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POWER BALL Numbers are 3-20-48-54-59 4

Jackpot: \$130 million | **POWER PLAY** x4



THE DEEP END

By Dave Ruthenberg
 Every Thursday in the News & Eagle

WIND FARM DELAYED

Continued from Page A1

one military asset in the state of Oklahoma. Anything we can do to enhance that, protect it, we have to do."

It hasn't been an easy task. With the recent passage of a bill he helped create, Cooper said things will be different going forward, but the journey to this point was turbulent.

"The legislation that we'd previously passed, we thought we had what we wanted, but still we had companies that were building without any approval, so we had to figure out what more needed to be done," Cooper said.

Some training routes already have been lost. At least two routes to the south of I-40 have been closed due to construction of wind farms in the area, Cooper said.

In May, NextEra nixed plans on the Minco IV wind farm project in Caddo County after facing opposition from the OSMPC, which argued the planned farm was in the way of an Air Force training route. The company also pulled the plug on another project in Washita County.

Both efforts were scrapped after an OSMPC-supported bill passed May 2019, requiring wind development proposals to receive approval from the FAA, and Department of Defense verifying that the project won't hinder base operations.

"We did have to intervene on (Minco IV) and the attorney general stepped in and we were able to get it stopped ... but that's one of the reasons why we had to create the legislation, is to make sure we don't have to do that," Cooper said.

"What you have since this legislation is good, honest negotiations and work between the wind industry and the military to get the right answer."

Room for a third

Neither Vance nor NextEra have shared what changes will be made to the Skeleton Creek wind farm.

The total footprint of the project, the wind farm, solar farm and energy storage facility, will include Garfield, Alfalfa and Major counties, NextEra said in July.

Once completed, the "largest combined wind, solar and energy storage project in the U.S." will add 500 megawatts to the regional power grid, plus another 200 megawatts from the energy storage facility for up to four hours, if fully charged.

Alterations to Skeleton Creek requested by Vance are not expected to affect the energy production and storage capacity figures announced in July.

There's no reason both sides can't get what they want, Garner said. NextEra already has two wind operations running near Vance, Breckenridge and Armadillo Flats wind farms, "compatible with the safe operations of the Air Force base."

"That's a big concern of ours. We want to make sure that we're good neighbors and good partners," Garner said. "We understand that they're an important part of this community, and we want to make sure that wind energy and our future facilities will be as well."

Changing seasons



Raindrops cling to a season-changing leaf on Friday in this shot on South Taylor. (Billy Hefton / Enid News & Eagle)



A T-6 makes a landing approach at Vance Air Force Base Aug. 5, 2019. (Billy Hefton / Enid News & Eagle)

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