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EXHIBIT
Steve Shuff
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9-12-2019 P



With the support of the Seneca County Commissioners and the surrounding community since 1968, we have been seeking and receiving federal and state grants to remove houses and obstacles in the object free area around the Seneca County Airport. Removing these obstacles was in compliance with FAA guidelines to make the airport safer for private and commercial air traffic. It is very troubling that we now have local officials that support the construction of industrial wind turbines in Seneca County. These turbines would definitely be a safety hazard to air traffic. They will directly affect the landing approach to the airport. If turbines are built, it will change the landing minimums and thus the safety factor at the local airport. This could deter airplanes (including small jets) from landing and in return, deter business within Seneca County. They will also affect a medical helicopter's ability to land at the scene of a nearby accident. Seneca County is a rural community with substantial agriculture. The National Aerial Applicators Association (crop sprayers) are against the wind turbines in an agricultural community for safety reasons. They will obviously be unable to spray or seed fields in the vicinity of these turbines. From an aviation perspective, wind turbines are not desirable in Seneca County.

Tiffin Aire Inc.
by: Brad & Kim Newman

We support Tiffin Aire and the Seneca County Airport:

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by Steve Everhart

Tiffin Stor-N-Lock

by Mike Kerschner

by Steve Shuff

National Machinery

by Andrew A. Kalnow

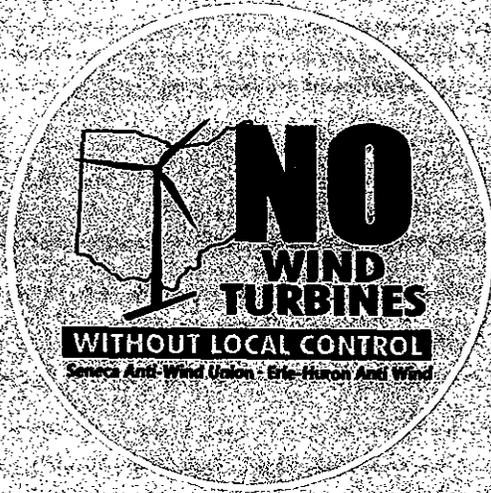
Beerco

by Kris Klepper

by Mike Klepper

Republic Wind Public
Meeting - September 12,
2019
Docket # 17-2295-EL-BGN
Gail Miller
Attica
Venice, Township

EXHIBIT
Gail Miller
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9-12-2019 UP
PENGAD 800-631-6989



Gail Miller
Attica - Venice Twp.

REPUBLIC WIND PUBLIC MEETING
Docket # 17-2295-EL-BGN

Throughout History man has advanced in knowledge and technology through a trial of ideas and by learning and responding to the experiences of others on these ideas. Currently Ohio is being besieged by Wind power companies seeking, under the guise of renewable energy, to install wind turbines and line their own pockets before the advantage of government subsidies runs out. They are doing this at the expense of local residents who will be facing loss of property values, infrasound, shadow flicker, and the destruction of a peaceful rural way of life. When will Ohio learn from others?

Let's talk about the prices of electricity – and I quote from an article by Michael Shellenberger – Forbes, April 25, 2018, entitled "Yes, Solar & Wind Really Do Increase Electricity Prices". Two Reasons: Unreliability and Transmission Lines. The following increases occurred from 2009 – 2017 - In North Dakota – Electricity prices rose 40 % while electricity from solar and wind grew from 2 to 8 %. South Dakota – Electricity prices rose 40 % - Electricity from solar & wind grew from 5 to 30 %. Kansas – Electricity Prices rose 33% - Electricity from solar & wind grew from 6 to 36 %. Iowa – Electricity prices rose 21 % - Electricity from wind and solar grew from 14 to 37 %. Oklahoma – Electricity prices rose 18 % - Electricity from wind and solar grew from 4 to 32 %. The value of solar and wind decline in economic value as they become larger shares of the electricity grid for physical reasons. They produce too much energy when societies don't need it and not enough energy when they do. A quote from another article in Forbes, September 4, 2019 – "The University of Chicago found earlier this year that renewable energy mandates 'significantly increase average retail electricity prices'. Thanks to the heavy deployment of renewables, electricity prices in California between 2011 and 2018 rose seven times more (28%) than they did in the rest of the country (5%), while electricity prices have risen 50 % in Germany since 2006." Another quote from an article in Bloomberg.com – August 26, 2019 – "The road to a world powered by renewable energy is littered with unintended consequences. Like a 40,000 % surge in electricity prices. Texas power prices jumped from less than \$15 to as much as \$9,000 a megawatt-hour this month as coal plant retirements and weak winds left the region on the brink of blackouts during a heat wave. It's a phenomenon playing out worldwide. Germany averted three blackouts of its own in June. In the U.K. more than a million homes lost power on Aug 9, in part because a wind farm tripped offline."

Let's talk about safety from the turbines themselves – It has been reported that there are an average of 3,800 wind turbine blade failures a year. I found two articles from March 2019 – one in Nova Scotia, and one in Germany. I am sure there were more in between but just since July there have been blade failures, fires, blackouts, and other problems with turbines in Brazil, New York, Texas, Spain, Ireland, England, Wales, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington, South Africa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Australia, and Scotland.

And what about setbacks? Quoting from an "Analysis of Throw Distances of Detached Objects from Horizontal-axis Wind Turbines" – March 2018 –For normal tip speeds the potential blade throw distance for a 5 megawatt turbine is 900 m or 2,953

(2)

feet. At "extreme" tip speeds the corresponding distance for the 5 MW turbine was 1500 m or 4,921 feet. Does Ohio's current setback distance of approximately 1200 ft from property lines reflect "safety" from blade throws??

What about setbacks due to dangerous Infrasound?? The history of Infrasound can be traced back to the 5th operational wind turbine being installed in Boone, North Carolina in 1979. NASA and SERI fully investigated acoustic, seismic and atmospheric aspects using turbine operational information and data recordings in a series of field experiments. In March 1982 NASA's Guide to the evaluation of human exposure to noise from large turbines showed that even with windows shut, houses do not stop LFN (Low Frequency Noise) sound energy. Measured levels inside the home are significantly higher than predicted within the LFN range. The house acts like a drum for LFN." In 1987 the wind industry was told, and I quote, "The dB(A) filter shuts out the LFN and is therefore unsuitable. G-weighted scales were better correlated with noise, annoyance, vibrations, and pulsations." Finland – February 1, 2019 – "Home Wreckers: Finnish Study Finds Wind Turbine Infrasound Unsafe For Residents Living Within 15 Km (49,212.6 feet). Germany – May 7, 2019 – "Far Out: German Study Finds Pulsing Wind Farm Infrasound 20 Km (65,616.8 feet) From Turbines". September 3, 2019 – New York – Number Three Wind told to listen to World Health Organization turbine noise standards.

Residents, Councils speak against Wind Turbines: January 2019 – Policymakers in Spotsylvania, Virginia voted to block the building of a solar farm, after local residents organized themselves in opposition out of concern over the impact on the environment, property values, and electricity prices. February 2019 – Lafayette, Indiana – Lafayette Journal – Ordinance proposes to ban wind farms – other counties have either banned wind farms, set restrictive ordinances that make farms impractical, or put a moratorium on the turbines until more health studies are done. February 2019 – A Kansas bill was proposed setting minimum setbacks for commercial wind turbines. The bill sets out minimum setbacks of "not less than 12 times the system height – which is the total height of a wind turbine measured with a blade in a vertical position – or 7,920 feet whichever is greater, from any residential property or public building. It also proposes a setback of 20 times the system height or 3 miles, whichever is greater, from any airport or local, state, or federal wildlife refuge, public hunting area or public park."

March 2019 - The largest county in California, San Bernadino, banned the building of any more large solar and wind farms over the opposition of renewable energy lobbyists and labor unions. They did so on behalf of conservationists and locals seeking to protect fragile desert ecosystems. March 17, 2019 – New York – Worth Town Council arms for Wind Law Adoption in May. Turbines that generate more than 100 kw of electricity are limited to 400 feet. Developers would have to erect turbines away from property lines, structures, and roads at a distance of 5X their height. They will not be allowed to emit noise louder than 35 A weighted decibels 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 25 A weighted decibels from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

March 2019 – Illinois – Herald Review.com – Zoning Board votes against DeWitt County Wind Farm. Members expressed concerns about public safety risks with

(3)

weather radar interference, shadow flicker for non-participating residents and potential water drainage issues. March 2019 – Scotland - Council confirms windfarm objection. Councillors were recommended to object on several grounds including the fact that the proposed development would have a significant impact on a protected area which has a “sensitive landscape, high visual prominence, high wilderness and recreation value.” Scotland Officers were also advised that the applicants had not demonstrated that the proposals by the wind company would not have a “detrimental impact upon aircraft and aviation.” (Locally - Life flight cannot land within 1.5 miles of a wind turbine – and what about crop dusting?) September 5, 2019 – Wind Daily - “Angry residents send German wind industry spinning” – And I quote – “After years of breakneck growth in capacity and uptake that has seen wind power delivering a 5th of Germany’s total energy production, vocal ‘not-in-my-backyard’ opposition by residents and a lack of government support have seen investments shrink in the sector. More than 600 citizen initiatives have sprung up against the giant installations, with a district called Saale-Orla even offering 2,000 euros to anyone taking action to get expert opinions opposing wind farms. And only a few dozen new turbines were installed since the beginning of this year, down 82 % from a year ago, said Germany’s Wind Energy Association (BWE).”

How, when, and why has the questionable promise of money and jobs become more important than the health and welfare of the residents in Ohio? One of the Ohio Farm Bureau’s commercials recently stated that they want to preserve Ohio farmland for future generations. A farmer builds up his soil through the years by adding fertilizers and nutrients to it. Wind power companies will be dragging 200 +foot heavy turbine blades across the field (that is the distance of about 4 – 53 ft semi-trucks end to end), dumping tons of cement into a big hole in the field, and putting a 600 foot turbine (that is the distance of two football fields high in the air) in that hole. How does all of this preserve the farmland for future generations?? It is time Ohio, and particularly the Ohio Power Siting Board, paid attention to previous and current reports of problems with wind turbines in the United States and in other countries and stopped to look at the consequences resulting from these problems. Please learn from the experiences of others – take action to prevent these problems from occurring in Ohio.!!

In closing I would like to thank you, members of the Ohio Power Siting Board for the opportunity to speak to you. I am not a doctor, a scientist, or a lawyer. I am a great-grandmother who is very concerned about the health and well being of the residents of Seneca County. I am hoping that the Reineke Referendum when presented will be passed so that our residents may vote to protect the rural farmland that we all dearly love. Thank you.



