



GCEDC thinking 'green'

Hires consultant to conduct wind studies at industrial parks

By Paul Mrozek

pmrozek@batavianews.com

Genesee County Economic Development Center officials believe "green" energy could help build business in the county.

The GCEDC approved the hiring Thursday of a consulting firm to conduct wind studies at its industrial parks.

Emergent Inc. of Boston, Mass. will be paid \$15,000 to determine if electricity-producing turbines are feasible for parks in Batavia, Pembroke, Alabama and Bergen, said Chris

Suozzi, GCEDC senior vice president for development.

Suozzi said the windmills will be a "marketing tool" to attract companies to the county.

GCEDC Chief Executive Officer Steve Hyde said the potential benefits of windmills in industrial parks is twofold, green energy and lower utility bills, both of which are useful to try to bring business to the county.

The goal is to install power-producing windmills and run "net meters" on them for each industrial park. If the turbines produce more energy than is needed at a specific site, the

excess power can be sold to the state's power grid.

If the park uses more energy than windmills produce, the electricity generated by the windmills will be used to "buy down" utility costs, Hyde said.

"I'm excited about it," he said.

Suozzi and Hyde said installing turbines in the industrial parks is a different way of looking at wind energy. It keeps the low-cost power in the community.

The Wall Street investment firms

See Green — page A-2

Green

— From page A-1

that have proposed wind farms in Western New York provide financial incentives to governments and landowners where windmills are erected but no cheap power for economic development, the EDC officials said.

"I like the idea of keeping it local," said county Legislator Hollis Upson, who sits on the GCEDC

board.

Boston-based Emergent is already doing consulting work in Orleans County.

In other action at Thursday's EDC meeting, the board received an update on the new names given to two planned industrial parks on Route 5 in Pembroke.

The two sites, which are across the street from each other, will be re-branded as Buffalo East Tech-

nology Park North and Buffalo East Technology Park South. The entire site will be called a technology park campus.

Suozzi said the switch was made for marketing purposes for advanced manufacturing facilities. The former names were Pembroke Commerce Park, which is 67 acres on the south side of Route 5 and Buffalo East Park, 238 acres north of Route 5.

The town of Pembroke recently approved a \$400,000 grant for Buffalo East Technology Park. The town money will be used for infrastructure projects; it follows the same strategy the town of Batavia uses to assist the EDC with installing sewer and water lines in industrial parks in its community.