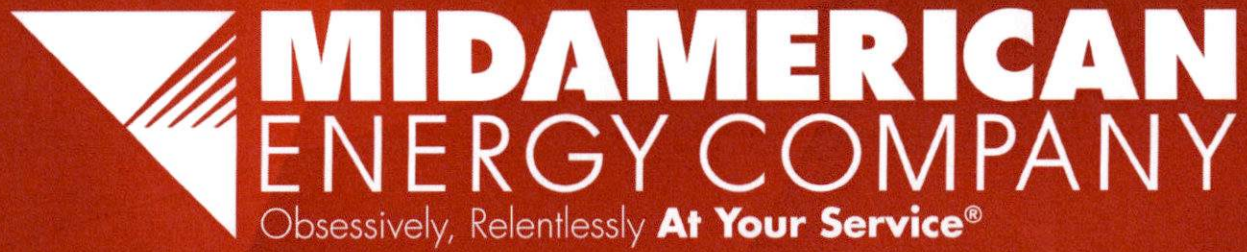
Community engagement and education



Increased setbacks impact development



Extended development timeline



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