

From: [Alan Thomson](#)
To: [Jeff Marshall](#); [Kenneth Millar](#)
Subject: FW: June 18 Planning Commission meeting material
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 11:26:20 AM
Attachments: [Carteret County North Carolina Wind Energy Facility Ordinance.pdf](#)
[Sumner Main Wind Turbine Ordinance.pdf](#)
[Umatilla County Oregon Ordinance 2012-04.pdf](#)

Post this one as well on Renewable Energy Information. Thanks.

Alan.

From: Julie Clarkson <jclark766@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 11:57 AM
To: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: June 18 Planning Commission meeting material

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June 18, 2025

Whitman County Commissioners
Whitman County Planning Commission
Whitman County Planner

Dear Commissioners, Planning Commission members and County Planner:

While setbacks vary widely across the country, and many are simply outdated to apply to the new, massive turbines being planned, there is precedent for wind turbine setbacks to exceed 4 times the height of the turbine. Below are some examples as well as examples of height limits, sound, flicker and other limitations and requirements. Links are included in this letter. Due to file size restraints, select PDF copies are attached to this e-mail.

Caratunk, Maine <https://caratunkmaine.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Caratunk-Energy-Systems-Ordinance-8.14.20.pdf>

Setback: Regardless of calculated setbacks no Type 2 or Type 3 WEFT shall be less than **1.5 miles** from any property line as determined by the town's official property maps.

Noise Limit: Sound levels due to the operation of any project shall not exceed 50 dBA at project property lines or 30 dBA as measured at any occupied structures in the Town of

Caratunk.

Trempealeau County, Wisconsin https://trempealeaucountywi.documents-on-demand.com/Document/14b64896-1d49-ea11-a2e6-000c29a59557/CHAPTER_21.pdf

Setback: Each Wind Turbine shall be set back from the nearest structure used as a residence, school, hospital, church, place of employment or public library, a distance no less than **one (1) mile**.

Noise Limit: Audible Noise due to Wind Energy Facility or Wind Turbine operations shall not exceed the lesser of five (5) decibels (dBA) increase over the existing background noise level (L90) or exceed forty (40) decibels (dBA) for any period of time, when measured at any structure used as a residence, school, hospital, church, place of employment, or public library existing on the date of approval of any Wind Energy Facility or Wind Turbine permit.

Shadow Flicker: Unless owned by the applicant, no parcel of real estate shall be subject to shadow flicker from a Wind Turbine unless mitigation has taken place and agreed by the owner/operator and affected property owners involved and recorded.

Carteret County, North Carolina

https://library.municode.com/nc/carteret_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_APXFTAST

Height Limit: Utility scale – 1,000 KW or more – **maximum height 275 feet**.

Setback: **A 1-mile setback from any property line, vacant or occupied dwelling unit**, public or private R-O-W and/or Access Easement.

Noise Limit: Maximum noise impact of 35 decibels for more than 5 consecutive minutes as measured at any property line.

Shadow Flicker: Applicant shall provide a shadow flicker and blade glint report for each proposed facility...identify problem zones within a 1-mile radius where shadow flicker will interfere with existing or future residences and roadways...shadow flicker or blade glint that falls on a portion of an occupied property is acceptable only if the flicker or glint does not exceed 120 seconds per day for 7 consecutive days with a five-hour maximum per year and flicker or glint falls more than 100 feet from an existing residence or business property.

Sumner, Maine – https://4b22f5d0-48a5-410a-ad6c-9f8cf1ce5e26.usrfiles.com/ugd/4b22f5_dcd450d1705a451890214288bea9f431.pdf

Height Limit: Total height of any IWT **shall not exceed 450 feet** measured to the blade tips at the maximum distance above grade.

Setback: Minimal fixed distance of **1-mile** (5,280 feet) is required from the outer edge of the base of each IWT to the closest point of any property line of any non-participating property.

Noise Limit: No IWEF shall be allowed to operate if it exceeds 35 dBA day or night and a pre-construction background noise study must be conducted for all properties any part of whose property lines are located within 2 miles of any IWT.

Shadow Flicker: May not cause unreasonable adverse shadow flicker effect – 3 days or more in any 1 month, if annualized would total more than 12 hours of flicker per year.

Union County, Iowa <https://unioncountyiowa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Ordinance-73-Wind-Farm-Amendment-for-Future-Projects.pdf>

Setback: Wind tower ordinances requires a setback of no less than .62 miles, 3273.6 feet, **or 7 times the total height of the tower, whichever is greater, from an adjoining property line**, unless a waiver is signed by the neighbor.

Other: An archaeological survey must be completed in a one-mile radius of a new tower's proposed site and recorded with the state archaeologist; the survey will be paid by the applicant for the turbine permit.

Aircraft Detection Lighting System: A sensor-based system designed to detect aircraft as they approach a wind energy conversion facility; this system automatically activates obstruction lights until they are no longer needed

Taxes: Landowners will be responsible for any taxes on a tower that is no longer operating and haven't been paid.

Newport, North Carolina

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/newportnc/latest/newport_nc/0-0-0-28550

Setback: WEF shall be setback from non-participating property lines, federal highway, state highway and/or public road for **at least 5,000 feet and have a maximum height above highest adjacent grade of 275 feet.**

Noise: No WEF or its generators, equipment or apparatus shall produce noise above 35 decibels (dba) for more than five times within seven consecutive days as measured at any property line of non-participating landowners, the applicant and/or owner shall shut down the WEF within one business day of being informed to do so by the Town Planning Director or designee. The facility shall remain shut down until it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Director or designee that the facility can be operated so as to not exceed 35 decibels (dba) as measured at any non- participating property line.

Property Value: The WEF owner (applicant) or his, her or its successor shall assure the Town of

Newport that there will be no loss in real property value due to the WEF.

Umatilla County, Oregon

https://umatillacounty.gov/fileadmin/user_upload/Planning/Ordinances/Ordinance_2012-04.pdf

Setback: From a turbine tower to a rural residence shall be **2 miles**. From a turbine tower to land zoned Unincorporated Community, shall be 1-mile.

These are not the only ordinances that with setbacks exceeding 4 times the height of the turbine, but some examples of ordinances I found online. Unfortunately, there is no easy way to search this information, and many ordinances are not readily available online. However, I will continue to search.

Julie Clarkson-Gulick

Pullman