

31 JAN 2011



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COPY

28th January 2011

ICR2919

SHIRE OF KOJONUP					
FILE:	DB.BDA.8				
CEO	MCS	MRCS	WM	COPO	PB
HR	SFO	NRSM	SHM	PLAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Dear Shire President, Councillors and staff,

The Development Application from Moonies Hill Energy Pty Ltd for the Flat Rocks Wind Farm has led us to research the general topic of wind farms.

We include with this letter a list of questions that arose from reading the Application (Attachment One), a list of concerns about a wind farm project (Attachment Two). We have a number of papers resulting from our research and would be happy to send you copies - please ring!

However, we just simply and strongly say that in our opinion there is sufficient evidence in Australia and around the world for you to refuse the application at your next Council meeting.

Refusing the application will not be an easy decision for you all, but it would be, again on our opinion, the overwhelmingly correct decision for you to make for our community.

We would be happy to discuss this with any of you at any time should you so wish.

Yours sincerely,

Jim and Pam McGregor

Sent to each Councillor and to the CEO

(18)

Attachment One from Jim and Pam McGregor, January 2011.

Questions and comments from reading the Executive Summary of the Development Application from Moonies Hill Energy Pty Ltd. Numbers refer to the paragraphs in the Summary.

1. Who would meet the cost of possible refurbishment or removal of the turbines after 20 years?
2. Who are the owners of Moonies Hill Energy Pty Ltd?
4. How is up to 660,000 tonnes CO2 avoided each year?
4. How is \$30 million injected into the local community? And over what period?
4. Who establishes the Sustainable Communities Fund; and what percentage of the Flat Rocks Wind Farm Revenue would be allocated?
6. The monitoring mast period stopped before Kojonup had some weeks of almost no wind. If the monitoring period had included those weeks, would that have made a difference to the project going ahead?
- 7.2. and 9.7. Lots of uncertainties in these paragraphs – is more information available?
- 7.3. Excellent considerations.
8. Have the environmental studies been completed as planned – December 2010?
- 9.1. Has the Landscape and Visual Assessment been completed?
- 9.2. Has the Noise Impact Assessment been completed?
- 9.4. Have fauna not mentioned here been considered?
- 9.6. Have all possible effects on any forms of communication been considered?

Attachment Two from Jim and Pam McGregor, January 2011.

General comments and concerns about wind farms:

1. To date, there has been no independent, peer reviewed research into the effects on the health of individuals living in close proximity to wind turbines.
2. If there are adverse effects on human health, there may also be adverse effects on the health of livestock in the vicinity of wind turbines - and they have no choice about where they graze!
3. The negative effects of the turbines on our wildlife, particularly birds, is of concern.
4. Our district has longish periods without wind, and the wind in any case doesn't always blow. This could have a huge effect on the efficiency of any wind farm project, particularly in inland areas..
5. The exclusion zone mentioned in the Development Application is 800 metres from a residence and none mentioned from a boundary. That seems on the low side from what other projects are using in Australia and round the world - in fact Denmark (the Scandinavian country) seems to be putting their turbines out to sea, beyond the horizon now.
6. There is evidence of negative effects from the establishment of wind farms on land values - both on the wind farm properties and on neighbouring properties.

14 FEB 2011

**Ardcairnie
Angus**



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13th February 2011

To the Shire President, Councillors and Staff

Dear Greg

A close friend of ours for over 30 years, Mr Lex Hardie has done a great deal of research into the effects of wind turbines on human health, and he has shared that information with us.

You may be familiar with his name as Oil Mallee Australia (OMA) has sent a submission to Kojonup Shire on the proposed Flat Rocks Wind Farm (FRWF) project and included an attachment from Lex about the effects on farm animals (which we also mentioned in our submission on the FRWF issue). Lex farmed near Narrogin for over 40 years and is also President of OMA.

We decided, after reading the material, that it was important to share further. Some of the papers you may already have seen, some not. The main points in each paper are highlighted but we would encourage you to read them in full.

After reading the letters to the Editor in last week's Kojonup News (4th February 2011), we looked up and printed off the National Health and Medical Research Council Review and Public Statement. This Council is a Commonwealth Government body, and we should remember that the commonwealth Government is committed to having 20% of our power generated from renewable resources by 2020, so that may influence the review and statement. However, the last paragraph of the statement does urge caution. The comparisons shown of noise levels from a range of sources is, in our opinion, irrelevant in that none of the others mentioned are 24/7 whereas wind turbines, when the wind is blowing, are. The references in both papers are of work published no later than 2009 with some several years earlier; the review and statement were published in July 2010. Much of the content is contradicted by the enclosure 4. The Public Statement says "There is currently no published scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects." Dr Sarah Laurie, Medical Director of the Waubra Foundation in Victoria acknowledges there is no peer reviewed independent evidence of adverse health effects, but states that that does not mean there is no problem. And she calls for such research to be done.

We hope the enclosed papers will satisfy you that the health effects are real, are of a huge potential concern in our community and we repeat our request in our submission dates 28th January 2011 that the Moonies Hill Pty Ltd Development Application be refused.

We would be happy to discuss this issue further with any of you at any mutually agreeable time.

Yours sincerely,

Jim and Pam

Jim and Pam McGregor

SHIRE OF KOJONUP					
FILE:	BD. BDA. 2				
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The Australian

COPY



Farmers flee as turbines trigger despair

- Lauren Wilson
- From: The Australian
- August 22, 2009 12:00AM

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FOR 35 years, Noel and Janine Dean lived on a small western Victorian farm, where they raised crops, cattle and three children.

They planned to spend the rest of their lives on that lush, green plot of land, but that would change three years ago, when an executive driving a red BMW approached the gates of their property, wound down his window and asked: "You got anything against wind farms?"

"As long as they're not noisy I don't," replied Mr Dean, who had no objection to his Waubra neighbours -- most of them struggling farmers -- earning tens of thousands of dollars a year leasing their pastures to Spanish-based renewable energy company Acciona.

Three months ago the first of 128 turbines started turning and almost instantly Mr Dean became sick. He started waking with headaches, initially dull but, over time, sharp and debilitating.

"I was waking up two days in a row with headaches, I'd have to take Panadol but they'd be gone by dinner time," he said. "When the wind is blowing north I got a thumping headache, like someone belted me over the head with a plank of wood and I didn't know whether to go to the hospital or what to do. You couldn't really work."

His wife also began experiencing an inexplicable malaise. At first she put her nausea, sleeplessness and uneasiness down to a new diet. Then she thought it might be menopause. It was only after the 57-year-old couple travelled to their other property, in Donald, in northern Victoria, and instantly felt well again, that they wondered whether the turbines were churning away at their health.

