

**COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COLES COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING RULES GOVERNING WIND FARM APPLICATION HEARINGS**

Order of Public Hearing:¹

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call of Planning & Development Committee Members.
4. Identification of the application and project overview by counsel for Coles County
 - a. Coles County counsel will identify the application and the applicant for which the hearing has been set, including a general description of the proposed wind energy conversion system, and the areas in which such system is proposed to be developed.
 - b. Coles County counsel will provide confirmation that the necessary fees have been paid by the applicant, and that the notice of the public hearing has been published and mailed in accordance with law.
5. Introduction of the Public Hearing Moderator by the Chairperson.²
6. Readings of the rules and procedures of public hearings by the Public Hearing Moderator.
7. Evidence from the applicant ³
 - a. Applicant shall present testimony and evidence. Each of the applicant's witnesses shall remain present for questioning by the Planning & Development Committee or others, until such time as the witness is excused by the Chairperson.
 - b. Members of the Planning & Development Committee shall have the opportunity to question the applicant's witnesses providing testimony. The Planning & Development Committee members may, in the discretion of the Chairperson, ask questions at any time during the hearing.

¹ The order denoted herein may be adjusted in the reasonable discretion of the Chair or Hearing Moderator.

² The Hearing Moderator will assume the allowed duties of the Chair for the duration of the hearing.

³ Witnesses may be presented individually or as a panel at the discretion of the Public Hearing Moderator/Planning & Development Committee

- c. All persons present shall have the opportunity to question the applicant's witnesses and evidence in the following order:
 - i. Coles County Planning & Development Committee members;
 - ii. Units of local government, including school districts;
 - iii. Interested parties represented by licensed attorneys;
 - iv. Other interested parties including members of the public;
 - v. Coles County staff and consultants; and
 - vi. Follow-up questions from Committee members.
8. Evidence from persons in favor of the application
 - a. Repeat order of questioning denoted in 7(a)-7(c).
9. Evidence from licensed attorneys representing interested parties in opposition to the application.
 - a. Repeat order of questioning denoted in 7(a)-7(c).
10. Evidence from persons opposed to the application, but unrepresented by a licensed attorney.
 - a. Repeat order of questioning denoted in 7(a)-7(c).
11. Evidence from persons who are neutral on the application.
 - a. Repeat order of questioning denoted in 7(a)-7(c).
12. Identification and reading of written comments regarding the application.
13. Evidence from Coles County staff and consultants.
 - a. Repeat order of questioning denoted in 7(a)-7(c).

14. Public Comment. (NOTE: public comment is not evidence and will not be considered by the Committee or County Board in rendering a decision on the application).
 - a. Time Limit – 5 minutes per person.
15. County may recall any witness that has testified for further information/evidence at any time.
16. Closing statements by counsel for Applicant.
 - a. Introduction of new evidence is precluded.
17. Closing statement by Objectors (if any).
 - a. Introduction of new evidence is precluded.
18. Rebuttal by counsel for Applicant.
 - a. Rebuttal limited to rebuttal of closing statement(s) by Objector(s).
19. Closing of Evidence
20. Deliberations and Votes
 - a. Findings of Fact (consider, discuss and vote)
 - b. Conditions (consider, discuss and vote)
 - c. Recommendation to full County Board (consider, discuss and vote)
21. Adjournment.

COLES COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING RULES

1. These provisions shall govern procedures of the public hearings before the Coles County Planning & Development Committee concerning wind energy conversion systems. The Chairperson and the Planning & Development Committee may modify these procedures in their reasonable discretion.
2. A court reporter shall be present at every hearing and voting meeting in order to provide a transcript of the proceedings. Transcripts will be prepared by the court reporter and sent to the Planning & Development Committee. Costs for all transcripts of hearings or voting meetings before the Planning & Development Committee shall be borne by the applicant, and the cost of the transcripts shall be paid directly to the court reporting service.
3. The hearing shall occur on the date and time set forth in the published notice. All necessary additional hearing dates shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Planning & Development Committee.
4. The Chairperson or acting Chairperson (including Hearing Moderator) of the Planning & Development Committee shall preside at the public hearings of the Planning & Development Committee. The Chairperson shall have the authority to control the hearing proceedings, and may determine time limits, schedule the appearance of witnesses and require their appearance on dates set forth in the scheduling order, restrict witnesses from testifying for failure to appear on the date scheduled for that witness' testimony, adopt reasonable limits upon the questioning of witnesses by the applicant and interested parties, and take other action deemed reasonably necessary by the Chairperson in order to conduct the hearing in an orderly, efficient and professional manner.
5. The hearing before the Planning & Development Committee shall not be governed by, and the Planning & Development Committee shall not be bound by, the strict rules of evidence. The Planning & Development Committee may exclude irrelevant material and unduly repetitious testimony, and any other testimony or evidence that in the discretion of the Chairperson and Planning & Development Committee is not pertinent to the proceedings. Tactics designed to delay the proceedings are not permitted.
6. All witnesses shall testify under oath.
7. At the discretion of the Chairperson, Planning & Development Committee members shall be permitted to question witnesses at any time during the hearing and Planning & Development Committee members may request that additional information or evidence be presented to them during the hearing.
8. Public hearings may be held by less than a quorum of the Planning & Development Committee.
9. The discretion to admit testimony, documents or other evidence lies solely within the discretion of the Hearing Moderator. The determination of qualifications of an expert shall be within the discretion of the Hearing Moderator. Expert witnesses must be adequately demonstrate their

qualifications prior to rendering an opinion on a matter. All studies relied upon in a expert's written submissions must be disclosed.

10. The Planning & Development Committee shall transmit its findings and recommendations to the County Board in written form.
11. Audience members must be seated and quiet, loitering in the hearing room is prohibited. Any person who is unruly, disrupts or attempts to disrupt the hearing or otherwise engages in inappropriate behavior will be expelled. Excessive applause, jeering or other commotion shall be considered disruptive.
12. Time Limits:
 - a. Upon demonstration of expertise within a relevant field, expert witnesses are allowed unlimited time to testify.
 - b. Non-expert witnesses who are residents of Coles County shall have 60 minutes to testify.
 - c. Non-expert witnesses who are non-residents of Coles County shall have 15 minutes to testify.

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