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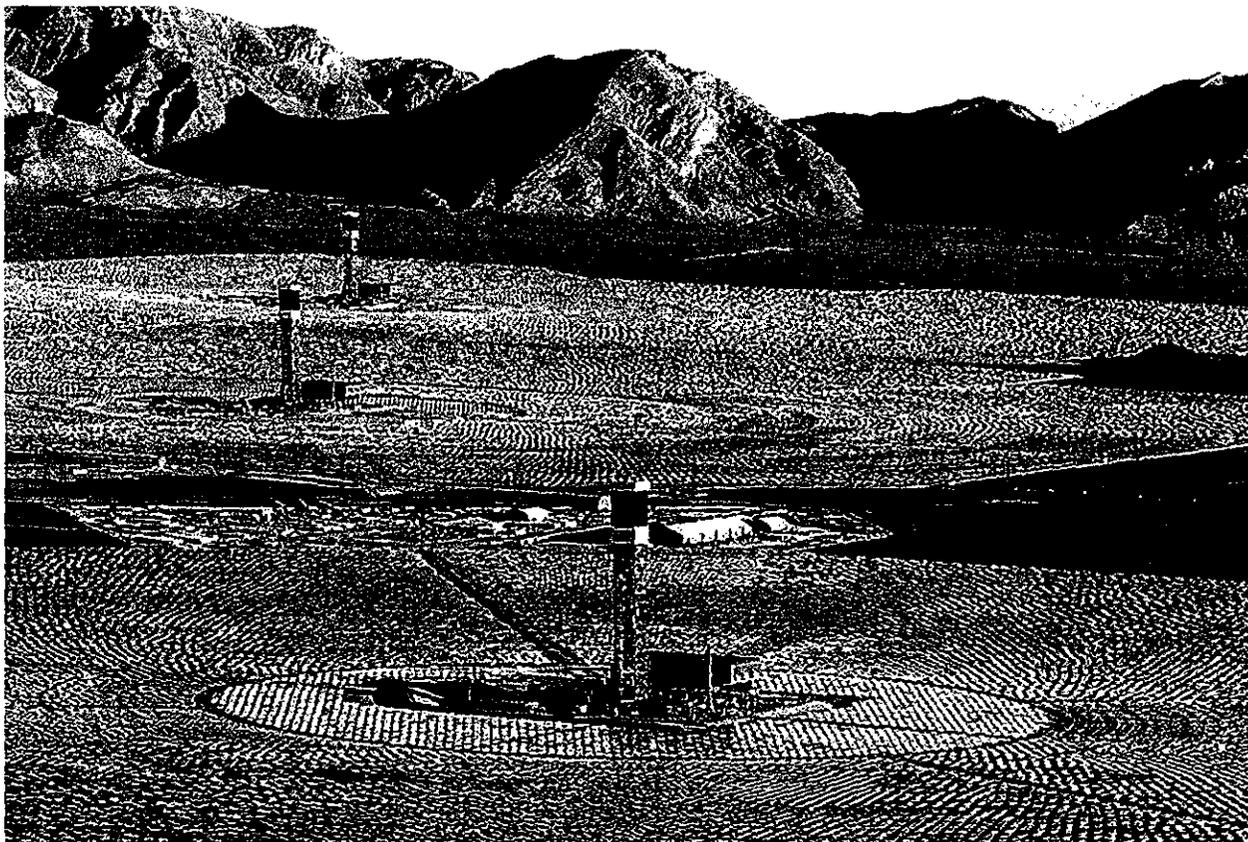
Yes, Solar And Wind Really Do Increase Electricity Prices -- And For Inherently Physical Reasons



Michael Shellenberger Contributor ©

Energy

I write about energy and the environment.



Ivanpah solar farm produces 18 times less electricity while using 290 times more land than Diablo Canyon nuclear plant DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Para la traducción al español, haga clic aquí.

In my last column I discussed an apparent paradox: why, if solar panels and wind turbines are so cheap, do they appear to be making electricity so expensive?

One big reason seems to be their inherently unreliable nature, which requires expensive additions to the electrical grid in the form of natural gas plants, hydro-electric dams, batteries, or some other form of stand-by power.

Several readers kindly pointed out that I had failed to mention a huge cost of adding renewables: new transmission lines.

Today In: Industry



Transmission is much more expensive for solar and wind than other plants. This is true around the world — for physical reasons.

Think of it this way. It would take 18 of California's Ivanpah solar farms to produce the same amount of electricity that comes from our Diablo Canyon nuclear plant.

And where just one set of transmission lines are required to bring power from Diablo Canyon, 18 separate transmission lines would be required to bring power from solar farms like Ivanpah.

Moreover, these transmission lines are in most cases longer. That's because our solar farms are far away in the desert, where it is sunny and land is cheap. By contrast, Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear plants are on the coast right near where most Californians live. (The same is true for wind.)

New transmission lines *can* make electricity cheaper, but not when they are used only part of the time and duplicate rather than replace current equipment.

Other readers pointed to cases that appear to challenge the claim that increased solar and wind deployments increase electricity prices.

John Hanger, a former Secretary of Planning and Policy for the state of Pennsylvania, pointed to the states of South Dakota, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Iowa as “examples of high wind/solar (up to 30% or more) and average/below average prices.”

My colleagues Madison Czerwinski and Mark Nelson pulled the data and here is what they found:

- For the U.S. as a whole, electricity prices rose 7 percent while electricity from solar and wind grew from two to eight percent from 2009 to 2017
- In North Dakota, electricity prices rose 40 percent while electricity from solar and wind grew from nine to 27 percent between 2009 and 2017.
- In South Dakota, electricity prices rose 34 percent while electricity from solar and wind grew from five to 30 percent between 2009 and 2017.
- In Kansas, electricity prices rose 33 percent while electricity from solar and wind grew from six to 36 percent between 2009 and 2017.
- In Iowa, electricity prices rose 21 percent while electricity from solar and wind grew from 14 to 37 percent between 2009 and 2017.
- In Oklahoma, electricity prices rose 18 percent while electricity from solar and wind grew from four to 32 percent between 2009 and 2017.

What about Hawaii, California, and Nevada — states that, Hanger noted, “have 10% solar or more”?

- In Hawaii, electricity prices rose 23 percent, while electricity from solar and wind grew from 3 to 18 percent between 2009 and 2017.
- In California, electricity prices rose 22 percent, while electricity from solar and wind grew from 3 to 23 percent between 2009 and 2017.

Does that mean that deploying solar and wind at-scale *always* and *everywhere* increases electricity prices? No. In some cases, the high cost that unreliable solar and wind impose on the electrical grid are offset by much larger declines in the price of other fuels, namely natural gas.

Texas and Nevada are two cases in point. In Texas, electricity retail prices fell 14 percent, while electricity from solar and wind grew from 5 to 15 percent between 2009 and 2017. In Nevada, electricity prices fell 15 percent while electricity from solar and wind grew from 1 to 12 percent, between 2009 and 2017.

However, it is neither remarkable that there are outlier states nor that they are Texas and Nevada.

Many factors beyond the relative reliability of a power plant determine electricity prices. We have been discussing the big ones, which include but are not limited to the addition of new solar and wind and the costs they impose due to their unreliability.

Texas, for example, is the epicenter of the fracking revolution. Between 2009 and 2017, natural gas prices for Texas power plants fell 21 percent and wholesale electricity prices fell 21 percent.

Texas energy experts point to the way the way Texas electricity market is structured which has allowed some high-profile bankruptcies of natural gas generators, and a re-tightening of supply last year.

That tightening of supply contributed to a 27% increase in electricity prices in 2017 and, according to Bloomberg, prices in Texas are going to increase again. (“Think power’s expensive in Texas this year? Just Wait Until 2019.”)

Meanwhile, solar plants in Nevada are, like those in California, the most efficient in the nation, producing electricity at whopping 30 percent of its rated capacity. By contrast, solar in New Jersey has a “capacity factor” of just 12 percent.

Nevada thus benefited more from cheaper gas and high solar capacity factors than relatively modest amount of intermittent solar in an extremely sunny climate.

Integrating solar on to the grid is much easier when to do when you can easily turn natural gas plants up and down to accommodate their intermittency. And it's much easier to do when it is 12 percent of your electricity instead of 20 percent.

But even at low levels, problems arise. According to the research done by Lion Hirt solar's value drops by 50 percent when it gets to just 15 percent of mix. While those values may be different for Nevada, the impact of unreliability is the same.

What is most remarkable about U.S. states heavy in solar and wind is that electricity prices rose so much given the huge decline in natural gas prices.

Had natural gas prices not plummeted at what was almost the exact same time as the beginning of the large-scale build-out of solar and wind in the United States, price increases in solar and wind heavy states would have been far larger.

Around the world, from Germany and Denmark to Spain and South Australia, even modest penetrations of solar and wind, compared to what advocates claim we will need to decarbonize, lead to large price increases.

Consider Spain. Its electricity prices were below the European average in 2009. Today they are among the highest in Europe. There is little debate in Spain that this was a result of adding so much solar and wind, which led the government to cut subsidies.

Some readers suggested that the contribution of solar and wind to high electricity prices was a legacy of older, more expensive projects, and implied that rising solar and wind penetrations would decline in the future.



This thinking requires ignoring both physics and economics. The value of solar and wind decline *in economic value* as they become larger shares of the electricity grid

for physical reasons. They produce too much energy when societies don't need it and not enough energy when they do.

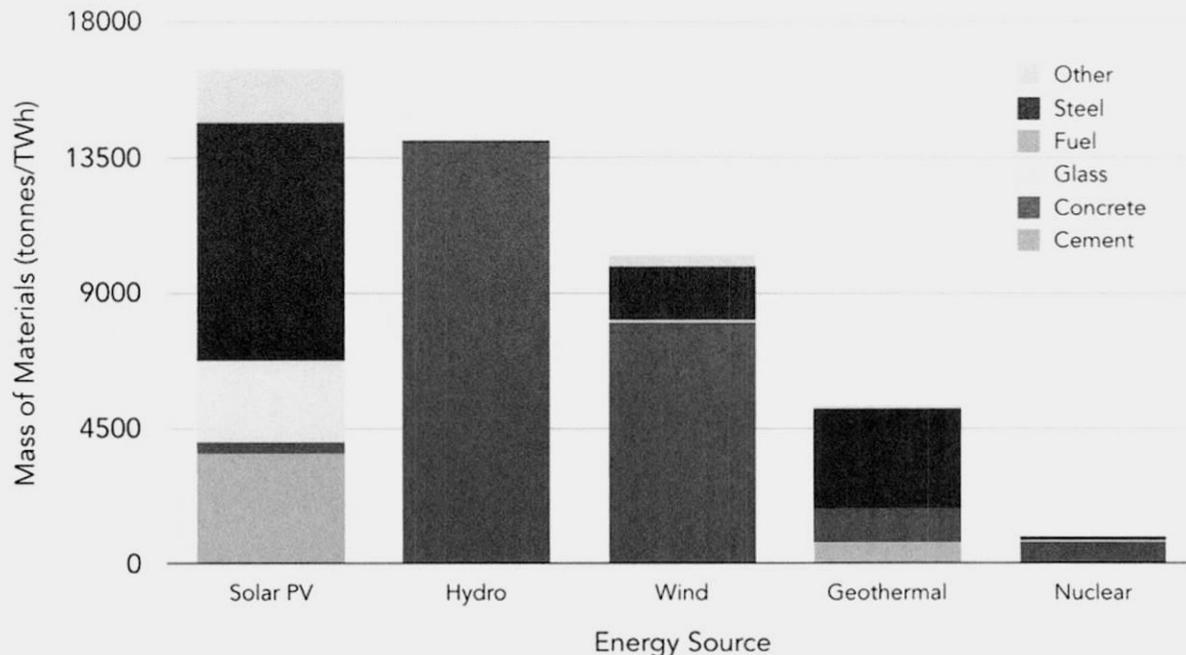
This problem is temporarily fixed through short-term (but still expensive) work-arounds — like California and Germany paying their neighbors to take their excess electricity.

