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# Invenergy opens Shenandoah office

Mike Peterson  
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Ribbon cutting ceremonies took place Tuesday morning for Invenergy's new Shenandoah office at 515 West Sheridan Avenue.

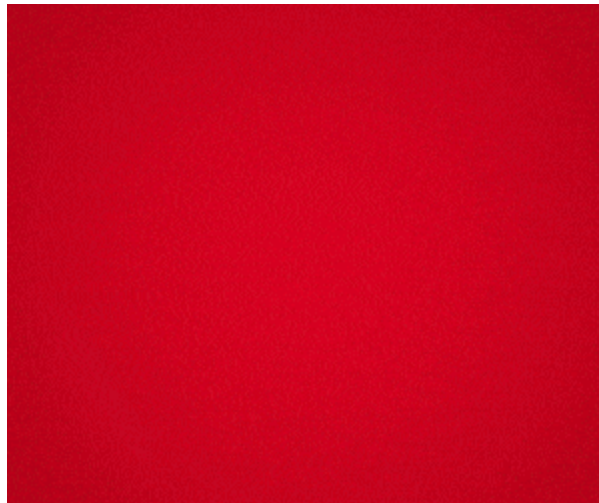
Mike Peterson/KMA News

(Shenandoah) -- One of Iowa's largest energy companies now has a home in Shenandoah.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held Tuesday morning for Invenergy's new office inside the remodeled former Micky G's kids store at 515 West Sheridan Avenue. Shenandoah Chamber and Industry Association officials officially welcomed Invenergy, a power generation, development and operational company based in Chicago. SCIA Executive Vice

President Gregg Connell says the company currently boasts 190 projects with 30,000 megawatts of capacity. Among the company's projects is the Shenandoah Hills Wind Farm planned for Page and Fremont counties.

"Invenergy is investing \$450 million into Page and Fremont County," said Connell. "That will equivocate over the 40 years of the project to about \$49 million coming into our school district in Shenandoah. Eighty-five percent of this project is the Shenandoah School District. It will also equivocate to \$27 million in just property tax money for Fremont County, and \$23 million for Page County. So, an incredible investment for our community, and an incredible return for our community."



Connell says SCIA worked for more than a year to bring Invenergy's office to Shenandoah.

"This has been a difficult project," he said. "There are people that oppose wind, and there are people for wind. But, I admire the fact that Invenergy, in my estimation, has taken the high ground on everything. The fact that they come here and developed a store front here in Shenandoah shows they are committed to getting this project done."

Harry Finch is the proposed wind farm's project developer, and a manager with Invenergy's Iowa development team. Finch says the company has developed energy projects in Iowa for more than 20 years, accounting for approximately 30% of the state's wind operations. Finch says Shenandoah is a strategic location for the company's new office, sitting between the project's two halves.

"We hope that it's not just a place where participants can come in, and work through site plans, or whatever documents we've got to do," said Finch, "but also a place where people can stop in--whether or not they're involved in the project, whether or not they live here--so that they can learn more, and disseminate some good information."

Finch says projects like Shenandoah Hills deliver substantial economic benefits, bringing both construction and long-term operations and maintenance jobs. He says the project will generate direct payments to participants and landowners, as well as significant property tax revenues.

"People are entitled to their opinions," he said. "But, I'll say this--we had over 270 people across Page and Fremont counties sign into this project. By people, I mean agreements--which really means families. That's quite a lot of people that have decided to put the next 40 years of their family farm into something like this."

Finch says the part-time office will be open at least 20 hours per week.

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