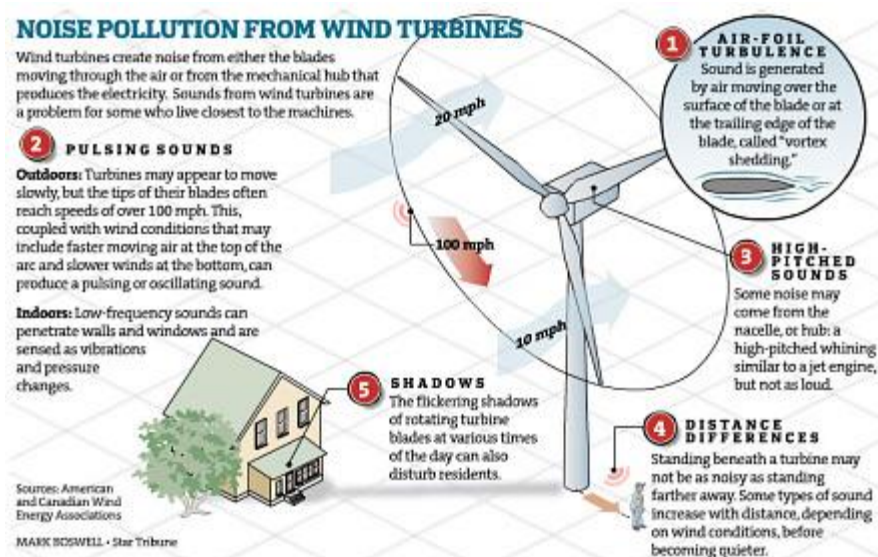


DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN: Canadian Council of Academies (CCA) turbines and health effects study's deficiencies mirror image of recent Health Canada wind turbine and health studies.

Sherri Lange



- *"It is finally clear that noise is a significant hazard to public health. Truly, noise is more than just an annoyance." (From Dr. Arline Bronzaft's [1978 pamphlet: "Noise: A Health Problem."](#))*
 - *"Neighbors are far better acoustic analyzers for determining the quality of their lives versus any acoustic instrument left unattended by an expert." (Stephen Ambrose, Environmental Sound and Industrial Noise expert.)*
 - *"Is noise the most neglected green issue of our age?" (Bronzaft in promotional material for book [Why Noise Matters: A Worldwide Perspective](#))*
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With a repetitive pattern now, study after study, and review after review from Canada and beyond, repeats the messages of inconclusive negative health effects, and more testing required, with one admission: that proximity to wind turbines causes “annoyance. *Please note that we have had **this** acknowledgement since 1978.*

We have also had the [benchmark of denial](#) from the North American wind industry: AWEA and CanWEA in 2009 commissioned a scientific advisory panel to review the current literature on the issue of “perceived” health effects. Reporting directly to the wind energy industry itself, the result was palpably expected:

“There is no evidence that the audible or sub-audible sounds emitted by wind turbines have any direct adverse physiological effects.”

They also say, “The ground-borne vibrations from wind turbines are too weak to be detected by, or to affect, humans.””

Place this 2009 industry led study and the recent (2014 and 2015) generally [assessed as substandard study by Health Canada](#) and now bookended by the [Canadian Council of Academies](#), and you will readily note the similarities. The subtext of each study “story” is “annoyance,” and perception of victims predisposed to annoyance and therefore, effects. Both studies say that wind turbines do not directly cause tinnitus, chest pressure, dizziness, or sleep disorders, hearing loss: those are to be studied.

What we have known for more than 30 years

Noise as a pollutant is not news: it has been pointed to, notably by Arline Bronzaft, as “hazardous for some years.” [A hazardous pollutant.](#) (Dr. Bronzaft is an environmental psychologist, sometimes referred to as the “noise curmudgeon,” and often called on as an expert witness in noise and environmental/physiological impacts.)

In her research that has far reaching implications for the wind industry, Bronzaft points out that *“noise does not have to be loud to be harmful. A dripping faucet, a neighbor's blaring television set, an overhead jet—all may cause stress to the body's system. If sustained over time, this stress may lead to physical ailments.”*

The history of denial of wind victims' medical histories and additional dismissal by fallacious or unclear, or badly constructed “studies,” is now ubiquitous.