But the more solar and wind are added, the problem is worsened, not improved, which is why the economic value of solar and wind decline as they become a larger part of the grid.

Moreover, we can see that in places like Germany, which is now procuring solar and wind at their supposed rock-bottom prices, is *still* paying massively more for electricity.

Germany spent 24.3 billion euros *above* market electricity prices in 2017 for its renewable energy feed-in tariffs.

Materials throughput by type of energy source



Sources: DOE Quadrennial Technology Review, Table 10.
 Murray, R.L. and Holbert, K.E. 2015. Nuclear energy: an introduction to the concepts, systems, and applications of nuclear processes (7th ed.). Elsevier.

Renewables require a massively larger material throughput than other energy sources. ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

For example, solar and wind farms require at least an order of magnitude more land than non-renewable plants. A single example dramatically illustrates the difference: California’s Ivanpah solar farm produces 18 times less electricity on more than 290 times more land than Diablo Canyon nuclear plant.

This reality could, along with new transmission, be a significant additional driver of higher costs, now and in the future.

The cost of land and expensive new transmission lines can be eliminated if you have solar on your roof, note solar developers, but the savings on transmission are more than cancelled out by higher installation costs.

What all of these additional costs have in common is that they stem directly from underlying physical limits with generating electricity from sunlight and wind. Both “fuels” are dilute and unreliable.

To make up for those inherent weaknesses, expanding energy from solar panels and wind turbines requires massively increasing the physical footprint of energy production.

Renewables require the use of vastly more land, longer and less-utilized transmission lines, and large amounts of storage whether from lithium batteries, new dams, compressed air caverns.

All renewables thus require a material throughput — from mining to processing to installing to disposing of the materials later as waste — that is orders of magnitude larger than for non-renewable energy sources.

As such, while there is and will remain complexity and uncertainty about the specific causes of why solar and wind make electricity expensive, most if not all stem from their underlying physical and (thus environmental constraint), which is the limited diffuse, dilute, and unreliable nature of renewable fuels.

And that’s something we need to talk about — and deal with — if we are to protect the natural environment while expanding prosperity to all.



Michael Shellenberger

Michael Shellenberger is a Time Magazine “Hero of the Environment” and Green Book Award Winner. He is also a frequent contributor to The New York Times, Washington Post,... **Read More**

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Wind turbine company issues statement regarding Rhodes Ranch 3 fire
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Taylor Co. wind turbine fire sparks bigger blaze
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Dissension in the air: Villenova hears pros, cons of turbines

Germany:

Angry residents send German wind industry spinning

Kansas:

Planners recommend wind farm ban near city

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'Destructive impact' of Doraville wind farm

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Brazil:

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Government vows action as German wind industry flags

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OC's letter to governor to restate wind farm concerns

Brazil:

GE investigates new wind turbine collapse in Brazil

Michigan:

Turbines found within wind ordinance limits

Ireland:

Councillors warned executive will leave if delegation proceeds

South Dakota:

Nearly 900 more wind turbines coming to S.D.

Scotland:

Radar study into wind farm impact on sea birds off Aberdeen coast

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Brush fire ignited by burning wind turbine in southern Washington

July 22, 2019 • Washington

'Juniper Fire' in Klickitat County burns more than 240 acres, threatens homes, wind farm

July 22, 2019 • Washington

Wildfire in Southern Washington caused by wind turbine that caught fire

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July 21, 2019 • Washington

State mobilization called in for Juniper Fire burning in Klickitat County

July 21, 2019 • Washington

Truck carrying wind turbine tumbles off mountain; driver dies

July 18, 2019 • South Africa

Attempt to improve sea life diversity at wind farms fails

July 10, 2019 • Netherlands

GE probes third turbine collapse at US wind farms this year

July 10, 2019 • Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, U.S.

Wind tower topples over northeast of Neligh

July 6, 2019 • Nebraska

Hypothermia, falls and electrocution - figures lay bare Scotland's windfarm injuries

July 4, 2019 • Scotland

apparently damages windmill blade

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Large wind energy project proposed east of Round Valley

2019

By Luciano Costa

SAO PAULO, Sept 5 (Reuters) - General Electric Co is investigating the cause of another accident involving wind power equipment it built and installed on a wind farm in Brazil operated by power company Omega, the two companies said on Thursday.

On Tuesday, a GE wind turbine fell to the ground from its tower at the Delta 6 wind farm in Brazil's northern Maranhao state. A worker is being treated for injuries.

Two months ago another turbine made by GE collapsed in Brazil when its tower broke in half. There have been three such collapses of GE wind turbines in the United States this year.

"We are working to contain and solve these problems as soon as possible to guarantee the safety and reliability of our equipment," GE's Brazilian unit said in reply to a request for comment by Reuters.

"We are working to find the causes behind the accident," GE said, adding that it was giving assistance to the worker injured in the accident and his family.

Omega said it was working with GE to discover the cause of the accident.

RDS Energia, a Brazilian consultancy that develops wind farm projects, said this type of accident was unusual, since towers and turbines are designed to resist winds of up to 300 km (186 miles) per hour.

RDS head Rodrigo Nereu dos Santos said a repeat of such accidents could have an impact on GE's image and potentially hurt its chances in future tenders to supply equipment.

GE has sold more than 3,000 turbines for wind farms in Brazil, accounting for around 5.5 gigawatts of generating capacity. Brazil has currently 15 gigawatts in wind power capacity, accounting for about 9% of its electricity generation. (Reporting by Luciano Costa; writing by Marcelo Teixeira Editing by Tom Brown)

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filed: August 7, 2019 • Australia

Energy regulator launches legal action against wind farm operators over SA statewide blackout

Credit: By Daniel Keane | ABC News | August 7, 2019 | www.abc.net.au ---

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) has launched legal proceedings against four wind farm operators over South Australia's 2016 statewide blackout.

The AER said the Federal Court proceedings were against subsidiaries of AGL, Neoen, Pacific Hydro and Tilt Renewables.

It alleged the companies failed to comply with performance requirements to ride through major disruptions and disturbances, and breached the National Electricity Rules.

"The AER has brought these proceedings to send a strong signal to all energy businesses about the importance of compliance with performance standards to promote system security and reliability," AER chair Paula Conboy said in a statement.

"These alleged failures contributed to the black system event, and meant that AEMO [Australian Energy Market Operator] was not fully informed when responding to system-wide failures in South Australia in September 2016.

"Providing timely and accurate information to AEMO is critical in ensuring power-system security and the effective operation of the wholesale energy markets."

The blackout occurred on September 28, 2016, when extreme weather – described at the time as "twin tornadoes" – caused major damage to electricity infrastructure, knocking down huge transmission lines.

The AER said a subsequent loss of wind generation then triggered the blackout, which left 850,000 customers without power.

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The regulator said it was seeking to impose penalties against the four companies.

The blackout prompted multiple investigations as well as furious debate in the ensuing months about the reliability of renewables.

Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor said the legal action could test whether electricity market rules were "being enforced".

"When we bring generators into the system, they have to be integrated, they have to perform according to the rules," he told ABC Radio Adelaide.

"If there are questions about whether they did, that needs to be investigated and, if appropriate, enforcement action needs to be taken."

AGL blames 'catastrophic storm', not breaches

The legal action relates to several wind farms in the state's mid north including Neoen's Hornsdale wind farm – which was later connected to Tesla's giant battery.

In its notices of filing to the Federal Court, AER alleges the breaches occurred over several years at all but one of the companies.

In the document regarding the Hornsdale wind farm, it alleges that Neoen "failed to ensure that its plant and associated facilities ... complied with its generator performance standards".

"The respondent failed, in contravention of the rules, to provide automatic protection systems to protect its plant and associated facilities against abnormal voltage excursions," the document states.

"The failure of the Hornsdale wind farm to ride through network voltage disturbances ... was a contributing cause of the black system event and blackout across the South Australian region of the National Electricity Market."

A similar accusation was levelled against AGL and its Hallett wind farms.

In a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange, AGL said the allegations against it "were highly technical in nature".

opponents take heart from report detailing wind farm concerns

Vermont:

Burlington Electric continues to purchase Sheffield Wind power despite reports of mechanical failures

England:

Kirkby Moor wind farm ruling could have national implications, meeting hears

Pennsylvania:

Developer of proposed Packer Twp. wind farm files zoning appeal

Maryland:

Ocean City continues to debate offshore wind off its coast

Ireland:

Fears that communities will be divided as windfarm companies target landowners

Pennsylvania:

Hegins Township to make own ordinance correction

England:

Kirkby Moor wind farm ruling 'sets interesting precedent'

Opinions, U.S.:

Big Wind's big headwinds

Opinions, Texas:

Texas town's lofty environmentalism leaves residents with a nightmare

Nebraska:

Wind farm moratorium discussed at commissioners

Australia:

Moyné Shire Council requests Woolnorth Wind Farm removes anemometer from proposed Mount Fyans site

Northern Ireland:

Plans unveiled for new wind farm in Cairncastle

Kansas:

Judge dismisses lawsuit to block wind farm plans

Texas:

Wind turbine blamed for Rhodes Ranch 3 Fire in

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"AGL has previously stated that it considers that it has complied with its legal obligations in relation to the [blackout] ... but will review the allegations made by the AER and consider its position," it said.

But in a subsequent media statement, AGL said it did "not accept the AER's conclusions" and would "strongly defend these proceedings".

"We are committed to working with the regulator and stakeholders to ensure the integrity of the energy market and the ongoing stability of South Australia's electricity system," it stated.

The company acknowledged the impact the blackout had on communities and businesses, but blamed the situation on a "catastrophic storm" and insisted it complied with national energy rules.

"Weather experts described the event as a once-in-50-year storm, with 80,000 lightning strikes and tornadoes with wind speeds reaching up to 260 kilometres an hour."

Tilt has also defended the way its Snowtown wind farm responded to the crisis, saying it "acted in good faith and in accordance with the applicable National Electricity Rules".

"The company will continue to engage with the AER in an endeavour to resolve this matter."

SA Premier Steven Marshall said he was not aware the energy watchdog was planning action.

"I don't want to comment on something that's now before the courts - I haven't had a chance to read their submission - but I want to tell SA that we're 100 per cent focused on lowering costs and strengthening the grid," he said.

Economic analysis carried out by the state's peak business lobby, Business SA, alleged the blackout cost businesses \$367 million.

The emergency lasted from a number of hours in some areas to several days in other regions including the Eyre Peninsula.

