

Liens filed for wind farm work

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COMPTON (AP) — Six subcontractors have filed liens against several landowners for \$1.5 million worth of work on a large wind farm by Interstate 39 in northern Illinois.

The contractors say until they get their money, the landowners will not be able to sell their property and are nominally responsible for the unpaid bills.

Six landowners agreed to let Minneapolis-based Navitas Energy build wind turbines on their land near Compton to develop the Mendota Hills wind farm. Contractors began construction of the turbines in June, and much of the work was finished by the end of September. Ron Kessen, owner of one of the subcontractors, Kessen Excavating Inc., said the general contractor quit paying them two months after work began. Kessen said the subcontractors were never given a satisfactory reason why payments were stopped. His company is owed \$275,000.

Navitas president Greg Jaunich said the company is trying to settle the financial dispute and that the turbines will begin operating within several weeks. The general contractor, Orion Construction Group of Appleton, Wis., did not immediately return calls Tuesday to The Associated Press. The company's attorney, James Braza of Milwaukee, also did not immediately return calls.

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