Now the couple have packed up and moved permanently to nearby Ballarat. They want the energy companies and policy-makers to stop and consider the possible health effects of wind farms before meandering lines of turbines start popping up across the countryside to meet the government's 2020 renewable energy target endorsed by the Senate this week. In Waubra alone, a further 60 turbines are flagged for instalment.

US doctor Nina Pierpont has coined the term "wind-turbine syndrome" for a raft of symptoms, including insomnia, headaches, dizziness, nausea and depression, experienced by people living in close proximity to wind farms. The problems are said to be caused by constant exposure to low-frequency vibrations and inaudible sound pressure, as well as the constant flicker of light generated by the spinning blades.

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To better understand the noises and vibrations being generated by the wind farm, Mr Dean purchased a decibel, or sound pressure, reader. In consultation with Graeme Hood, an engineer with the University of Ballarat, Mr Dean conducted tests over several days in his bedroom.

When he measured the sound pressure for audible noise the wind turbines registered a mere 20 decibels, equivalent to the sound of a whisper or the rustle of leaves. But when Mr Dean set the reader on another frequency, measuring audible and inaudible noises, he said the sound pressure from the turbines registered between 70 and 80 decibels, akin to being within proximity of a vacuum cleaner or power drill.

Now Mr Hood is undertaking a series of control tests of his own to determine more clearly how much sound pressure the wind turbines are creating in Waubra. "There is a possibility they (the turbines) are generating frequencies below audible tones," Mr Hood said. "Many people say that if you can't hear it, you're not affected by it, but other people say things like infrasound -- or inaudible noise -- can resonate in body cavities and cause other types of problems."

It is a notion that Acciona, the energy company behind the Waubra wind farm, firmly rejects. In a statement to The Weekend Australian, a spokesman said: "There is no clear, consistent scientific data, nor a peer-reviewed expert scientific consensus, to confirm a causal association between modern wind turbines, low-frequency noise and health concerns. That is the position of Acciona Energy in response to a resident's allegation of ill health said to be associated with claimed low-frequency noise, or infrasound, generated by the company's Waubra wind farm."

Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett last month released a wind farm policy statement to help energy companies navigate the layers of state and federal legislation relating to energy levels. As chair of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, Mr Garrett will also work with state and territory governments to develop a set of guidelines for wind farms for consideration next year. His office was not able to say yesterday whether the council has considered regulating the level of low-frequency, sub-audible noise generated by wind farms as well as the audible noise.

In Waubra, it is not just the Deans who are experiencing worrying symptoms since the turbines began spinning. Chef Trish Godfrey ploughed her superannuation into a 4ha block at Waubra nine years ago. Like the Deans, she was paid a visit by the same executive who asked her if she would oppose a wind farm.

"We anticipated that there would be about 15 turbines around us, and that we could plant trees to screen them. All of the farmers around us wanted the wind farm and we didn't want to argue," she said.

Now, as Ms Godfrey prepares food for delivery from her kitchen inside her dream home, she looks out on 65 turbines that surround her on all flanks. She is convinced her health is suffering. "It feels like I have a head-cold coming the whole time. It's like motion sickness that never goes away. Some days it's worse than others. I am a very energetic person and by mid-afternoon all I want to do is sleep," she said.

Ms Godfrey is devastated that the value of her property -- now, as she describes, in the eye of an industrial estate -- would have dropped through the floor. "We have no quality of life and who would want to buy our house now? What was to be our superannuation has now gone," she said, sobbing.

Neighbour Maggie Reid, whose blood pressure has soared in the past three months, said the wind farm has been a sorely divisive venture for the community.

"It's split the community into the haves and the have-nots. You try to raise your concerns and all you hear is, 'You're just jealous you don't have them'," Ms Reid said.

[Recommend](#) 3 people recommend this.

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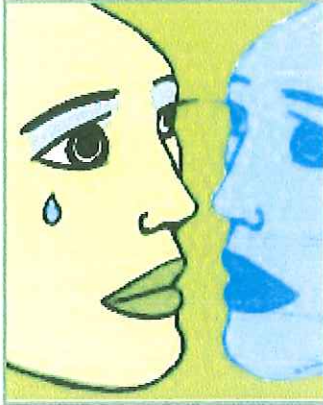
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- "This machine needs to be shut down!" (Massachusetts)

Acciona quietly buys out WTS victims—then gags them (Australia)

By [admin](#) Saturday January 29, 2011



Turbines declared a nasty neighbour as secret buyout is revealed. Victorians who have endured [health problems](#) from a nearby wind farm have been gagged from talking in return for the sale of their land."

—Peter Rolfe, HeraldSun.com (1/30/11)

Spanish multinational energy company [Acciona](#) has been [quietly buying farms adjacent to its site at Waubra](#), near Ballarat, as an increasing number of residents in the tight-knit community [complain of the ill-effects of living near turbines](#).

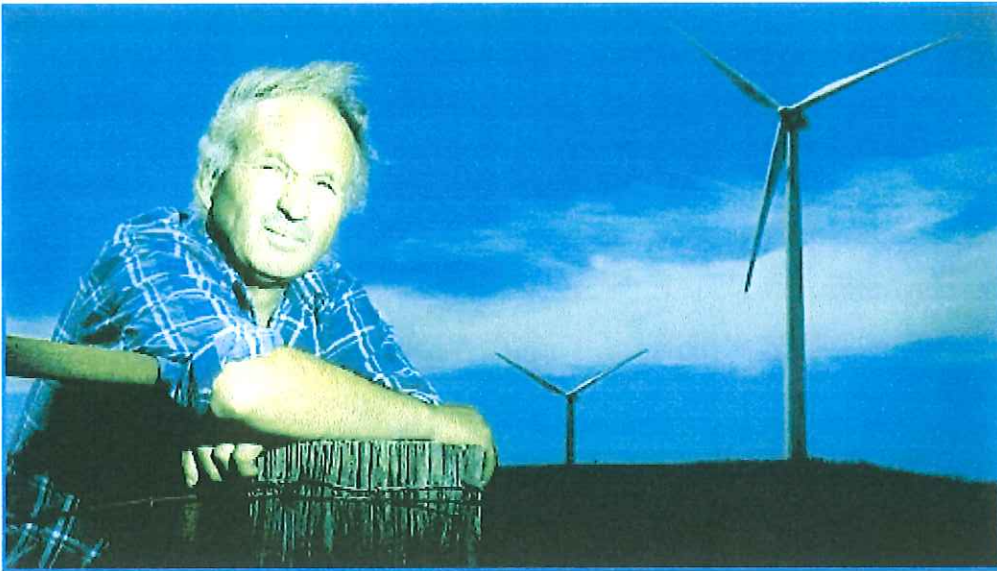
Since the wind farm started operating in July 2009, about 11 houses in the area have been vacated by [people complaining of noise problems](#).

