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RULING ALLOWS NOBLE ENVIRONMENTAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT TO CONTINUE WITHOUT DELAY

Noble Environmental Power today said that the ruling by Circuit Court Judge M. Richard Knoblock that the Huron County Clerk had acted properly in denying a petition for a review of a local wind energy ordinance clears the way for construction of the Noble Thumb Windpark and creation of hundreds of jobs in the area. The Court's ruling avoids a referendum to accept or reject the ordinance, which could have delayed or killed the Noble Thumb Windpark and all other wind energy projects in Huron County.

"The Noble Thumb Windpark can bring a wide range of benefits to our community," said Carl Osentoski, Executive Director of the Huron County Economic Development Corporation. "We know that clean, renewable energy is a critical part of our future. We are always seeking new industries to diversify our economic base and alternative energy projects are one of those key industries of the future."

"The Noble Thumb Windpark will create cleaner energy, hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity for this community," said Peter Mastic, Managing Director of Noble Environmental, which is now constructing the first phase of the Noble Thumb Windpark in Huron County. "We are pleased that the motion to overturn the decision of the County Clerk was rejected by the Court and we look forward to continuing to work with the community on this important project."

Opponents had filed a complaint asking the Court to mandate that Huron County Clerk Peggy Koehler hold an election for a referendum on the county's zoning ordinance. In its ruling today, the Court denied the complaint and ruled that the Clerk had acted in accordance with the relevant State statutes regulating County zoning.

The Huron County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the ordinance after nearly a year of research, windpark visits, public meetings and deliberations. Approval was unanimously recommended by the County Planning Commission.

Noble has also become involved in the community in many other ways to support or educate the public. These activities include the Junior Livestock Auction, Rural Education Day, and sponsoring classroom discussions of wind energy. Noble has partnered with Kidwind (www.kidwind.org) to assist teachers in introducing students to wind energy concepts using engaging, hands-on activities with model turbine kits.

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The first phase of the Noble Thumb Windpark will consist of 32 turbines on 4,700 acres of farmland belonging to about 40 landowners in Bingham Township. Pre-construction activity began in September 2005, and installation of the first turbines is now expected to occur in mid-April of 2006. Future phases of the Noble Thumb Windpark are expected to extend through southeastern Huron and Sanilac Counties over the next three years.

The first phase of the Noble Thumb Windpark will create:

- More than \$6.5 million in estimated property tax payments over 20 years, new funds for schools and local units of government;
- Approximately 200 new construction jobs for up to one year, as well as 10 permanent operating jobs; and
- Significant payments to property owners, which will help preserve existing agricultural lands.
- Road and highway improvements in the areas around the turbines.

In addition, the Noble Thumb Windpark will generate enough clean, renewable electricity to power 16,000 homes. By way of comparison, it would take some 60,000 tons of coal – enough to fill a freight train 6 ½ miles long – every year to generate the same energy that Noble Thumb Windpark will generate. The burning of that much coal every year would produce: about 156,000 tons of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas; thousands of tons of sulfur dioxide, which causes acid rain; and thousands of tons of nitrogen oxides, which causes smog.

The electric power produced by the project will be delivered to Consumers Energy Company as part of the Consumers Energy Green Generation program.

About Noble Environmental Power: Noble Environmental Power, LLC, is a leading renewable energy company that is developing wind energy projects at several locations in Michigan and New York State. Noble is majority owned by J.P. Morgan Partners and was founded in 2004 in response to public policy initiatives designed to foster the increased use of renewable energy sources. Noble is committed to creating environmentally friendly facilities in partnership with local communities. Noble Environmental Power is based in Essex CT, and has offices in Malone NY, Churubusco NY, Arcade NY, and Bad Axe MI. For more information, please visit www.noblepower.com, or email us at info@noblepower.com.

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