

# visits Pincher Wind energy open house shows off new technology

ANDREW GLEN McCUTCHEON  
Pincher Creek Echo

Enercon hosted an open house last Thursday evening at the Heritage Inn seeking public response after changes were made to a long-running plan to create additional wind turbines in the MD of Pincher Creek.

Enercon and Welsch Windpower Inc. recently purchased the project in late 2014/early 2015, and after making a major amendment to the project they now must reapply with the Alberta Utility Commission after receiving and recording feedback from the public.

The plan has existed in some form or another since 2006, and originally called for the installation of 26 turbines across the district of Pincher Creek, explained Enercon general project manager Elizabeth Fennell.

The major change to the project is the type of turbines that are being built, which was the focus of the presentation to the public.

"The point of this open house is to show off this new technology, these new turbines, which were not what the project was approved for initially," Fennell explained. "These are much bigger machines ... and essentially, they are more powerful, so now we need less."

Instead of the original 26 turbines, Enercon's new proposal only plans to install 18. The locations of the turbines have not changed, rather, eight have just been removed from the original plan.



Andrew Glen McCutcheon photo/Pincher Creek Echo

As one of the major public concerns was the visual impact of building these turbines, the removal of over a quarter of the planned construction might be a preferable layout, according to Fennell.

Another concern is the possibility of noise pollution, with provincial regulations stating that the turbines cannot create more than 40 decibels of noise in an inhabited area.

However, Fennell said that Enercon has taken into account the provincial regulations and that their software analyses put them well within reason.

"Using software models, we've put [the turbines] at the maximum noise power, and have taken into account not only existing [turbine] projects but also others that have been permitted but not yet built," Fennell said. "We

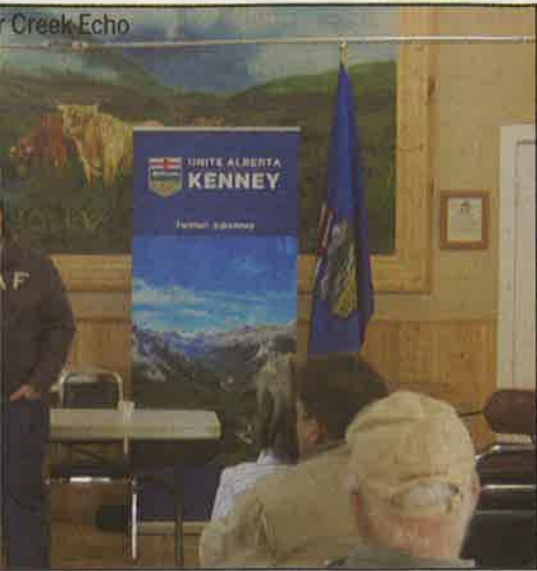
have done the sound analyses ... and we basically told [the MD] that we will abide by provincial regulations."

Altalink, one of Alberta's largest electricity transmission companies, was also present at the open house. They've been commissioned by Enercon for the design and possible construction of the lines that will connect the turbines into the existing power system.

With two proposed possible routes, Altalink is also seeking public feedback for their plans as well.

"We've been requested by Enercon to connect their generation into the existing system," said John Grove, a manager of community affairs for Altalink.

"We talk to the municipal governments, the provincial governments, and any landowners who could be potentially affected."



Speak with citizens of the town and district of ... and defeat the NDP government come 2019.

er of parliament in unite the right of

y took questions crowd and spoke n the issues people with both the pro-conservatives and Rose party, express-ppointment at the ossing actions of

Danielle Smith and others.

Kenney assured the group that a new, united right would remember the failures of the past, but not be burdened by them.

"You've got a whole lot of backbone," said Reeve Hammond, who was in attendance. "It takes a lot of courage."

## Events Calendar by Shell Waterton Complex community since 1962

every 2nd Thursday, 10 am to 12 pm, the Provincial Building, Pincher Creek. For more information please call Brenda at the phone at 403-627-1121.

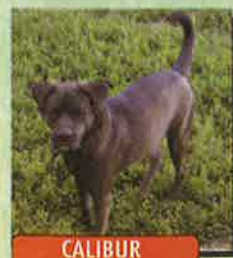
programs are available to assist children from ... in sport. Forms available at the Swim ... 7-4322 for more info. Donations welcome

classes on Tuesdays at 8 pm in the Elks Hall. For more information call Linda at 403-627-2598

monthly meeting on the 2nd Monday of

rescue meeting. First Tuesday of every month at the Pincher Creek Fire Hall. Everyone Welcome.

## A Better Chance Animal Rescue



CALIBUR

### "Calibur"

Neutered/male. 3 yrs old. Mastiff cross. Energetic, playful, good with other large breed dogs, best with a female large breed. Very good with children. Requires an experienced owner. Requires a lot of exercise. Active family required.



BELLA

### "Bella"

Spayed/female. American Eskimo cross. 3 yrs old. Good with cats and other dogs. LOVES CHILDREN!! Must go to a female owner as Bella is scared of men. House trained. Well mannered. Loves to cuddle. Enjoys walks. Enjoys car rides.