Source: By Daniel Keane | ABC News | August 7, 2019 | www.abc.net.au

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Mulberry Canyon south of Merkel

Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota:
Sioux Falls landfill tightens rules after Minnesota dumps dozens of wind turbine blades

Iowa:
MidAmerican: Proposed Madison County setback for turbines would 'completely wipe out' wind development

Indiana:
Weather experts confirm turbine impact on Doppler
Iowa, Press releases:
Discovery information on the authors of IEC Wind Health Paper

Texas:
Wind turbine that caught fire was last serviced in January

Massachusetts:
Edgartown, Vineyard Wind double-down

U.S.:
Shipping wind turbines is not a breeze

Iowa:
Reynolds favors local control of wind turbine locations

Scotland:
Campaign group lodges objections against Viking compounds

Friday - Mar 15, 2019

Wind turbine blazes in West Pubnico, Nova Scotia

A wind turbine was destroyed by fire on Friday. Parts of the turbine thus fell to the ground, a hundred meters lower.

According to the head of the West Pubnico Fire Department, Gordon Amiro, the firefighters were powerless in front of the air blaze.

We could not get near because the blades were spinning, and the parts were coming off the blades, he said.

The turbine installed at West Pubnico caught fire on Friday afternoon. Firefighters were called to the scene around 5 pm No one was hurt.

The pieces followed the wind for a long distance, so it was not safe to approach the tower, said the firefighter.

As the wind turbine rotates, the ends reach more than 100 meters in the air, a height too big to attack the flames from the mainland.

There is nothing we could do more than observe what was falling and make sure the fire does not spread to the ground, says the firefighter.

Thursday - Mar 14 - Germany

Rotor blade flies 60 meters through air

The rotor blade of a wind turbine in Nortorf (Steinburg district) broke off on Thursday and flowed 60 meters through the air. This was announced by wind turbine manufacturer Amperax on Friday. The blade is one of three rotor blades of a 150 meter high wind turbine with a rotor diameter of 116 meters. It flew over a promenade and landed in a meadow. No one was injured, according to Amperax.

Cause unclear, investigations are ongoing

According to the wind turbine manufacturer, a lightning strike could have been the reason why the rotor blade broke loose. The investigations are still ongoing. The State Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas (LLUR) also looks into the case, as one spokesman said. Three nearly identical systems were stopped on Thursday and would now be reviewed, a spokesman for the company said. However, no deficiencies were found in them.



This post was contributed by a community member. The views expressed here are the author's own.

Neighbor Posts (<https://Patch.Com/Massachusetts/Falmouth/Posts>)

Vestas Wind Turbine Blade Throw Safety Zone 1640 Feet

Vestas Confidential Health and safety Instruction manual for Falmouth MA. No one to be allowed within 1640 feet of runaway wind turbine.

By Frank Haggerty, Patch Contributor (<https://patch.com/users/frank-haggerty0dbc553242f63bb0b4c3acd2f8df71d82de8d597c3d2d03e2929a2b2178abf>)
Nov 4, 2017 7:28 am ET | Updated Nov 7, 2017 8:10 am ET

Like 229 Share (<https://patch.com/massachusetts/falmouth/amp/27333978/vestas-wind-turbine-blade-throw-safety-zone-1640-feet>)

Reply



Vestas Confidential Health and safety Instruction manual for a Falmouth MA 1640 feet (500 m) radius.



Vestas Confidential Health and safety Instruction manual for a Falmouth MA wind farm.

(<https://>

"This is evidenced by the Vestas Confidential Health and safety Instruction manual for a Falmouth MA wind farm. Page 10 of this manual addresses the situation of a free spinning "runaway turbine". In that manual, instructions are for no one to be allowed within a 1640 feet (500 m) radius. (See Exhibit 2)

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VESTAS Quote from attachment 1 -- Falmouth Massachusetts

closed

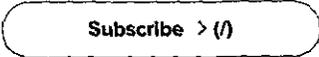
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ATTACHMENT 1

WIND TURBINE SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS



Vestas is one of the leading wind turbine manufacturers, with approximately 70% market share worldwide. Based on its prominence in the world market, the Vestas safety manual (32 pages) is a credible source of safety information.

Nordex is another well know manufacturer of wind turbines. Its Safety Manual (130 pages) likewise is considered a credible source of information on the subject of safety.

On page 3 of the Vestas Safety Regulations for Operators and Technicians Manual, point# 2. ~ Stay and Traffic by the Turbine, Vestas personnel are instructed to stay away from a turbine by 400 m (1312 ft) unless it is necessary. Taken in context, this distance would apply to normal operating conditions. (See Exhibit 1)

Under abnormal operating conditions, Vestas expands this distance in consideration of the safety of its employees.

This is evidenced by the Vestas Confidential Health and safety Instruction manual for a Falmouth MA wind farm. Page 10 of this manual addresses the situation of a free spinning "runaway turbine". In that manual, instructions are for no one to be allowed within a 1640 feet (500 m) radius. (See Exhibit 2)

The Nordex Safety Manual also addresses safety in the context of a fire. On page 52, under section 9.3 Fire, it states

DANGER FALLING TURBINE PARTS In case of a fire in the nacelle or on the rotor, parts may fall off the wind turbine. In case of a fire, nobody is permitted within a radius of 500 m from the turbine. (See Exhibit 3) Given that these standards apply to employees who are familiar with the safety implications of wind turbines and are equipped to deal with abnormal conditions, it is indefensible, from a safety perspective alone, to specify in a wind ordinance designed to protect the public health, safety, and welfare a setback that is less than 1640 feet.

PDF]attachment 1 - North East Windmills <https://northeastwindmills.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/vestas-nordex.pdf> (<https://northeastwindmills.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/vestas-nordex.pdf>)

(<https://northeastwindmills.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/vestas-nordex.pdf>) Vestas is one of the leading wind turbine manufacturers, with approximately 70% market share worldwide. ... Safety Instruction manual for a Falmouth MA wind farm.. <https://northeastwindmills.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/vestas-nordex.pdf> (<https://northeastwindmills.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/vestas-nordex.pdf>). <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:WNwMND1f1QcJ:https://northeastwindmills.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/vestas->

(https://

nordex.pdf+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us (https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?
<Vestas Wind Turbine Blade Throw Safety Zone 1640 Feet
q=cache:WnWmNDm1QJ:https://northeastwindmills.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/vestas-
nordex.pdf+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us)

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Note this above is an attachment # 1 to the setbacks of a Vestas V 90 type 3.0 megawatt wind turbine that sites the Falmouth MA wind farm 1640 foot "runaway turbine" setbacks.

closed

water-

Vestas Wind Turbines --Restricted Trade Secret 2010 -- Manual Safety Vestas Wind Turbines -- Town of Falmouth Massachusetts has two town-owned Vestas V-82 Type 1.65 megawatt wind turbines

main-

Occupational Noise Exposure See Page 231 of 511 pages on PDF reader

work)

<https://www.opsb.ohio.gov/opsb/assets/File/12-0160-Vestas%20Health%20Safety%20%26%20Environment%20Manual.PDF>
(<https://www.opsb.ohio.gov/opsb/assets/File/12-0160-Vestas%20Health%20Safety%20%26%20Environment%20Manual.PDF>)

The Cape Cod Commission after the installation of the Falmouth wind turbines approved a setback of 10 times the rotor diameter of the proposed turbine from the nearest receptor, or residential zoned parcel.

Former Falmouth Select Board Chair Mary Pat Flynn voted in favor of the new setbacks which today would require nearly 3000-foot setbacks in Falmouth today.



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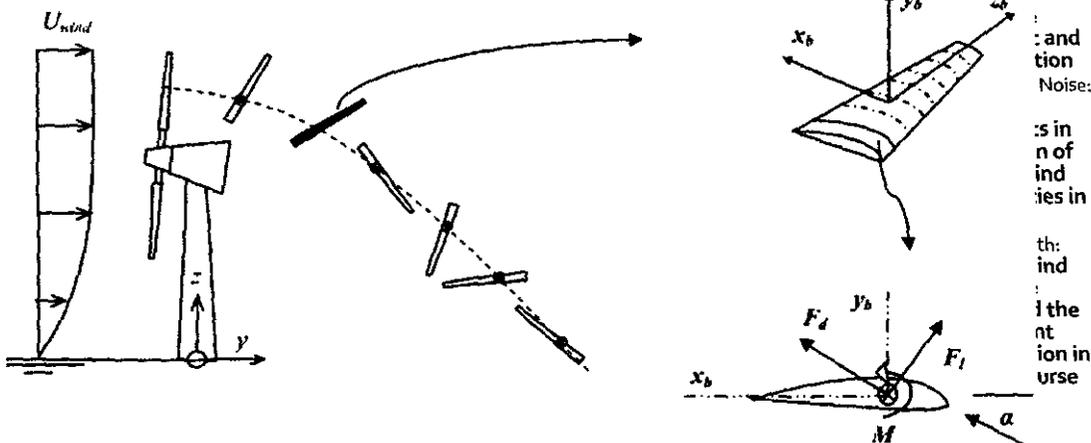
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posted: March 2, 2018 • Safety

Analysis of throw distances of detached objects from horizontal-axis wind turbines

Author: [Sarlak, Hamid](#); and [Sørensen, Jens](#)

Figures 4 to 6 show the results for different-size blade pieces from different-size turbines at different wind speeds and blade tip speeds. For normal tip speeds (figs 4 and 5), the potential blade throw distance for a 2.3-MW turbine was calculated to be ~500 m (1,640 ft) and for a 5-MW turbine ~900 m (2,953 ft). At "extreme" tip speeds (fig 6) the corresponding distances were 800 m (2,625 ft) and 1500 m (4,921 ft).



[ABSTRACT] This paper aims at predicting trajectories of the detached fragments from wind turbines, in order to better quantify consequences of wind turbine failures. The trajectories of thrown objects are attained using the solution to equations of motion and rotation, with the external loads and moments obtained using blade element approach. We have extended an earlier work by taking into account dynamic stall and wind variations due to shear, and investigated different scenarios of throw including throw of the entire or a part of blade, as well as throw of accumulated ice on the blade. Trajectories are simulated for modern wind turbines ranging in size from 2 to 20 MW using upscaling laws. Extensive parametric analyses are performed against initial release angle,

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understanding the physical link between turbines and microclimate impacts from in situ measurements in a large wind farm

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tip speed ratio, detachment geometry, and blade pitch setting. It is found that, while at tip speeds of about 70 m/s [157 mph] (normal operating conditions), pieces of blade (with weights in the range of approximately 7-16 ton) would be thrown out less than 700 m for the entire range of wind turbines, and turbines operating at the extreme tip speed of 150 m/s [336 mph] may be subject to blade throw of up to 2 km from the turbine. For the ice throw cases, maximum distances of approximately 100 and 600 m are obtained for standstill and normal operating conditions of the wind turbine, respectively, with the ice pieces weighing from 0.4 to 6.5 kg. The simulations can be useful for revision of wind turbine setback standards, especially when combined with risk assessment studies.

