

September 13, 2011 5:19 PM

Barton Malow wins contract for Thumb area wind farms

By [Amy Lane](#)

State regulators have approved a contract for Southfield-based **Barton Malow Co.** to build three **DTE Energy Co.** wind farms in Huron and Sanilac counties next year.

Under DTE's **Detroit Edison Co.** agreement with Barton Malow, Barton Malow's responsibilities include design, engineering, technical assistance, procurement, construction, installation and start-up and testing of the three wind farms known collectively as the Thumb Wind Farms.

The DTE-owned farms represent a \$225 million DTE investment and will be in Bloomfield, Sigel and McKinley townships in Huron County, and Minden and Delaware townships in Sanilac County.

Neither DTE nor Barton Malow on Tuesday would disclose the amount of the contract.

However, John Wozniak, director of operations at Barton Malow, said Barton Malow has a long history doing work for DTE and the contract approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission is "a tremendous opportunity" to continue working with the company and to "forge ahead with the green energy push that's on.

"It's a great opportunity for us to expand our wind portfolio."

Barton Malow is also involved in building a wind farm in McBain, near Cadillac, for Heritage Sustainable Energy. That work, spread over four years, represents about \$25 million to Barton Malow.

The PSC also approved a contract for **General Electric Co.** to provide wind turbines at the Thumb Wind Farm sites. General Electric will provide up to 69 turbines to be at those wind farms, to produce about 110 megawatts of electricity.

Wozniak said the company hopes to get roads in this year and turbines are scheduled to start arriving on-site starting mid-June 2012. He said there will be about 100 to 120 workers involved in building the farms.

The farms are to begin operating by the end of 2012.

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