Acciona has bought at least another seven houses, the purchase of two of which appear to have been prompted by the new State Government's threat to shut down the farm unless noise and permit conditions were met.

Locals in the tiny town of 700, 35km northwest of Ballarat, say the sales took place on the proviso landowners would not talk about the price of the purchase or negative health effects they blame on the wind farm.

Residents who refuse to move have accused the company of trying to buy their way out of trouble.

(13)



Noel Dean and other residents believe the Waubra wind farms have caused medical problems.

Noel Dean moved from Waubra to Ballarat 18 months ago because he could no longer stand [headaches, tinnitus and poor health](#) he believes are caused by high-frequency vibrations from turbines. (Editor: The writer of the article got it wrong. It's [low-frequency noise/vibration](#).)

“The word is they’re buying everyone out and buying some of the other properties nearby just to hush them up,” he said.

“They know that we can’t fight them. We can’t win.

“They make you suffer so that you just want to get out of there. They know that it gets to you emotionally and physically.”

Mr Dean refuses to sell his property because he does not want future generations to suffer like his family. He only returns to the farm when he has to — about once a fortnight — and says every time he does he gets head pain within five minutes that takes up to 10 days to go away.

[Doctors’](#) certificates seen by the Sunday Herald Sun back his claims.

“Once (the vibrations) get inside the house it [bounces off the walls and makes you feel sick](#),” Mr Dean said. “If you’re exposed to it outside it goes into your inner ear and [affects your balance](#). It’s put tinnitus in my ears which stops me sleeping.”

He has met the company to discuss his concerns, but said they would only take statements, not answer his questions.

“I said ‘I don’t want you to buy me out. I want you to fix the problem’,” he said. “[It’s hell on Earth living out there](#). That’s what it is.

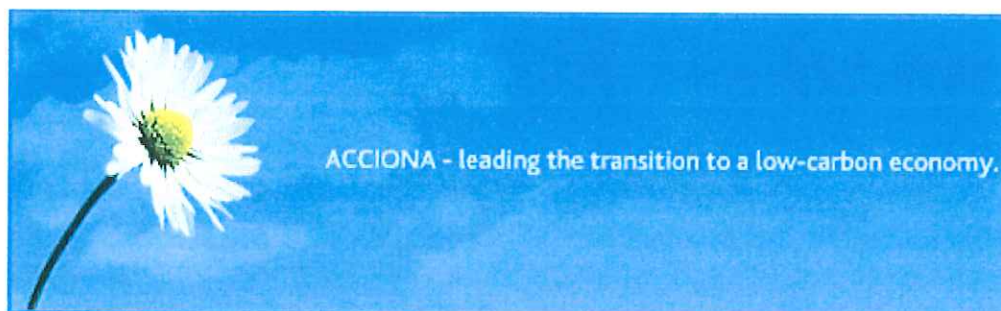
“And there’s nothing we can do about it. It’s a bloody terrible thing.

“It’s knocked us around. We’re in limbo. We’ve lost two years of our life and we don’t know where it will end. I’ve put nearly 40 years into that place. It’s prime property that I was going to pass down to my son. What am I going to do? I can’t work there without being ill.”

Former National Trust chairman Randall Bell, now president of Victorian Landscape Guardians, said [wind farm companies had a reputation for pulling out their chequebooks to make a problem go away](#).

“What they do is make people sign gag agreements which dictate that they can’t speak about the sales or their health,” he said.

“It’s a way of shutting people up.”



Acciona generation director Brett Wickham said there was [no proof](#) wind farms [affected people’s health](#), and the plant, which employed about 70 people, was generally well accepted.

He said the most recent two houses bought by Acciona were purchased in September and October last year, when [noise levels](#) detected on the property were in breach of the company’s planning permit.

And he said confidentiality contracts used by the company were “[standard practice for the industry](#)”.

“Most of the landowners have actually sought confidentiality agreements as well,” he said.

“They are what they are.”

But [Karl Stepnell, who moved his wife and three children out of Waubra](#) after sleepless nights, heart palpitations, ear pressure and nausea that began when the turbines started turning, disagreed.

“They have bought a lot more houses than seven. There are empty houses all over the place,” he said.

“We’re all for green energy, but there have to be more conditions on what the wind companies can do.”

Planning Minister Matthew Guy, who has the power to shut down the wind farm if it does not comply with its permit, said the Government was watching closely to ensure that wind farm operators played by the rules.

“If they are not complying with their planning permit, I would close it down,” he said.

“Just as someone who doesn’t comply with a building permit or doesn’t pay a parking fine would be in trouble, so will they.”

A [Senate inquiry](#) into the possible adverse impacts of wind farms will be held later this year.

Victoria’s wind turbine boom:

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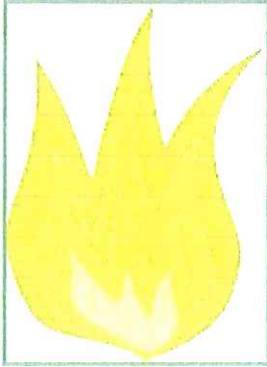
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- "This machine needs to be shut down!" (Massachusetts)

"Wind farm hell" testimony in court (Australia)

By [admin](#) Monday January 17, 2011



"There was pain most of the time!"

—[The Courier](#) (1/18/11)

Former Waubra resident [Trish Godfrey](#) [and [here](#) and [here](#)] yesterday told an Adelaide court how her dream home became "hell on earth" after wind farm turbines were turned on.

Ms Godfrey said she suffered sleep deprivation, headaches and nausea before moving out in April 2010 when Acciona purchased her property.

"It was like you had a hat on that's too tight and you have a pain that just gets worse and worse, and you can't take it off," Ms Godfrey said. "There was pain most of the time."

Ms Godfrey broke down in tears as she gave evidence at the Environment Resources and Development Court.

Dairy farmer Richard Paltridge is appealing a decision to grant Acciona approval to build a 46-turbine wind farm near his property, south of Mt Gambier.

Ms Godfrey said her symptoms began about a month after turbines were turned on, then got progressively worse.

"I said to my husband, I'm not sick but I don't feel well," she said.

"It felt like I had a cold coming on all the time.

