

Wind turbine causes turbulence in Libertyville

Business, residents to meet about noise and other effects

By Kathryn Dill | Special to the Tribune June 16, 2009

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-wind-turbine-16-jun16,0,2533054.story>

What was originally promoted as a local victory for green energy systems has become the source of heated debate between Aldridge Electric and neighbors of its company headquarters on busy East Rockland Road in [Libertyville](#).

The two sides are set to meet Tuesday night at the headquarters to discuss the company's 120-foot wind turbine.

It was installed in April "to help Aldridge Electric offset their retail-rate electricity," according to a company news release.

Since then, neighbors have complained of noise, light from the turbine's reflective surface and the "flicker effect" created by the rotating fan blade.

On June 2, five neighbors referring to themselves as Citizens for the Protection of Libertyville were granted a 10-day restraining order by a Lake County judge ordering that the turbine be turned off. The order was later removed after the company volunteered to shut off the turbine for 30 days if residents would agree to enter into mediation.

"We voluntarily shut off the wind turbine for maintenance, and we are working on resolving any issues surrounding the turbine," Lizzy Aldridge said via e-mail on behalf of the company on June 5. Phone calls to the company on Monday were not returned.

Resident Dave Gates, a member of the citizens group, said a meeting between company officials and neighbors was set for June 30, but a representative of Aldridge Electric walked door-to-door on Friday alerting neighbors of a meeting at the company's headquarters on Tuesday.

Gates said residents were required to sign a form stating they would attend the meeting in order to receive a copy of the announcement, which also stated that the turbine could be turned back on as soon as June 23.

At a public hearing held before the turbine was installed at 844 E. Rockland Rd., neighbors were assured the turbine, which sits 275 feet from one resident's backyard, would not be disruptive.

"We were guaranteed you wouldn't hear a thing," Gates said. "[Aldridge] told neighbors that all they would hear was the sound of a fridge running. It was all a lie."