Hamid Sarlak and Jens N. Sørensen

Section of Fluid Mechanics, Department of Wind Energy, Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark

Wind Energy 2016; 19:151–166. DOI: [10.1002/we.1828](https://doi.org/10.1002/we.1828)

Download original document: "[Analysis of throw distances of detached objects from horizontal-axis wind turbines](#)"

See also:

- "[A method for defining wind turbine setback standards](#)" by Jonathan Rogers, Nathan Slegers, and Mark Costello, Wind Energy 2012; 15:289–303. (463 m [1,519 ft] for a Vestas 2-MW turbine)
- "[Analysis of blade fragment risk at a wind energy facility](#)" by Scott Larwood and David Simms, Wind Energy (published online 6 April 2018). "The results showed that a setback to property lines of 2 times the overall turbine height would be acceptable. However, the setback to dwellings should probably be increased from 3 to 3.5 times the overall turbine height for an acceptable risk."

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Republic Wind project public hearing to take place Thursday at *Tiffin University* #OH September 9, 2019

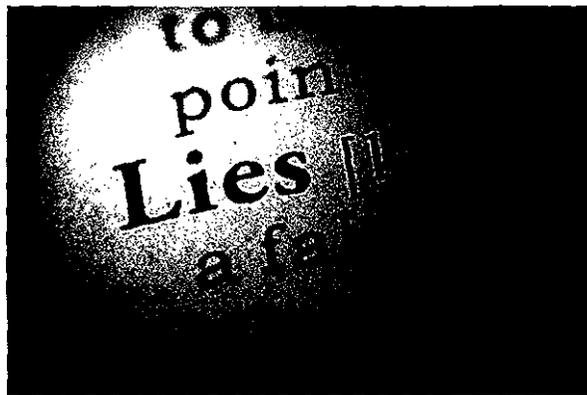
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Three Decades of Wind Industry Deception: A Chronology of a Global Conspiracy of Silence and Subterfuge

February 22, 2015 by stopthesethings 16 Comments



A little while back, a Scottish pen-smith posed a little rhetorical on the subtle art of skulduggery:

Oh, what a tangled web we weave

When first we practise to deceive!

There have been few industries that have had more practice, and as much success, in that subtle art, as the wind industry.

STT has popped up 880 posts in the, just over, two years since we cranked into gear – on our mission to destroy the wind industry.

A fair slice of them have concerned the topic of the adverse health effects caused by turbine generated incessant low-frequency noise and *infrasound*; the woefully inadequate, indeed, utterly irrelevant noise standards written by the wind industry; and the institutional corruption that:

a) allowed those standards to become the "benchmarks" in the first place; and

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(Bring up this article for access to the Turbine Timeline.)

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Angry residents send German wind industry spinning #DEU September 6, 2019



b) witnesses public authorities, with a responsibility to protect public health, not only sitting on their hands, but barracking in favour of the wind industry, at the expense of the very people these planning and public health agencies and authorities are paid handsomely to protect.

In this post, STT sets out a chronology of what the wind industry and its pet acoustic consultants knew (and when they knew it); what the wind industry did in response to that knowledge; and how the wind industry and its parasites are fighting tooth and nail at present to ensure that that knowledge has no impact on its freedom to ride roughshod over the human rights, health and well-being of people living next door to wind farms.

The chronology is set out as a timeline, which can be accessed by clicking on this link here or the image below.



2MW MOD-1 Turbine installed



Access the timeline of wind industry deception

Each page of the timeline gives a short run down of significant events (a headline and brief summary); contains images of key data or pages extracted from research papers referred to; some of those images are copies of the entire paper being referred to – these documents can be accessed for reading and printing by dragging your mouse over the image and clicking on the “pop out” window at the top right of the image (you will see a scroll-bar on those where a paper is reproduced). Below the images you will find links to papers, webpages, including the sources referenced and STT posts, for example (if the link does not work, simply copy and paste the URL into a fresh tab in your browser).

At the bottom of the timeline, there is a banner collecting all of the relevant events (you will probably need to scroll down to see it) which you can use to see all of the events in order: simply hold down your mouse and drag the banner left or right; to access any of the events summarised in the banner, simply click on it.

Alternatively, you can use the arrows on the far left or right of the screen (they appear about half-way up each page of the timeline) to move forward or backwards in time.

The NASA Research

Starting in the early 1980s, a decade’s worth of research was undertaken by NASA into a series of large wind turbines (then being developed by NASA), which included a stellar cast of physicists, meteorologists, geophysicists, seismologists, engineers (both mechanical and acoustic), and psycho-acousticians. Part of that research involved a multidisciplinary effort to identify the causes of complaints made by



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neighbours in relation to the operation of those turbines: we refer to it as "the NASA research", which also included work carried out by Neil Kelley.

Some of the key findings of the NASA research into the neighbours' complaints were that:

"very low frequency" noise generated by NASA's turbines (which was defined to include "infrasound") was the cause of the "annoyance" reported by neighbours ("annoyance" being an acoustics term which does not involve emotional responses – ie "antipathy" to the "look" of wind turbines);

the "annoyance" being reported by neighbours included numerous physiological responses, which were described as "sensations". These "sensations", which they felt rather than heard, were sensations of "pressure", "a sense of uneasiness", "booming or thumping pulsations". These sensations were at their worst in the bedrooms where they were trying to sleep;

the "very low frequency" noise generated by turbines interacted with, and was amplified by, the complainant's homes, creating "structural resonances", whereby low-frequency sound-waves "excited" materials within the home, causing vibration of the home;

the "very low frequency noise" generated by turbines was not "attenuated" by the structure of the homes (ie, sound pressure levels were not significantly reduced inside homes), but, rather, interacted with homes in the manner described above – resulting in higher sound pressure levels at very low frequencies (ie the noise levels recorded were higher inside than outside), causing greater "annoyance" to neighbours, as a result;

the vibration of these homes, caused by turbine generated infrasound, resulted in neighbours perceiving that vibration with their whole bodies (ie "whole body perception");

the very low-frequency noise generated by NASA's turbines was replicated in a "house" (a three room structure) during a further study; and was shown to cause "annoyance/displeasure" as a "presence" which participants could "feel" to varying degrees, up to "extremely annoying and uncomfortable"; sensations of "vibration/pressure" and "pulsations", which participants could also "feel" to varying degrees, up to and including "severe vibration" and "very heavy pulses, booms and thumps";

the common noise descriptor or weighting, dB(A) (used to measure noise sources such as air-conditioners) was found to be totally inadequate, with almost no significant relationship to the sensations and symptoms being reported; and, was, accordingly found to be the worst possible measure for predicting the level of "annoyance" being reported by neighbours;

a variety of noise descriptors, designed to capture low-frequency noise, showed strong correlations between the noise levels generated and the sensations recorded;

the first of the NASA turbine designs being studied as part of research had its blades down wind from the tower. The second



FLICKR PHOTOS



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turbine design placed the blades up wind (ie, in front of the tower). The infrasound and low-frequency noise levels generated were not significantly altered as a result. (Modern wind turbines use the “up wind” design);

the homes where people were adversely affected were situated out to as far as 3km from a single turbine;

the propagation distance (ie the distance over which noise travels before it “decays”) is far greater for low-frequency noise and infrasound generated by turbines, than the propagation distance of noise which does not contain sound energy at low frequencies.

In 1987, at a wind power conference in San Francisco, the wind industry was presented with the findings of NASA's research; and told that these findings meant that dB(A) was an inappropriate method of measuring wind turbine noise, and the impact of that noise on neighbours. It was further told that low-frequency noise and infrasound were the dominant features of wind turbine generated noise, which would cause significant “annoyance” to neighbours.

Independent of, but concurrent with, the NASA research substantial efforts were made in investigating the impacts of infrasound on human health, particularly in relation to effects such as nausea, headaches and vertigo.

In 1985, a study was published (Nussbaum) that established infrasound as the cause of symptoms including: accelerated heart rate; increased respiration; fatigue; dizziness (vertigo); nausea (motion sickness); and headaches, among other things. The study found that certain people were more greatly affected by infrasound than others (ie more serious symptoms and/or sensations were experienced; or were experienced to a greater degree). These differences in response were, among other things, attributed to physiological differences, including differences in the size of the internal passages of the subjects' ears.

The Wind Industry Cover Up

As the wind industry began to take off in the early 1990s it needed to set noise limits and planning criteria that would not present any obstacle to it in rolling out turbines in quiet rural environments.

The wind industry gathered what became known as the “noise working group” in 1995; a group which then, and thereafter, worked on wind industry noise guidelines.

The result was a document called ETSU-R-97.

That document reads as if the NASA research had never happened as it:

- excludes any reference to low-frequency noise (the source of the problem shown by the NASA research as the cause of the sensations and symptoms suffered);
- excludes the noise descriptors and weightings that were found by the NASA research to be the best predictors of the annoyance caused to neighbours, and the sensations and symptoms suffered;
- relies exclusively on the dB(A) weighting (found to be irrelevant as a consequence of the NASA research);



- assumes that, in all cases, the sound pressure levels inside neighbouring homes are substantially less than what is recorded outside those homes (entirely to the contrary of the findings made in the NASA research);
- excludes testing inside homes for noise of any frequency (let alone low-frequency noise);
- instead, limits noise testing to measurements taken external to homes, using the dB(A) weighting only;
- established methods by which monitoring equipment can be placed in a way that will simply measure environmental noise (eg “wind in the trees”). In the first instance, these “methods” allow for the placement of monitoring equipment in locations where high levels can be recorded prior to the construction of a wind farm (eg, underneath trees or in bushes). Subsequently, noise level criteria can be met by simply shifting the location of the monitoring equipment (eg, placing them in the open away from trees or bushes).

All of the wind industry noise standards or guidelines which have emerged around the world since then can trace their origins to ETSU-R-97 – think of it as the wind industry’s template for deception.

Over the last decade or so, the wind industry has fought tooth and nail to defend these standards or guidelines. It has resisted all attempts or even suggestions that would:

- result in standards which include the measurement of low-frequency noise and infrasound;
- set controls for low-frequency noise and infrasound inside homes;
- require wind farm operators to cooperate with meaningful noise testing by, for example:
 - shutting turbines on and off in order to distinguish between the noise generated by turbines and environmental noise, such as wind in the trees; or
 - providing operational data, such as wind speed and power output data;

Indeed, whenever these topics are raised by authorities or community groups the wind industry becomes defensive; and even aggressive in response.

Along the way, the wind industry continued to press planning authorities for even higher noise limits than were originally set (in the irrelevant dB(A) measure, of course) – that would permit ever larger turbines to be located ever closer to residential homes; planning authorities and Environmental Protection Agencies willingly obliged.

In South Australia – the first state in Australia to introduce wind farm noise guidelines – its EPA was so obliging to the wind industry, that its 2003 guidelines include the entirely fictional assertion that wind turbines do not produce infrasound at all, the guidelines stating:

Infrasound was a characteristic of some wind turbine models that has been attributed to early designs in which turbine blades were downwind of the main tower. The effect was generated as the blades cut through the turbulence generated around the downwind side of the tower.

Modern designs generally have the blades upwind of the tower. Wind conditions around the blades and improved blade design minimise the generation of the effect. The EPA has consulted the working group and completed an extensive literature search but is *not aware of infrasound being present at any modern wind farm site.*

The same fiction appears in the current version of the SA EPA wind farm noise guidelines published in 2009.

The wind industry's efforts to use noise standards to cover up the issue of infrasound, and to obtain ever higher dB(A) noise limits, occurred despite knowing, full well, that low-frequency noise and infrasound was causing harm and distress to wind farm neighbours.