"My sleep patterns were changing. I was waking up two, three, four times a night. I couldn't explain it. I couldn't get my head around what was going on.

"You put it down to everything but what it is."

Ms Godfrey said she and her husband Victor, a dental surgeon, went on holiday to Darwin and the symptoms stopped, then resumed when she returned home.

"You get back and it starts all over again," she said. "It all came back with gusto."

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Under questioning by George Manos for Mr Paltridge, Ms Godfrey said the 10-acre property was her “dream” home, where she and her husband intended to retire.

She said she planted 750 to 1000 boundary trees, about 30 fruit trees and 17 vegetable beds in the 10 years they lived there.

Ms Godfrey said she had been led into a false sense of security in a meeting with David Shapiro of Wind Power, the company that set up the Waubra project and sold it to Acciona.

“He told us there would be a couple of turbines on Quoin Hill, a couple on Big Hill and a few behind us,” Ms Godfrey said.

“He said there would be no lights, no wires and no noise.”

Ms Godfrey said 63 turbines could be seen from her property and it became “hell” to live there.

She said the noise “pressed in” on their home. “It was anywhere from a low whooshing sound, a sweeping swoosh some days, and when the wind was coming from the north it was like a jumbo jet in the back paddock,” she said.

Former Waubra resident Carl Stepnell told the court yesterday he and his wife’s symptoms of chest pains, heart palpitations and sleep deprivation ceased after the couple moved away from the family farm to Ballarat in November.

“We feel as though we’ve got our health back,” Mr Stepnell said.

Mt Stepnell said his wife also suffered depression while living close to the turbines.

“Her whole appearance ... it was scary to see how bad she was,” he said. “She was really down, depressed ... shocking.”

Mr Stepnell said his five-year-old son attended Waubra Primary School until the family moved.

“I see a big difference in his behaviour,” he said.

“He is nowhere near as emotional ... he was pale. (Now) he’s like a normal five-year-old.”

[0 Comments](#)

1. It’s quiet in here! Why not leave a [response](#)?

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- "This machine needs to be shut down!" (Massachusetts)

Intelligent editorial on wind turbines & health. Hallelujah! (Ontario)

By [admin](#) Saturday January 22, 2011



The emission of low frequency noise from wind turbines is . . . well-recognized. Over the course of the decade from 1980 to 1990, NASA researched this specific problem and its efforts led to a fundamental redesign of turbines. Low frequency noise emissions have improved, but have not been eliminated. Unfortunately, with current industry standards on wind turbines, manufacturers are not required to specify low frequency noise emissions.

To perpetuate the debate on health issues and wind turbines is at best unproductive and at worst dangerous to the future health of all of those living near turbines. *Those who dismiss the concern as illegitimate only demonstrate how hopelessly uninformed they are.*

We have the science, the expertise and the intelligence to tackle the issue head on if we define it in the appropriate framework. *It is not about a wind turbine. It's about protecting the health of the people in our community against the negative impact of environmental noise, whether they can hear it or not and irrespective of the source.*

We need municipal politicians to use the knowledge we have, take the next steps beyond a moratorium and construct bylaws to get the sources of environmental noise away from inhabitants. We need to take that expertise and add it to a collective political voice that demonstrates we are prepared to take control of the development of our communities.

We do not need more health surveys to add to the portfolio of examples of human victims suffering from what science has already explained. (Emphasis added.)

—Dan Reid, [The Sarnia Observer](#) (1/8/11)*

Over the past few months, I have read with interest the comments on the proposed Silcote Corners wind farm near Meaford, Ont., and others around the province.

What I have found particularly intriguing is the consistent and almost automatic dismissal of the health impacts on people colocated with the turbines. I have listened to people arbitrarily dismiss

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health issues as being psychosomatic or regurgitate the popular excuse of the lack of scientific evidence.

With respect, I would suggest that whether these projects involve wind turbines really is inconsequential. The core issue would be the same if we were considering placement of a new manufacturing plant, an industrial complex of some type, an airport or a multi-lane highway.

The fundamental problem is environmental noise. Wind turbines are just the instrument.

To anyone who suggests we lack data regarding the impact(s) of environmental noise on human health, I would offer the following: Every year there are international conferences on this subject, some focused on certain types of environmental noise (i.e., low frequency noise). There are numerous journals published on the subject.

These publications catalogue a continuously growing collection of peer-reviewed experiments and studies by subject-matter experts, medical professionals and academics on the human impact of environmental noise.

Given the quality and depth of these resources, we are exceedingly well equipped to act in situations where humans are at risk, regardless of the source of the noise. And there is a well-established regulatory environment intended to minimize the risk of exposure.

The Province of Ontario has noise restrictions that must be met by any developer. Those requirements are summarized in a publication called 'Sound Levels for Stationary Sources' NPC-232.

This publication stipulates that no installation shall exceed a maximum noise level of 40 decibels during the evening and 45 during the day.

Science tells us that loudness of 40-45 decibels is equivalent to the noise level in a library. That statement is often touted by wind farm proponents and it is absolutely true.

Unfortunately, by itself, that fact is also totally irrelevant. The ambient noise in rural environments such as Silcote Corners is from 25- 30 decibels, since it is not influenced by other background noises of traffic, industry and the like.

So the question becomes, how disruptive is noise of 40-45 decibels from an industrial complex (such as the wind farm) when it is located in a natural environment with an ambient noise level of 25- 30 decibels (or 15-20 decibels less)?

Again, science informs us that when the volume of any noise is increased by three decibels that noise becomes noticeable. Increases of five decibels are loud enough to be considered annoying. Increases of 10 decibels represent a doubling of volume to the human ear.

Therefore, 40 decibels is twice as loud as 30 decibels to humans. **That degree of increase changes a sound from noticeable to intolerable.** Consequently, if we place our "library" in an environment where the natural volume is only half as loud, the "library" will be the noisiest thing in the neighbourhood.

What we also know from science is that human hearing is very subjective. What some find annoying doesn't bother others. Therefore, doubling the level of ambient noise in an environment such as Silcote won't be an issue for everyone.

However, to assume that it won't be dangerous to anyone would be naive. Those who find the noise increase intolerable have the greatest risk of negative health impacts.

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Science is clear regarding the health implications, citing increased headaches, possible nausea and sleep deprivation as the most common symptoms. Prolonged exposure increases stress and the risk of depression, anxiety and cardiovascular disease. The sad reality is that, if the noise is permanent, the cure is to move away.

