

Wind Turbine business buys, renovates fish building

By: Staff

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Energy Maintenance Services is expanding its capabilities in Howard.

Supervisor Nick Kidd said renovation of the former aquaculture facility is complete, but equipment still needs to be purchased, moved and/or installed.

EMS purchased the 42x200-foot building and will be prepping, reconditioning and painting blades that measure anywhere from 7 1/2 meters to more than 80 feet in length.

"It gives us the length to work on the longer blades," he said.

The new building will also be used to overhaul gear boxes weighing approximately 22,000 lbs for 750 Kw wind turbines or larger.

EMS has been located in Howard since 2002. Its headquarters are in Gerry, Minn. Four people are employed at the Howard office and Kidd said with the expansion additional employees could be hired. EMS in Howard currently overhauls 65 Kw wind turbines.

"I'd like to see us in there in the next 30 days," he said indicating it could be longer before equipment is installed.

The former aquaculture facility was constructed in 2000 to be used for raising yellow perch. The business closed in late 2002 and the building has sat vacant since.