For example, from 2004 onwards, employees and management of Danish turbine manufacturer, Vestas warned that the wind turbine noise guidelines were inadequate in relation to the protection of wind farm neighbours; and, by 2011, knew that greater setback distances were required to avoid problems of *precisely the kind being caused; especially* in relation to the larger 3MW turbines, which were being rolled out by Vestas from 2010 onwards.

All of the above, and more, is laid out in the timeline.

The World Turns Full Circle

Recent work performed by leading acoustic engineers around the world has simply confirmed all of the facts and findings made in the NASA research, which concluded over 27 years ago.

The recent research that confirms the extensive work done by NASA, includes work carried out by:

- Dr Paul Schomer, George Hessler, Rob Rand and Dr Bruce Walker at Shirley, Wisconsin in 2012 (available here);
- Professor Colin Hansen and his team from the Adelaide University at Waterloo in South Australia during 2014 (see our post here); and
- the groundbreaking research conducted by Steven Cooper at Cape Bridgewater in Victoria, also during 2014 (which has been recently published – see our posts here and here).

That work, like the NASA research before it, shows that the noise guidelines written and relied upon by the wind industry are utterly irrelevant when it comes to the question of protecting public health; and the adverse consequences of living with incessant turbine generated low-frequency noise and infrasound.

The aim of the timeline is not just to catalogue the trail of wind industry lies and deception. It is squarely aimed at showing how regulatory authorities have been duped by (or have been complicit with) an industry completely devoid of any desirable moral characteristics; and which is, rather, driven by a callous disregard for human health and well-being.

Wherever you are fighting to bring the wind industry to a halt; to obtain the ability to live in and use your own homes; or to achieve just compensation for the damage and harm caused through government supported wind industry malfeasance, STT simply invites you to use our little timeline to your best advantage.

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Home Wreckers: Finnish Study Finds Wind Turbine Infrasound Unsafe For Residents Living Within 15 Km - 49212.6

February 1, 2019 by stopthesethings 10 Comments



The Finns are renowned for their stoicism, but grinding, pulsing wind turbine noise is too much for any sentient being, even the Finnish.

The evidence proving the unnecessary damage done to wind farm neighbours by the noise generated by giant industrial wind turbines is mounting by the day: Germany's Max Planck Institute has identified sub-audible infrasound as the cause of stress, sleep disruption and more (see our post here); and a Swedish group have shown that it's the pulsing nature of low-frequency wind turbine noise ('amplitude modulation') that is responsible for sleep problems in those forced to live with it (see our post here).

Making a mockery of planning rules that permit giant industrial wind turbines to be splayed within a thousand metres or so of residential dwellings, a Finnish study reckons that the safe setback distance is more like 15,000m.

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Far Out: German Study Finds Pulsing Wind Farm Infrasound 20 Kilometres From Turbines

May 7, 2019 by stopthesethings 12 Comments

(65,616.8)



Overrun by 30,000 or so giant industrial wind turbines, it's no surprises that Germans know all about the misery of wind turbine noise.

A component of the cacophony of low-frequency, amplitude modulated noise generated by these things occurs in frequencies meant to be below what humans can ordinarily hear. But that does not mean that they can't sense what's referred to as 'infrasound'.

The evidence proving the unnecessary damage done to wind farm neighbours by the noise generated by giant industrial wind turbines is mounting by the day: Germany's Max Planck Institute has identified sub-audible infrasound as the cause of stress, sleep disruption and more (see our post here); and a Swedish group have shown that it's the pulsing nature of low-frequency wind turbine noise ('amplitude modulation') that is responsible for sleep problems in those forced to live with it (see our post here).

The Finns have found that that the safe setback distance is more like 15,000m, than the 1,000m or so that risible planning rules permit (see

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our post here).

Following the Finns, a team of German researchers have taken to the field to not only document the unrelenting (and wholly unnecessary) suffering of wind farm neighbours across Germany, but to gather a detailed dataset of precisely what it is that their fellow countrymen are being exposed to. And at distances of over 20km!

Wind turbine infrasound as a weapon

YouTube

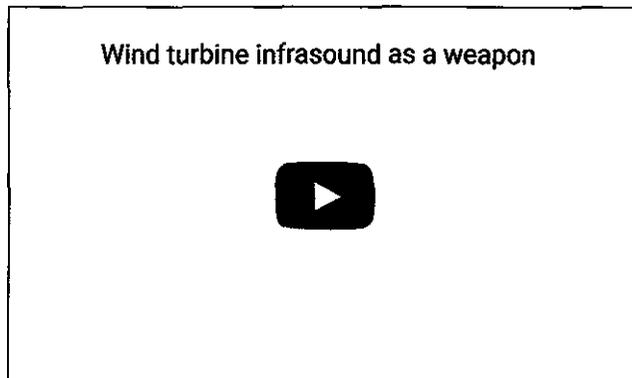
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18 January 2019

Industrial wind turbine infrasound is not the best weapon, but it is a weapon. This German video documents the harmful effects of the infrasound produced by industrial-sized wind turbines.

The dangers of infrasound have been known since the 1980s when the U.S. military heavily invested in infrasound (below 20 Hz) as a weapon. It looked like it had great promise, according to Col. John B. Alexander who was involved in weaponizing it.

The military gave up on infrasound as its effects on people were too random: some potential targets were seriously debilitated; others not so much. This video presents various studies by acoustical engineers and other scientists showing infrasound's affect on the ear, the heart, the brain and other organs.



Transcript

Narrator: Infrasound occurs where large masses are in motion. This happens in nature with avalanches and earthquakes, for instance. But infrasound also arises through technology and industry. It's caused by large machines and blasting. Even wind turbines generate infrasound whenever their blades rotate. In a densely populated country like Germany, where wind farms border on residential areas, many people are robbed of their sleep.

Insa Bock: It's worse when I lie in bed at night. After five or 10 minutes, I feel kind of dizzy. My heart starts to race and I get this massive ringing in my ears. To some extent, I also feel claustrophobic and stressed.

Narrator: Insa Bock and Hermann Oldewurtel live in East Frisia near the town of Esens. Located scarcely 700 metres from their home, is a wind

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Wind Farm Victim's Smoking Gun: German Research Reveals Infrasound Exposure Causes Stress, Sleep Disruption & More

April 30, 2017 by stopthesethings 11 Comments



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Altered cortical and subcortical connectivity due to infrasound administered near the hearing threshold – Evidence from fMRI

Markus Muehlbacher^{1*}, Martin Bauer², Robert Küster³, Johannes Hesse¹, Caroline Garcia Forster¹, Alexander Hübner¹, Bernd Ritzmann¹, Jürgen Gallinat¹, Christian Koch¹, Sabine Köber¹

¹ Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany, ² Psychisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Braunschweig and Berlin, Germany, ³ University Clinic Hamburg Eppendorf, Clinic and Institute for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Hamburg, Germany

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Abstract

In the present study, the brain's response towards near- and supra-threshold infrasound (IS) stimulation (sound frequency < 20 Hz) was investigated under resting-state fMRI conditions. The study involved two consecutive hearings. In the first session, 14 healthy participants underwent a hearing threshold—as well as a cognitive loudness scaling measurement in which the individual loudness perception for IS was assessed across differ-

There are certain common themes that run the world over: neighbours forced to live with incessant wind turbine generated low-frequency noise and infrasound suffer; and the wind industry denies all responsibility, for anything, whether caused in this world or the next.

However, plausible denial on the part of the wind industry is about to become an even scarcer commodity.

No doubt driven by the thousands of Germans suffering from exposure to wind turbine noise emissions, a top-flight team from the Max Planck Institute has been studying the effects of infrasound on human beings for some time now, although those being studied are willing guinea pigs, not like those unfortunates in rural communities where these things have been speared.

Their latest paper was the result of sophisticated research of the kind that the wind industry has sought to prevent for more than 20 years.

We'll hand over to NoTricksZone for a rundown on what will prove to be the wind industry's undoing.

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New German Paper On Infrasound Shows Adverse Impacts On Brain Activity!

No Tricks Zone
Pierre Gosselin
26 April 2017

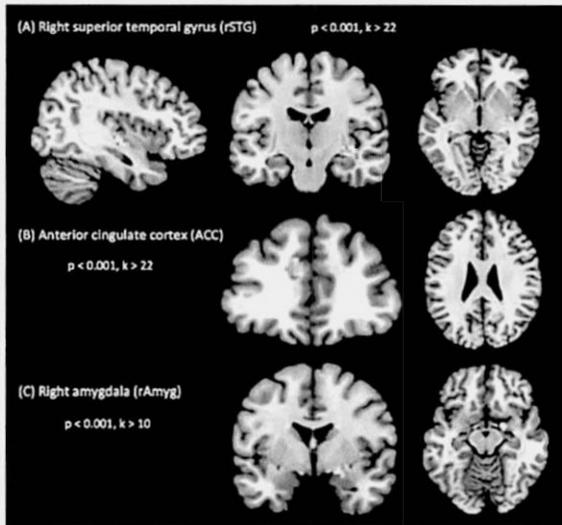
German wind energy protest site windwahn.com here presents a brand new paper showing that infrasound-induced changes in brain activity are visible and proven.

The findings thus suggest that the health impacts by the low-frequency sound waves generated by industrial wind turbines in fact do adversely affect human health, a claim that has often been denied by Big Wind.

Some lobbyists and proponents even went on to say that it was all in people's heads. Well it turns out that this is true, but it's real!

The groundbreaking paper by Markus Weichenberger and scientists at the Charité (Berlin), the PTB (Braunschweig) and the UKE (Hamburg) is comprehensive and was published on April 12, 2017.

The study used advanced brain imaging to compare activity for infrasound near the hearing threshold.



Results of whole-brain contrast regional homogeneity (ReHo) maps acquired during near-threshold vs. no-tone condition.

The paper's conclusion is not what the wind industry and green energy proponents want to hear:

Finally, our results also allow us to draw some preliminary conclusions on potential long-term health effects associated with (sub-)liminal IS stimulation. It has been reported in several studies that sustained exposure to noise can lead to an increase of catecholamine- and cortisol levels. In addition, changes of bodily functions, such as blood pressure, respiration rate, EEG patterns and heart rate have also been documented in the context of exposure to below- and near-threshold IS. We therefore suggest that several of the above mentioned autonomic reactions could in



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fact be mediated by the activation of brain areas such as the ACC and the amygdala. While increased local connectivity in ACC and rAmyg may only reflect an initial bodily stress response towards (sub-)liminal IS, we speculate that stimulation over longer periods of time could exert a profound effect on autonomic functions and may eventually lead to the formation of symptoms such as sleep disturbances, panic attacks or depression, especially when additional risk factors, such as an increased sensibility towards noise, or strong expectations about the harmfulness of IS are present. Also, while in this discussion, we put a strong emphasis on the physiological implications of prolonged IS exposure, it would also be interesting to see, whether our rsfMRI paradigm could be used to relate IS-induced changes of global-brain states and changes in the experiential domain.