As an interesting aside, the Vestas wind turbines destined for Silcote Corners have a sound power rating between 95 decibels and 103 decibels per turbine, depending on wind velocity. When they are clustered together there is an incremental increase in the sound power as each turbine is added. As a result, in accordance with the Green Energy Act, to meet NPC-232 requirements wind turbines are “set back” 550 metres from a receptor.

The fact that the 95+ decibel noise will dissipate to a level of 40 or 45 decibels at a distance of 550 metres is only based on a mathematical (albeit scientific) formula. There is no requirement for measurement, validation or monitoring unless there are noise complaints after the fact.

Obviously, however, the closer to the turbine you are the louder the noise. So, to those folks who've relinquished their rights to setbacks and choose to use their property as a site for multiple turbines, best of luck! In Germany, if a wind farm is built in an environment characterized by a 35 decibel ambient noise level, the setback from any receptor is 1.5 km.

Unfortunately, all of this only focuses on part of the issue of environmental noise — that is, the part we can hear. The other part is low frequency noise and infrasound. We know from scientific research that low frequency and infrasound noise behaves differently in that it does not decrease over distance. That partially explains why elephants and whales use low frequency noise to communicate over great distances through the ground and oceans.

We also understand that solid structures such as houses can actually amplify the sound through vibration. That means it won't be blocked by going inside and shutting doors and windows. Only a portion of low frequency noise is audible. Infrasound, defined as less than 20 Hz, is below the hearing threshold of humans. It will only be “felt” through inner ears and body sensations. Thus the volume in decibels is irrelevant because you don't hear it. Increased volumes of infrasound will however, speed the body reaction.

We know from science that every organ in the human body can resonate or vibrate from exposure to low frequency noise. As examples; low frequency noise of 50 Hertz stimulates vibration in the chest cavity; at 30 Hz abdominal organs can do the same; at 17 Hz vision can be blurred due to vibration of optic nerves.

The science concerning the risk of exposure for humans is explicit. It has been acquired from years of occupational studies, military experiments and the life experience of individuals in neighbourhoods co-located with industrial factories.

The emission of low frequency noise from wind turbines is also well-recognized. Over the course of the decade from 1980 to 1990 NASA researched this specific problem and its efforts led to a fundamental redesign of turbines. Low frequency noise emissions have improved, but have not been eliminated. Unfortunately, with current industry standards on wind turbines, manufacturers are not required to specify low frequency noise emissions.

Moreover, the standards used are well known to understate the low frequency component. The Japanese, at the end of 2009, curtailed installations of wind farms and initiated a four-year epidemiological study on people living near turbines to understand the issue of cell damage in the human body due to low frequency noise exposure.

To perpetuate the debate on health issues and wind turbines is at best unproductive and at worst dangerous to the future health of all of those living near turbines. Those who dismiss the concern as illegitimate only demonstrate how hopelessly uninformed they are.

We have the science, the expertise and the intelligence to tackle the issue head on if we define it in the appropriate framework. It is not about a wind turbine. It's about protecting the health of the people in our community against the negative impact of environmental noise, whether they can hear it or not and irrespective of the source.

We need municipal politicians to use the knowledge we have, take the next steps beyond a moratorium and construct bylaws to get the sources of environmental noise away from inhabitants. We need to take that expertise and add it to a collective political voice that demonstrates we are prepared to take control of the development of our communities.

We do not need more health surveys to add to the portfolio of examples of human victims suffering from what science has already explained.

*Dan Reid is a retired director with Bell Canada. He lives in Sydenham Township in the municipality of Meaford. He can be reached at danbonreid@sympatico.ca.

1 Comment

1. **cyndy aquino** ([Reply](#)) on Saturday 22, 2011

In kodiak, Alaska our planning and zoning committe has authorized building a wind turbine utilizing the Skystream 3.7 in a "corner" of our middle school playground/parking lot. I recieved a copy of the site review, and our house is encompassed in the circle of projected sound area.

I'm not too happy with this. I believe in alternative energy, but not do not believe it should be where children play nor does it belong in a neighborhood. Do you have suggestions of where to locate solid scientific or medical studies of consequences to those living near (approx 75 yards) a tower?

Editor's reply: Have you read Dr. Pierpont's book?

Leave a Response

name (optional)

email (optional -will not be published)

website (optional)

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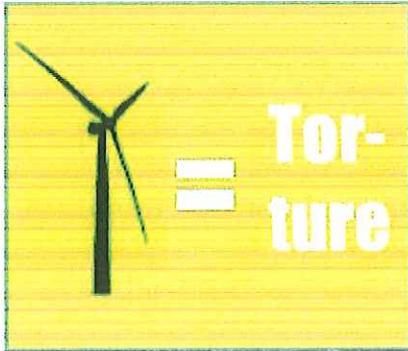
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- "This machine needs to be shut down!" (Massachusetts)

"Turbine torture" (Massachusetts)

By [admin](#) Wednesday September 29, 2010



"The garden that was a sanctuary to me for 30 years is now more like a torture chamber. When the turbine first went into operation in March 2010, and then through April, I tried to acclimate myself to live with this thing. . . . The noise these turbines make is unlike regular noise. It is not the loudness of the noise but a characteristic to it that gets in your head and becomes entrenched.

"At least two persons have thought of suicide while this issue drags on through the creep of political process."

—Barry Funfar (9/28/10)

I am an abutter to what the Town of Falmouth, Massachusetts, calls their WIND 1—their first wind turbine, a 1.65MW Vestas 400 foot tall goliath. Since it went into operation in early 2010, quite a number of us abutters have suffered serious medical detriments and a gigantic loss of quality of our lives from the noise impact of this machine.

My own home is 1662 feet from the turbine, and the effects of the sound on me have caused

- anxiety
- stress
- nervousness
- sleep deprivation
- hypertension
- migraines
- dizziness
- blurred vision
- palpitations
- irritability
- anger
- upset stomach
- depression

These ailments are well documented by my medical providers.

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After my writing letters and speaking with many town and state government officials (including the local health officer, State Health Commissioner, and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection—wrecking agency—several times each over many months), my State

Representative, Tim Madden recently secured the information that a first step is for the town to complete a noise study of the turbine's impact on the surrounding area and furnish that to the State Dept. of Environmental Protection. (If someone had told me this in the beginning, it would have saved me a tremendous amount of frustration in attempting to communicate with my local and state officials.)

The noise study is now complete, and, wouldn't you know it, the turbine passed by a squeak the 10 dB increase in ambient Mass. noise regulation, and (except for a couple of locations under certain modeled conditions) the town's windmill bylaw of 40 dB. The Massachusetts noise regulation is from Sept 1, 1972 and the town's windmill bylaw is even older.

