

Turbines a nonissue for regional airport

Sunday, July 30, 2017

By Joseph Hopper, Daily Reporter Staff

A NWIA Regional Airport Board of Trustees-led inquiry into whether or not a turbine that is part of a planned wind farm in northwest Clay County would interfere with aeronautical instruments at the Northwest Iowa Regional Airport has concluded. Bill Hemme, Airport Board of Trustees member, said that after talking with Apex Clean Energy, he was satisfied that navigational aids used by pilots and the airport would not be affected by the planned turbine's position.

"The nav aids are located 7 nautical miles off the end of runway 1230 out there, and we had a conference call, with Apex officials and we were satisfied that they were addressing that issue and that it wasn't a problem. The nav aids will not be affected by any of the turbines. The closest turbine was 4,400 feet, and that was far enough away that it would not cause interference," Hemme said.

The Apex Clean Energy's planned wind farm, the Upland Prairie Wind Project, is currently awaiting its special use permit hearing by the Clay County Planning & Zoning board on Aug. 1.