To our knowledge, this study is the first to document changes of brain activity across several regions in response to prolonged near-threshold IS using fMRI*. ReHo analysis revealed higher local connectivity of rSTG, ACC and the rAmyg only when IS was administered near the hearing threshold and ICA showed that effects can also be found on the inter-regional level. On the one hand, these results seem to support the hypothesis that (sub-)liminal IS can exert an influence on the organism via a subconscious processing route (which supposedly involves outer hair cell-mediated signal transduction). On the other hand, though clearly audible, prolonged stimulation with IS above the hearing threshold did not lead to changes of brain activity, which could indicate that the signal processed along the conscious hearing route may have been attenuated in a top-down fashion via attentional mechanisms.

Also, since the brain's response to prolonged near-threshold IS involves the activation of brains areas, which are known to play a crucial role in emotional and autonomic control, a potential link between IS-induced changes of brain activity and the emergence of various physiological as well as psychological health effects can be established. Transient upregulation of these brain areas in response to below- or near threshold IS may thus reflect an initial stress response of the body, eventually promoting symptom formation as stimulation occurs repeatedly and additional risk factors come into play. Nevertheless, further research, in particular longitudinal exposure research, is needed in order to substantiate these findings and contribute to a better understanding of IS-related health effects.

Expect the pressure to mount to make wind park setback distances from residential areas greater.

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filed September 3, 2019 • New York

Number Three Wind told to listen to World Health Organization turbine noise standards

| Credit: By Julie Abbass | Sep 3, 2019 | www.nny360.com ---

LOWVILLE – Judges in the state Article 10 approval process for large energy projects made recommendations that would require Invenergy’s Number Three Wind Farm to do better in a number of project areas to secure the coveted Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need before construction can begin.

“The recommended Certificate Conditions... are designed to ensure that the Project’s impacts are minimized and avoided to the maximum extent practicable, that the Project will be constructed and operated in compliance with all applicable State and local environmental and public health and safety laws and regulations,” the document states.

While back-and-forth negotiations throughout the past year resulted in a number of changes and conditions agreed upon by the wind farm and various parties to the process, if the state Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment accepts the recommendations made by Presiding Examiner Maureen F. Leary, administrative law judge for state Public Service, and Associate Examiner Molly T. McBride, administrative law judge of the DEC, Number Three still has significant work to do, especially relating to noise control.

Noise from turbines can be made by mechanical components, a “whooshing” sound in certain weather conditions from acoustic pulsations and the controversial “infrasound,” which is less “heard” and more sensed as a constant due to vibrations and pulses, the document said.

Number Three had disputed the negative impact of the noise on health and referred to it instead as an “annoyance,” setting a 45-decibel limit.

“WHO 2009 and WHO 2018 along with the positions of Department of Public Service staff and Department of Health

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provide the Siting Board with a sufficient basis in the record to reject Number Three Wind's position that wind turbine noise at levels below 46 dBA is not associated with health impacts."

Based on the World Health Organization's findings, the judges recommend a 40-decibel long term limit outdoors, 30 decibels indoors and a short term, eight-hour, outdoor limit of 42 decibels for residents that do not participate in the project and 50 decibels for those that do.

Number Three had not set an indoor limit.

The judges also noted that the wind company arrived at its plan based on faulty information gathering.

In order to verify the results of Number Three's modeling assumptions, the Public Service Department did some modeling of its own.

"The Public Service staff modeling results showed that 34 non-participating receptors [residents] exceed the short-term design goal of 45 dBA with levels as high as 48 dBA... combined with the Maple Ridge and Copenhagen facilities, 68 receptors [residents] exceed that design goal with levels as high as 51 dBA."

As a result, they recommended the Siting Board require Number Three to re-model the noise impact of its project, taking measures at both about 5 feet (1.5 meters) and 13 feet (4 meters) above ground and calculate the cumulative impact of existing turbines from the Copenhagen and Maple Ridge wind farms on residents.

Citing a lack of key details in the Number Three proposed sound monitoring process, the judges advised adding a condition requiring Number Three follow post-construction noise monitoring and complaint procedures recommended by Public Safety based on the precedence of Cassadaga and Baron Winds wind farms that have passed through the Article 10 process.

Judgments were also made on the potential harm the wind project could cause to protected species of protected grassland birds and bats.

Number Three could be expected to file a final Endangered or Threatened Species mitigation plan within two months, including methods to "fully avoid impacts" on the threatened Upland Sandpiper and Northern Harrier grassland bird species,

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or, if it can prove avoiding impact isn't possible, steps it will take to minimize impact and provide value to the species.

The DEC had suggested to avoid impacting the birds, the company should move nine turbines and all infrastructure from the birds' habitat area, create an 820-foot buffer around the occupied habitat during breeding season with no construction from April 23 to Aug. 15.

Recommendations require the company to monitor its impact on any endangered or protected species over the life of the project and make changes to decrease it as necessary, including the number of animals, especially the birds and bats, killed because of the turbines throughout its 30-year duration.

Referencing DEC staff testimony given earlier in the summer, the judges wrote "wind turbines are currently the single greatest known source of mortality for several bat species in North America," and that "post-construction fatality studies in New York State revealed that most turbine-caused fatalities are to migratory tree bats."

The judges recommended the siting board accept the agreement the DEC and Number Three reached in June to institute a "curtailment" program to guard Northern Long Eared Bats, a protected species in the project area.

Under the program, turbines use will be limited when wind speeds are below a certain point between July 1 and Oct. 1, beginning 30 minutes before sunset and continuing until 30 minutes after sunrise when temperatures are greater than 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Although flicker, or the shadows, cast by the turning turbine blades in the right conditions, has been often cited by the grassroots Tug Hill Alliance for Rural Preservation and other county residents as an issue, the judges did not recommend the 30-minutes per day limit on operations causing flicker.

Instead, they followed the precedent set by the Baron Winds project requiring Number Three to either temporarily "curtail" wind turbine operation in response to complaints to keep flicker under the 30-hour annual limit or "to provide physical mitigation measures."

Among previously agreed upon certificate conditions minimizing the project's visual impact, Number Three had disputed being required to use or consider installing the Aircraft Lighting Detection System, subject to FAA approval,

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which would turn the red lights on based on radar detection of aircraft.

The judges, however, agreed that it would be an important tool to decrease the visual impact of the project at night and should be examined.

With regard to removing the wind farm, or “decommissioning” it, after it has run its course, the judges found Number Three’s plan to be insufficient and recommended a number of conditions before certificate approval.

In the revised plan, Number Three would estimate the cost to remove all wind farm components and restore access roads without including income from salvaging or re-selling the materials and provide an irrevocable letter of credit to cover the total costs.

Every five years, those amounts will be reconsidered and the letter updated, if the recommendations are followed.

Turbines that have not been working for over a year should be removed by the company automatically, the judges said.

Issues including invasive species, plants and forests, wildlife excepting birds and bats, ice throw, turbine collapse, electric and magnetic fields and compliance with state energy policies were among those that were judged to have been sufficiently addressed by Number Three and various experts via documentation or testimony already provided.

Certificate conditions, in some of these cases, were already agreed upon after previous proceedings.

The 254-page document was filed online Aug. 22, on the state Department of Public Service’s site dedicated to the project.

Recommendations for 138 certificate conditions and 32 additional documentation packages verifying the completion of those conditions clarify steps the wind company must take if the siting board follows the judges’ advice.

In July, the siting board chairman informed Number Three that the extensive changes to the project amounted to a revision. A 45-day extension to the pre-set 12 month timeframe to the Article 10 process that would have ended in September was put in place and the company was required to submit \$75,000 in additional intervenor funding.

reason not to do it is political inertia and the influence of the existing fossil-fuel industry,” one said.

And yet grassroots opposition to solar and wind farms is growing and has nothing to do with fossil fuel interests, climate skepticism, or bureaucratic inertia. Indeed, most of it is motivated by concerns over the impact of renewables on the natural environment and quality-of-life.

 The largest county in California, San Bernardino, last week banned the building of any more large solar and wind farms over the opposition of renewable energy lobbyists and labor unions. They did so on behalf of conservationists and locals seeking to protect fragile desert ecosystems.

 In January, policymakers in Spotsylvania, Virginia voted to block the building of a solar farm, which would be the largest in America east of the Rocky Mountains, after local residents organized themselves in opposition out of concern over the impact on the environment, property values, and electricity prices.

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And in the midwest, it is birders and conservationists, not climate skeptics and fossil fuel interests, who are organizing to block a massive new wind farm proposed for Lake Erie, a biodiversity hotspot for migratory birds and bats.

It's not the first time scientists and conservationists have opposed renewables. Over the last decade, both groups have turned against two of the largest sources of renewable energies: biofuels, including corn ethanol, and biomass. Both had been long touted, like solar and wind, as climate solutions.

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With Ethanol And Biomass No Longer Viewed As 'Green,' Will Other Renewables Soon Follow?



Michael Shellenberger Contributor ⓘ

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Environmentalists who oppose biofuels & biomass imagine solar & wind farms are fundamentally different even though they suffer from the same low energy density problem. SHUTTERSTOCK

Over the last 10 years, the cost of solar panels and wind turbines declined so significantly, and were scaled-up so quickly, that many people came to believe that a transition to renewables, as proposed by advocates of a Green New Deal, was all but inevitable.

We already have all the technologies we need to transition to 100% renewables, leading scientists and scholars told *The New Yorker's* John Cassidy. "The only



Kansas bill setting minimum setbacks for commercial wind turbines to have hearing next week

By **John Green**

Posted Feb 14, 2019 at 8:02 PM

Updated Feb 14, 2019 at 8:02 PM

Legislation that would set minimum setbacks for commercial wind turbines in Kansas at 1 ½ miles from residential homes is scheduled to be heard by a House committee next week.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments on the bill, however, must notify officials by 9 a.m. Friday.

HB 2273, dubbed the Wind Generation Permit and Property Protection Act, was introduced by Rep. Randy Garber, R-Sabetha, on Tuesday and referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications.

That committee, chaired by Joe Siewert, R-Pretty Prairie, will take testimony on the bill starting 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The Climate and Energy Project sent out an email alert about the bill Thursday afternoon, calling the proposed setbacks “prohibitive,” and the bill “a thinly veiled attempt to stop wind development in Kansas.”

The bill sets out minimum setbacks of “not less than” 12 times system height – which is the total height of a wind turbine measured with a blade in a vertical position – or 7,920 feet, whichever is greater, from any residential property or public building.”

It also proposes a setback of 20 times the system height or 3 miles, whichever is greater, from any airport or local, state or federal wildlife refuge, public hunting area or public park.

The proposal also includes a minimum 1,500-foot setback from any property line.

Developers can get a waiver on any of the setback distances if a landowner grants it in writing.

The bill also requires that the turbines be equipped “with navigational lights that are activated by infrared or other radar technology used to detect nearby aircraft” unless the local board of county commissioners, by resolution, modifies the requirement.

The proposed law would take effect upon its publication in the state statute book.

Anyone wishing to submit written testimony must contact committee assistant Patricia Kready (patricia.kready@house.ks.gov) by 9 a.m. On the day of the hearing, 50 copies of any testimony must be provided.

The hearing is set for Room 281-N at the State Capitol, on Eighth Avenue between Harrison and Van Buren streets.