Giant wind turbines such as Falmouth's were not even close to being invented then. The noise these turbines make is unlike regular noise. It is not the loudness of the noise but a characteristic to it that gets in your head and becomes entrenched. The sound can go on for days, or it can be absent, or it can be intermittent. When it is not there, one listens for it and is fearful of its return.

The garden that was a sanctuary to me for 30 years is now more like a torture chamber. Some of the abutters have started using the term "turbine torture." When the turbine first went into operation in March 2010, and then through April, I tried to acclimate myself to live with this thing.

After dropping into a three-month depression, I finally avoided my own home for the month of August—and pulled out of the depression. I returned on Labor Day weekend to find that after ten minutes of hearing the turbine, my anxiety and panic condition were returning. At least two persons have thought of suicide while this issue drags on through the creep of political process.

At the end of the sound study presentation meeting today, Assistant Town Manager and leader/chair/whatever, Heather Harper, of the wind turbine project suggested we have a follow up meeting in 45 days. One abutter asked what we are to do to cope with the turbine noise from one delay with the town to another. Ms. Harper had no answer for that, but the abutter's attorney did counter with a suggestion of 30 days.

It all comes down to setbacks. Proper setbacks of at least one mile to homes. As the turbines get bigger the setbacks will need to grow.

Anyone out there whose town or neighbor is proposing a wind turbine, I recommend for you to do your homework now before the machine is up and running, and you begin to plan to sell your home. I have been told, by the way, that if you are trying to sell and a turbine is visible from your home, your potential buyer list will drop by 50%.

One last comment—and I had no intention of plugging her book here—but Dr. Nina Pierpont's book, "Wind Turbine Syndrome," is a good place to start your research. She has taken a lot of flak from the Big Wind industry—but where are their studies of turbine-induced illness? Even worse, our own government has not studied the problem even as it continues to subsidize Big Wind to the hilt.

Wind developers and government appear to be in bed together under the sheets of a green mania.

[1 Comment](#)

1. [Paul Adams \(Reply\)](#) on Wednesday 29, 2010

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What is so depressing here is that the vast majority of comments and opinions on this issue are from wind farm enthusiasts, and these enthusiast never actually live near windfarms. The typical commenter says either they live (presumably from choice) in far noisier places, or that they got out of their car and listened to turbines thousands of feet away for 5 minutes.

I do not know who is right about the low frequency noise (though invariably the turbine enthusiasts seem far less reflective and knowledgeable than the objectors) but I do know that if there is money involved people become unpleasant and dishonest.

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"Inconvenient Truths: Wind Turbine Syndrome" (CounterPunch Magazine)

By [admin](#) Tuesday November 2, 2010



—Nina Pierpont, MD, PhD, [CounterPunch Magazine](#) (10/31/10)

Wind turbines majestically threshing the wind—what marvels of human engineering! To stand beneath one is breathtaking. To live near one can be hell on earth. So I have been told by countless people who suddenly find themselves grievously ill from the subtle yet devastating infrasonic jackhammer generated by these “clean, green, renewable energy” giants.

The explanation may be tucked away in the inner ear in a cluster of tiny, interconnected organs with a remarkable evolutionary pedigree. The vestibular organs—the semicircular canals, saccule, and utricle—function as Mother Nature’s gyroscope, controlling our sense of motion, position, and balance, including our spatial thinking. (Remember when you got carsick as a kid? Or seasick?)

Humans share these enigmatic organs with a host of other backboned species, including fish and amphibians. Some scientists indeed see them as a kind of pan-species master key for an extraordinarily broad range of brain function—amounting to a sixth sense.

One of those functions, it now appears, is to register and respond to the sounds and vibrations (infrasound) we don’t consciously hear, but feel—as from wind turbines. For many people, the response is swift and disastrous.

Sometimes it’s advantageous being a country doctor. Six years ago I began hearing health complaints from people living in the shadow of these gigantic turbines. At first it was merely local and regional, then global. Tellingly, virtually everyone described the same constellation of symptoms. Symptoms that were being triggered, I began to suspect, by vestibular dysregulation. (1) Sleep disturbance. Not simply awakened, but **awakening in a panic** (“flight or fight” response). (2) Headache. (3) Tinnitus. (4) Ear pressure. (5) Dizziness. (6) Vertigo. (7) Nausea. (8) Visual blurring. (9) Tachycardia. (10) Irritability. (11) Problems with concentration and memory. (12) Panic episodes associated with sensations of internal pulsation or quivering, which arise while

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they re-sold for 60% – 80% below their purchase price. Thus, an erosion of homeowner equity has in fact been proven by the cause...wind industry itself.

Any readers who have factual information and/or personal accounts of this nature are invited to email details to me or contact me to discuss.

Mike McCann
McCann Appraisal, LLC

mikesmccann@comcast.net

4. **Neil Andersen** [\(Reply\)](#) on Tuesday 2, 2010

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We have been patiently coping for the past 7 months, 1320' from Falmouth's turbine (Massachusetts). It has been hell.

Neil

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- “This machine needs to be shut down!” (Massachusetts)

COPY 7

The court case that might stop wind turbines (Ontario)

By [admin](#) Monday January 24, 2011

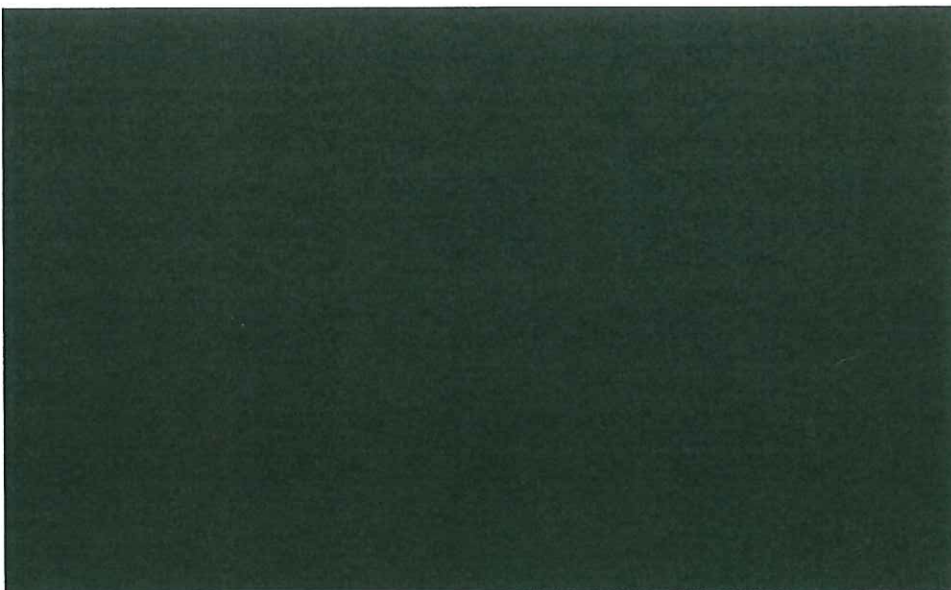


—Lee Greenberg, [The Ottawa Citizen](#) (1/24/11)

An Eastern Ontario man has launched a court case that could put the brakes on the province's green energy plans.

