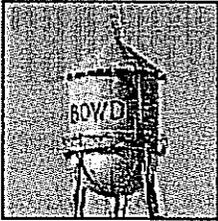


December 9, 2007

Good Morning, Bowdle!



Mostly sunny.  
High around 15.

Details, 2A

\$1.50

# Area utility seeks wind power

*NorthWestern Energy looking for 20 to 50 megawatts*

SIoux FALLS (AP) — NorthWestern Energy wants to plug into South Dakota wind power.

The regional utility, which is based in Sioux Falls, is seeking 20 to 50 megawatts of wind-produced electricity. A megawatt is enough to power about 300 homes.

The wind power must be produced in South Dakota and be capable of hooking into the transmission system so NorthWestern can ship the juice to its customers in the Mount Rushmore State.

"Renewable energy development is very important to South Dakota's economic base," said Mike Hanson, NorthWestern president and chief executive officer. "Our purchase of cost-effective renewable wind energy not only provides our customers with a reliable source of electricity produced right here in South Dakota, it enables the growth of an industry that both benefits and complements our traditional rural agricultural lifestyle."

Bids are due by the end of February, and the company plans to make a decision by early summer. The wind-power contract would be for 10 or 20 years.

Tom Glanzer, another NorthWestern official, said wind power will augment the electricity the utility already gets from coal-fired power plants and other sources.

"We'll layer it into the system when we have the wind available, and if the wind isn't there, we'll be able to use our other generation products," he said. "As we all know, you can't run off of wind energy all of the time."

NorthWestern Energy is one of the largest electricity and natural gas suppliers in the Upper Midwest and Northwest, serving approximately 640,000 customers in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska.