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Zoning board votes against DeWitt County wind farm

Credit: Kevin Barlow | Herald & Review | herald-review.com ---

CLINTON – Opponents of a proposed DeWitt County wind farm scored a major victory Tuesday night before the Zoning Board of Appeals. After 35 hours of testimony from more than 100 witnesses in seven previous meetings, the ZBA voted 5-1 to forward Tradewind Energy’s special-use permit to the full County Board with a negative recommendation.

Members expressed concerns about public safety risks with weather radar interference, shadow flicker for non-participating residents and potential water drainage issues.

The County Board will consider the special-use permit later this spring, but the permit will be accompanied by the ZBA’s decision and an earlier negative recommendation from the county Regional Planning Commission.

“We are thrilled with the vote,” said Andrea Rhoades, who owns property in the footprint of the proposed project. “They listened to their constituents and their concerns related to this project. We would hope the County Board hears how the ZBA considered this and takes that into account when they make their decision.”

About 200 people attended the Tuesday night meeting at the Clinton High School, including representatives from the developer.

“This is a step along the way,” said project developer Tom Swierczewski. “We certainly appreciate the zoning board’s effort here because there were a lot of meetings to go through. But we look forward to making our case before the full County Board.

“Every project we do is a little better than the one before it, and we appreciate all of the public input, whether it be positive, negative or otherwise because the project will be that much better as a result.”

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If the board gives approval for the special-use permit, Lenexa-Kan.-based Tradewind Energy would construct the \$300 million Alta Farms II project in Barnett, Wapella and Clintonia townships in DeWitt County. The project is planned to include 67 individual wind turbines, which could extend up to 591 feet in total tower height, over 12,202 acres.

Ground could be broken this year and officials hope to have the wind farm online by 2020. But ZBA members said they had too many questions about the proposed project to give it a favorable recommendation.

"I am worried about endangering the public health," said ZBA Chairman Andy Hedrick. "I received a letter this week from the superintendent of schools in Armstrong and he said that the kids in his schools have headaches and get sick because of the shadow flicker."

Board member Mark Sterr said he was concerned about the public's safety if bad weather threatens the area, after hearing testimony from Donald Waddell. He testified last month that the towers could affect radar of the National Weather Service in Lincoln and tornadoes could go undetected.

"That is a definite risk to public safety," Sterr said.

Board member Dave Waters said he would like to see more guarantees about potential shadow flicker on non-participating homes.

"There should never be any flicker on any of those homes," he said.

Board member Sarah Owens also said that the wind farm could hurt farmers in the future as well.

"They may not be able to add any more barns on their property because they would be too close to a tower," she said. "No more barns and no more animals. We need to think about that."

Only one member, John Griffin, expressed support for the project Tuesday.

"I have a home just outside the footprint of the wind farm and I don't think it will affect my property values or the enjoyment of our grandchildren to come and enjoy our property," he said. "We haven't heard any opposition to harvesting wind energy. It's just they want it done someplace else. We changed the rules and

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some have asked for more changes to the rules. But all the rules have been complied with as I see it.”

The County Board is expected to consider the permit at its April meeting.

Source: Kevin Barlow | Herald & Review | herald-review.com

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filed: March 15, 2019 • Scotland

Council confirms windfarm objection

| Credit: Mearns Leader | Thursday 14 March 2019 | www.mearnsleader.co.uk ---

A proposed windfarm on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park would make "a landscape of wind turbines, not a landscape with turbines".

It was the view of Councillor Peter Argyle as he chaired a meeting of Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) which has agreed to lodge a formal objection to windfarm proposals with the Scottish Government.

Coriolis Energy wants to create the 26-turbine network on the Fasque and Glendye Estates, north of Edzell.

Each turbine would have a maximum height of 149.9m to blade tip – and capable of producing around 4MW.

In addition to the formal objection it now faces from the local authority, the development has been subject to a raft of objections including those from the Ministry of Defence, SEPA, RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage and The John Muir Trust who have all raised concerns along with three local community councils.

In a report to the ISC, councillors were recommended to object on several grounds including the fact that the proposed development would have a significant impact on a protected area which has a "sensitive landscape, high visual prominence, high wilderness and recreational value".

Officers – who were praised by councillors for their "complete and reasoned report" – advised that the applicants had not demonstrated that the proposals would not have a "detrimental impact upon aircraft and aviation".

They said it had not been demonstrated that the application of a 'blanking' area over the turbines detected by radar would be effective in removing the significant effects.

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The objection will also be made on the grounds that an environmental impact assessment report has “underestimated” the potential landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development “which is considered to be incongruous and inappropriate for this setting” from popular hillwalking routes and viewpoints.

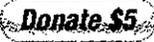
Councillors were unanimous in their objection to the proposals, with Councillor Argyle stating he had never seen such a “robust, detailed and comprehensive” objection to any development.

Lying within a special landscape area which offers some of the best views and most outstanding scenery in the Shire, Councillor Argyle said there was “no capacity for a windfarm of this scale” and no material considerations which outweighed the authority’s planning policies.

Source: Mearns Leader | Thursday 14 March 2019 | www.mearnsleader.co.uk

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Public Hearing on Madison County Wind Turbine Moratorium Scheduled

POSTED 6:47 PM, AUGUST 27, 2019, BY LAURA BARCZEWSKI, UPDATED AT 06:48PM, AUGUST 27, 2019



Public Hearing on Madison County Wind Turbine Moratorium Scheduled



WINTERSET, Iowa -- On Tuesday, the Madison County Board of Supervisors set a date for a public hearing regarding a possible moratorium on new wind turbine projects in the county.

This all comes after the Madison County Board of Health made a recommendation to the board of supervisors to establish an ordinance requiring new wind turbines to be built 1.5 miles away from any home because they believe there are negative health effects caused by turbines.

MidAmerican and other county residents disputed that claim at the supervisors meeting on Tuesday, saying they believe the opposite.

“Look at the scientifically researched, peer reviewed studies. In the conclusion of those, there are no negative health effects from wind turbines,” said Adam Jablonski with MidAmerican.

Some Madison County residents are backing up the board of health. A local cardiologist is not convinced turbines are safe.

"I am disturbed by the lack of due diligence of proving the fact that these are safe for exposure to me. They have never been shown to be safe. Even wind energy's own consultants have confirmed that with me as well," Dr. W. Ben Johnson said.

One resident said she believes one of the studies MidAmerican cited titled, "Wind and Health," may have been influenced by lobbyists.

"The heavy influence of these pro-wind lobby groups is very evident here, and furthermore, not one of those authors has medical training. So our question is going to be why are they allowed to speak with any authority to the resolution that the Madison County Board of Health made in the interest of its own residents," Rachael Terhaar said.

MidAmerican and other residents stand by studies that say wind turbines are safe.

"The Madison County Board of Health recommended a very extreme setback of 1.5 miles and the basis for that was a World Health Organization European Report, which does not make any such recommendation. So what that would effectively do is eliminate any future wind projects if the county implemented an ordinance at 1.5 miles," Jablonski said.

The public hearing on the possible wind turbine moratorium in Madison County is now scheduled for Sept. 10 at 10 a.m.

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Angry residents send German wind industry spinning

By Daphne ROUSSEAU
Berlin (AFP) Sept 5, 2019

Wind power is a key pillar in Germany's ambitious renewables transition plan, but the sector has struck strong resistance, forcing the Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to open talks on the crisis on Thursday.

After years of breakneck growth in capacity and uptake that has seen wind power delivering a fifth of Germany's total energy production, vocal "not-in-my-backyard" opposition by residents and a lack of government support have seen investments shrink in the sector.

More than 600 citizen initiatives have sprung up against the giant installations, with a district called Saale-Orla even offering 2,000 euros to anyone taking action to get expert opinions opposing wind farms.

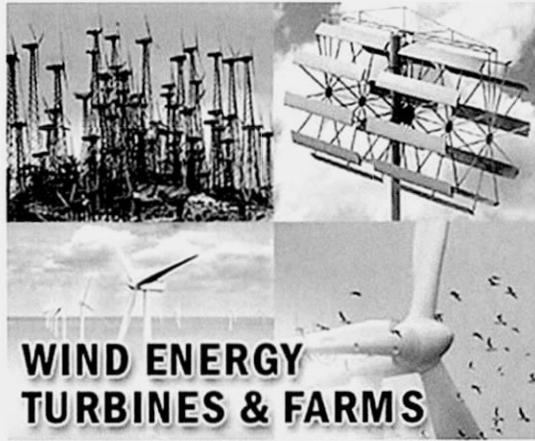
The far-right AfD party, branding itself as the climate-sceptic outfit, had seized on the topic during state elections in Brandenburg, saying it stands by residents steamrolled by wind energy corporations.

Against the backdrop of bitter division, expansion in Germany's wind power production capacity plunged in 2018 to half that in 2017 as companies struggled to obtain permission to build.

And only a few dozen new turbines were installed since the beginning of this year, down 82 percent from a year ago, said Germany's Wind Energy Association (BWE).

And repeatedly every quarter, official tenders for electricity production have returned undersubscribed -- a "worrying" trend, said the Federal Network Agency.

"With regard to the expansion of onshore wind power, Germany has moved from the fast to the breakdown lane," said Achim Derck, president of the German Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK).



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For BWE president Hermann Albers, the implication is clear -- "this development calls into question the success of Germany's energy transition."

- Ending subsidies -

Market players said the tipping point came in 2016 when Germany amended its Renewable Energy Act.

After almost two decades of providing subsidies to prop up the nascent sector, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government decided that the industry was now sufficiently mature and began withdrawing support.

With obtaining building permits often taking years thanks to stubborn local opposition, projects took even longer to recoup costs, also shifting the calculation by firms whether to invest.

In the months following the 2016 amendment, the wind power sector shed 26,000 jobs in Germany, more than in the dwindling coal industry, according to figures provided by the Bundestag, Germany's lower parliament.

"We have sounded the alarm, but why the German government has chosen to go down this path remains a mystery to this day," said BWE head Albers, who feels that Berlin had put too much "emphasis on costs" in the transition to green energy.

- 'Tip of the iceberg' -

But the crisis in the sector has now shot back up to the top of the political agenda as youths took on the climate emergency with their vocal Fridays for Future protests.

In order to meet the government's target of sourcing 65 percent of Germany's energy from renewables by 2030, the proportion of wind power will have to grow from around 20 percent currently to replace coal, which still makes up close to a quarter of the mix.

Ahead of a broader government announcement on September 20 on its climate strategy, Economy Minister Peter Altmaier (CDU) will host crisis talks on Thursday in Berlin with key players in the wind energy sector.

With 5,000 first generation wind turbines also up for renovation, the stakes are high.

For some however, the political attention has come too late.

"We've been asking for help for months. I don't think the government understands that it is destroying an economic ecosystem that is a source of cutting-edge engineering and innovation, that has taken time to create and has made Germany famous," Yves Rannou, head of the German wind turbine manufacturer Servion, told AFP.

The company said last week that it is closing down, as its German revenues, which once represented 60 percent of its revenues, have shrunk to just 20 percent.

"We are only the tip of the iceberg, the first to get down on our knees, but not the last," Rannou warned.

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