Ian Hanna, a 56-year-old property owner from Prince Edward County, says the government wasn't fully informed when it concluded industrial wind turbines could exist 550 meters away from the nearest home. Hanna and his supporters say there is no medical evidence to support the decision and are asking a Superior Court judge to halt all wind development until a full medical study is performed. The case will be heard in Toronto on Monday.

“They didn't look at the dangers, at what these things can do to people,” says Hanna, who operates a wine importing business. “We maintain they had an obligation to seriously consider the health of Ontario citizens before they allowed companies to come in and stick these things so close to their homes that they make them sick. So we've asked the court to declare those four sections of the act void.”



Anti-wind activists contend the low-frequency noise emitted from turbines leads to chronic sleeplessness, stress and even hypertension causing heart disease.

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While these claims were initially given short shrift, they have lately gained greater currency.

Two-and-a-half years ago Hanna would have been thrilled to have spoken to an audience of 15 people. Anti-wind gatherings now regularly attract hundreds of people.

About 125 braved frigid temperatures Sunday afternoon to hear Hanna and two other activists speak at a public meeting organized by the North Gower Wind Action Group.

A rumbling hum filled the meeting room at the Alfred Taylor Centre as people filed in and took their seats. Organizer Jane Wilson said it was the sound of three wind turbines as recorded by a landowner in Maine who lives about a kilometre from the nearest wind turbine. "What is missing from this recording is the vibration," Wilson said.

Wolfe Island resident Janet White painted a bleak picture of life among wind turbines. She said corporate wind developers have driven a wedge in the small community between those who oppose the development and those, like her neighbours, who support it and have allowed a company to install three turbines on their property.

White said the Wolfe Island wind turbine developments have created few jobs or other economic benefits for the community as a whole. "We're not building anything, there's no legacy here," she said.

Underpinning the anti-wind movement's new-found credibility is the presence of Dr. Bob McMurtry, an orthopedic surgeon and former dean of the University of Western Ontario's medical school, who initially began researching turbines in the hopes of owning one himself.

His findings turned him against wind.

McMurtry, who, like Hanna, owns property in Prince Edward County, will serve as one of three expert witnesses in Hanna's court case, where he will testify that the turbines cause what is medically referenced as "annoyance."

The condition "manifests itself in various ways including difficulties with sleep initiation and sleep disturbance, stress and physiological distress," according to court documents filed in the Hanna case.

McMurtry is the brother of former Attorney General and Ontario chief justice Roy McMurtry. He has advised the federal government on health policy and was special adviser to the Romanow Commission.

After spending more than 2,000 hours researching the issue, he concluded that people living within two kilometres of the turbines are in danger of experiencing adverse health effects.

"Stress and sleep deprivation are well known risk factors for increased morbidity including significant chronic disease such as cardiovascular problems including hypertension and ischemic heart disease," according to Hanna's factum.

Another Canadian doctor, Michael Nissenbaum, will report on his study of 22 people living within 1.1 kilometres of a wind farm in Mars Hill, Maine.

Nissenbaum found a range of health concerns among his subjects, including weight changes, metabolic disturbances (including diabetes), psychological stresses that resulted in chronic depression, anger and other psychiatric symptoms, headaches, auditory problems and overall increased use of prescription medication.

Nissenbaum's study is believed to be the first of its kind, according to Hanna's lawyer.

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The province, through the Attorney General, says it took “every reasonable step” to consider the impact of its policies on human health.

“These steps included the consideration of all of the available studies and public comments respecting wind energy,” the government says in its court-filed factum.

“We believe we have put in place a protective and cautious approach to developing renewable energy in Ontario,” Kate Jordan, a spokeswoman for the Minister of the Environment, said in a statement to the Citizen.

“Our approvals are based on science, modelling work and jurisdictional comparisons.”

The application, if it is successful, would pose a serious challenge to the province’s Green Energy Act, which was designed not only as an environmental legislation but also as a solution to Ontario’s flagging manufacturing sector.

Subsidies and domestic content provisions in the legislation are aimed at kick-starting a homegrown industry, which includes a \$7-billion deal with a South Korean consortium led by Samsung.

The Canadian Wind Energy Association, a powerful industry lobby group, will be represented as an intervener at the trial. A spokeswoman for the association declined to comment.

“We’re not saying anything until after the court case,” said Ulrike Kucera. “It’s premature.”

Hanna said Sunday he has raised about \$200,000 for the legal challenge and, depending on the court’s decision, is prepared to launch an appeal. “If we don’t prevail at this level, please believe me, we’re not done.”

[2 Comments](#)

1.

Alan Harper ([Reply](#)) on Monday 24, 2011

Norfolk, England

Hello Calvin and Nina. (Or do you prefer Nina and Calvin? My wife always insists on female precedence.)

It is heartening to see the campaign groups across the world highlighting, especially, the medical mental trauma which we all know is associated with idolatrous worship at the financial altar of the green eco-loon religion “Windology,” otherwise known by the zealots as “Sustainable Existentialism.” (Is that the right description?)

I am an electrical engineer and it is very easy for me to write down on paper the proofs which condemn renewables, no matter what discipline they may appear from, or through which political door they are thrust, to the wastebin of history. However, I do really appreciate the constancy of Nina, against both a worldwide politicised derision and a multitude of government-funded ignorant experts. Thank you for your continued perseverance. But remember, as if you do not need telling, there is always a good man behind a good woman!

Even the French Academy of Medicine was advising caution with a 1500 meter separation distance back in 2006.

To have reached the stage where parliamentary legality can be reliably challenged seems unbelievable. The tide is turning just as King Canute forecast! But we will maybe get our toes wet in the process.

As it will be easy to guess, I am vehemently ANTI-wind power stations because they do not do what the box says. Moreover, with a humanitarian hat on, WPS are as responsible for famine and drought.

So, keep on Ontario, and take the battle right into the enemy's front lines.

Editor's reply: I've been trying to persuade Nina for years that I'm her better half. Without success, so far. But I'm persistent.