Writes a victim in WI:

“I sure wish someone would have told our commissioners the truth as to the effects of living 1000' from these beasts. Which is exactly what we live with every day. I have to medicate myself just to sleep in my own bed, yet can sleep like the dead when I'm out of the footprint of Wisconsin's (Blue sky-Green field)

Stephen Ambrose, Environmental Sound and Industrial Noise expert has analysed the CCA turbine and health study/review failings. The entire document follows and is [here](#). He also notes that “Respect for academic credentials are earned through years of education, independent research, publications, and peer recognition. Expertise is achieved through apprenticeship, independent study, experience and peer recognition. *Yet, why are neighbors' life experiences, our first-person witnesses to harm considered to have less value, thereby less respect. The mission for scientific research is to reveal truths.*”

His analysis of the gaps is worth reading:

CCA chose (to) not review “A Cooperative Measurement Survey and Analysis of Low Frequency and Infrasound at the Shirley Wind Farm in Brown County, Wisconsin”. This study was performed by five professional noise control engineers in an abandoned residence near wind turbines. An acoustic expert recently published a study with extensive infrasound measurements at three adversely

impacted homes near the Cape Bridgewater (Victoria, Australia) wind turbines. The CCA study could only identify annoyance to be true. CCA dismissed all adverse health impacts by asserting that conflicting reports were limited or inadequate. CCA did not present evidence that they interviewed adversely impacted neighbors. CCA did not recognize significance differences between non-wind turbine urban communities and rural environments where most of the wind turbines are located. This report presents another lost opportunity for public health professionals to receive funding to do first-person research and gather evidence by living with wind turbines. The CCA continues to rehash selected studies to benefit wind turbine development, and appears to set aside wind turbine complaints as only a nuisance for public health officials. Dismissing white papers as 'grey' and neighbors documentation for harm, just adds to the number of wind turbine victims. Expert panels lose credibility by citing earlier flawed governmental studies. CCA did not review the decision by the Brown County Board of Health (Wisconsin, USA), which found the Shirley Wind Turbine Project to be a public health nuisance. Public health studies should not appear to be performed with blind eyes and deaf ears.

Dr Bronzaft similarly questions: "Why is it not possible to include the real voices of persons affected, and why is that not inclusive of a meaningful study model?"

Ambrose concludes that the study is vastly imperfect, and presenting evidence based on conflicting reports, limited and inadequate, or missing completely, virtually rendering the real time complaints of victims, mute. Says Ambrose: *"This report presents another lost opportunity for public health professionals to receive funding to do first-person research and gather evidence by living with wind turbines."*

Wind victims assert that the CCA assessment only affirms their mistrust with health studies by a government helping to fund the wind industry. It is clear that the "status quo," as noted by Ambrose, continues to be the gold standard for health and turbine studies in Canada.

An Additional Note on "Annoyance" and ILFN

Bronzaft, commented to [NA-PAW](#) (North American Platform Against Wind Power) that she prefers the word, “harm” to “annoyance,” which term whether or not it has “medical coin,” most agree is trivializing. Dr. Bronzaft points out, “When a noise continues to be intrusive and “annoying, it can lead to stress and sustained stress diminishes quality of life and, in time, can result in physiological damage, e.g. cardiovascular disorders. Studies on other sources of noise, e.g. aircraft, rail, highway have demonstrated clearly that noise is indeed a health hazard.”

From the U.S. [EPA 1978 pamphlet "Noise: A Health Problem."](#) *"It is finally clear that noise is a significant hazard to public health. Truly, noise is more than just an annoyance."*

"Racket, din, clamor, noise. Whatever you want to call it, unwanted sound is America's most widespread nuisance. But noise is more than just a nuisance. It constitutes a real and present danger to people's health." ([Arline Bronzaft pamphlet on noise, 1978](#)) [Add to this, all turbines produce ILFN](#) (Infra and Low Frequency Noise), and that ILFN has been shown clearly to have a direct path to ‘sensation’ and negative physical effects: [see Stephen Cooper's ground-breaking study from AU](#), another notable absence from the CCA review.

Additionally, the egregious omission from CCA report of the [Shirley Wisconsin Board of Health decision, that wind turbines near residents constitute a clear “public health hazard,”](#) puts a hole in its credibility the size of a tank. You can drive right through it.