2.

Alan Harper ([Reply](#)) on Monday 24, 2011

My use of English "as she is writ" seems to need attention!

The second from last line should have been: "...., WPS (wind power stations) are ALSO responsible for famine and drought. I cannot bring myself to call them 'windfarms' because a farm and farming means "to cultivate" and in doing so, create life and abundance for people.

By comparison wind power stations snuff out life."

P.S. Calvin, we are having some sexist issues over here as well. Have you noticed what proportions of news pages are either about, aimed at or blatantly extolling the merits of the other half. As the history of life tells us, we mere males do not stand a chance! But we must never give up just as we should never give up fighting the politicised injustices and technical illiteracy of the eco-loon renewables scam-wagon.

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COPY (8)

- "This machine needs to be shut down!" (Massachusetts)

"There is a measurable and significant loss of [property] values within 2 to 3 miles"

By [admin](#) Tuesday January 25, 2011



From: McCann Appraisal, LLC

To: The OttawaCitizen.com

I am writing regarding the [Ian Hanna case](#) being heard presently in Ontario, and to offer a little more information and insight than was described in [Lee Greenberg's article today](#) (1-24-11).

My expertise is not in health issues, but there is a direct relationship between those impacts and my professional studies of real estate impacts.

For example, numerous families have been forced to abandon their homes due to the factual impacts to health, sleep disturbances and the like, which the [Canadian Wind Energy Association](#) and the [American Wind Energy Association](#) prefer to dismiss as "concerns." Many others have been unable to sell their homes due to the presence of nearby turbines, and which a growing list of realtors and estate agents report as being the deciding factor in would-be buyer's decisions to look elsewhere.

There is a measurable and significant loss of values within 2 to 3 miles, and noise impacts have been broadcast as far as 5 miles or more, in some instances, with 1 to 2 miles being commonplace. Value losses have been measured at 20% to 40%, *with a total loss of equity in some instances.*

Wind developers have been known to buy out the most vocal neighbors who refuse to roll over and play dead when they are initially ignored, and then turn around and sell those same homes for 60% to 80% below the appraised value—thus confirming value losses by their own actions.

Other developers have avoided future liability by bulldozing the purchased homes.

In fact, wind developers and the existing Canadian setback are even inadequate to protect neighbors from ice throw or from sections of turbine blades, which are documented as occurring up to half a mile from the turbines, and I have personally heard of a blade throw (piece) that went about 1 mile.

(18)

Regardless of these facts, the wind industry often tries to convince the siting decision makers that safety issues are satisfied by setbacks of 1.1 X the height of turbines (550 meters in Canada), as if preventing a toppling turbine from landing on a neighbors house is the correct standard.

It is obvious what is happening here: *The wind industry is playing a numbers game, under the assumption or actuarial calculations that it is less costly for them to fight a number of lawsuits from citizens who do not have deep pockets, than it is to buy out the property they need to create huge projects.*

The solution is simple, also: Mandate that all property they seek to encompass with industrial overlays be purchased outright, so people have an option as to whether they choose to live in a large, noisy industrial setting.

I am quite certain any of your staff can confirm my factual comments by simply driving to any number of projects and counting the abandoned and for sale homes, talking with a few remaining neighbors, etc. Maybe start with the Clear Creek project, where a dozen homes are reported abandoned, due to proximity of about 3 dozen turbines. The list will grow as large as time devoted to research of this issue will allow.

Like most other people, I initially assumed that wind energy would be a good trend. Unlike most people, I have expended something on the order of 2,000 hours looking into it, and my findings are quite contrary to the “positions” of the wind industry and their lobbyists. However, even the wind industry’s counterpart to my profession, Mr. Ben Hoen, has now gone on record saying that Property Value Guarantees should be used for nearby homeowners, and that “if wind developers won’t guarantee that, then they really don’t have a leg to stand on.”

Your publication can do much to bring the truth to public view, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Also, you have my permission to publish this letter as you see fit.

Incidentally, if you Google my name + Adams County, Illinois, you will find a [lengthier report which provides more details of property value impacts](#), along with public documents on buyouts made by Canadian Hydro of turbine neighbors homes.

Respectfully,

Michael S. McCann
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Chicago, Illinois 60611

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[1 Comment](#)

1. **TurbineTurmoil** ([Reply](#)) on Tuesday 25, 2011

We know the facts are ignored by officials across the globe. What do we do about it? Civil disobedience is the answer, and increasingly we need to begin to learn to use social



COPY



- "This machine needs to be shut down!" (Massachusetts)

Expert confirms wind turbines hammer property value (Australia)

By [admin](#) Friday January 21, 2011



"There is absolutely no doubt that the value of lands adjacent to wind towers falls significantly in value."

—[Shane McIntyre](#), National Sales Manager, [Elders Rural Real Estate Services](#) (1-18-11)

I have been a Licensed Estate Agent for 30 years, specialising in the sale of Rural property, essentially all over Australia, with an emphasis on Victoria and the Riverina. I have held senior management positions with the largest rural real estate companies in Australia.



Shane McIntyre

In recent years the growth of activity and the actuality of wind towers throughout the Victorian rural landscape has been significant.

Challicum Hills, Coddington, and Mt Mitchell have all emerged as large-scale wind farms, located on the tops of the low hill-country, interrupting the landscape for many kilometres.

Of significant importance is the negative effect on the value of adjoining lands where wind towers have been erected. Visually, the towers are seen by the majority of the market as repulsive. Audibly, the towers affect the stillness a property enjoys, in particular the resonating tones in the night, invading serenity of the adjoining lands.



A proliferation of wind towers adjacent to a property has the same effect as high voltage power lines, rubbish tips, piggeries, hatcheries, and sewerage treatment plants. That is, if buyers are given a choice, they choose not to be near any of these impediments to value.

The ultimate effect is that the number of buyers willing to endure these structures is significantly less than if the structures were not there. This logically has a detrimental effect on the final price of the adjoining lands.

Experts assess the loss of value to be in excess of 30 percent, and sometimes up to half.

My personal experience is that when an enquiry (potential buyer) becomes aware of the presence of wind towers, or the possibility of wind towers in the immediate district of a property advertised for sale, the "fall out" of buyers is major. Very few go on to inspect the property, and even fewer consider a purchase. On the remote chance they wish to purchase, they seek a significant reduction in the price.

There is absolutely no doubt that the value of lands adjacent to wind towers falls significantly in value. The ambience of a rural property is important and, oftentimes, the sole reason why a purchaser selects a particular area or district.

The imposition of wind towers destroys this ambience forever.

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