The Shirley WI Board of Health investigation was paid for by the [WI Public Service Commission \(PSC\)](#). While taking testimony from victims from an existing Wind Farm, Shirley (Wis.) Wind Farm, to the end of producing another nearby “ Highland Wind Farm,” testimony was obtained showing that victims of the Duke Energy project had to abandon their homes due to ILFN from nearby turbines.

[The four investigating firms](#) mostly employed by the wind proponents, **only one of which** had a modicum of work from the industry (Rand), who mostly works on behalf of opponents, concluded:

“(We) are of the opinion that enough evidence and hypotheses have been given herein to classify LFN [low frequency noise] and infrasound as a serious issue, possibly affecting the future of the industry. It should be addressed beyond the present practice of showing that wind turbine levels are magnitudes below the threshold of hearing at low frequencies.”

Reports such as the CCA's with obvious gaping holes, only serve to additionally harm victims. [ILFN \(Infra and Low Frequency Noise\)](#) audible noise and vibration and shadow flicker have now affected thousands of individuals, possibly tens of thousands. The compendium of complaints is the same. The use of the term “annoyance,” most now agree, should be immediately eliminated from the lexicon. So while CCA generously agrees on the fact of “annoyance” and wind turbines, it ignobly ignores the “harm” and physiological impacts that are already documented in widespread areas of the globe. This is like saying that cigarettes may make your clothing smell, but additional proof is needed to show they harm your lungs.

The proof is in for both antagonists. As Mr. Ambrose clearly outlines: “The CCA supports the status quo for wind turbines.”

We would call it a credibility gap on steroids.

Resources:

<http://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/2013/abandoned-homes-near-wind-turbines-discovered-to-be-saturated-with-infrasound-wisconsin/>

<http://www.noiseandhealth.org/article.asp?issn=1463-1741%3Byear=2000%3Bvolume=2%3Bissue=6%3Bspage=1%3Bepage=8%3Baulast=Bronzaft>

Bronzaft AL. Noise : Combating a ubiquitous and hazardous pollutant. Noise Health [serial online] 2000 [cited 2015 Apr 28];2:1-8.

<http://www.noiseandhealth.org/text.asp?2000/2/6/1/31738>

<http://www.canadianconsultingengineer.com/energy/scientists-report-on-wind-turbine-effects/1000353385/>

www.canwea.ca/wind-energy/talkingaboutwind_e.php

<https://thenoiseandhealth.wordpress.com/2014/03/02/arline-bronzaft/>

<http://torontowindaction.com/just-in/steven-ambrose-the-expert-panel-on-wind-turbine-noise-and-human-health>

<https://www.wind-watch.org/documents/nina-pierpont-interviews-acoustician-stephen-ambrose/>

<http://waubrafoundation.org.au/resources/krogh-c-letter-health-canada-pamphlet-preliminary-results-march-6-2015/>

<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/2014/01/06/wind-turbine-noise-complaint-predictions-made-easy/>

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments%20and%20publications%20and%20news%20releases/wind-turbine-noise/WindTurbineNoiseExecSumEn.pdf>

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments%20and%20publications%20and%20news%20releases/wind-turbine-noise/WindTurbineNoiseNewsReleaseEn.pdf>

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments%20and%20publications%20and%20news%20releases/wind-turbine-noise/WindTurbineNoiseFullReportEn.pdf>

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments%20and%20publications%20and%20news%20releases/wind-turbine-noise/WindTurbineNoiseAppendixEn.pdf>

<http://stopthesethings.com/2015/01/23/steven-coopers-cape-bridgewater-wind-farm-study-the-beginning-of-the-end-for-the-wind-industry/>

<http://www.turn180.ie/2013/03/23/can-wind-turbines-cause-developmental-deformities-in-horses/>

<http://www.eastcountymagazine.org/mink-miscarriages-birth-defects-and-stillbirths-heighten-concerns-over-wind-turbines>

<http://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/wind-turbine-syndrome/what-is-wind-turbine-syndrome/>

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/10/16/duke-energys-shirley-wind-turbines-declared-a-human-health-hazard/>

<http://oto2.wustl.edu/cochlea/wind.html>

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781849712576/>

<http://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/2010/wind-turbines-infrasound-and-health-effects/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/windpower/9653429/Wind-farm-noise-does-harm-sleep-and-health-say-scientists.html>

<http://oto2.wustl.edu/cochlea/wt1.html>

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