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Turbines create ill health: study

POWER PROJECT: Doctor says nearby residents experience headaches, heart palpitations

Posted By DAVID NESSETH

Posted 7 days ago

As ProWind Canada continues development of its wind turbine project in Dundas County, the company is also defending its technology against links to illness.

Dr. Robert McMurtry, a former dean of medicine at the University of Western Ontario, wants the province to conduct more studies into the health effects of wind turbines after he recently finished a study that found 53 of 76 residents living near wind turbines in Ripley, Ont., experienced headaches, stress and depression, or heart palpitations and hearing problems.

But Kemptville-based ProWind cautions that any accounts of illness linked to the green technology should be taken in context.

"If there's a pre-existing scenario - and I was asked if there was a causal link, I would say 'yes', and that answer would be misleading," said Bart Geleynse, managing director of ProWind Canada.

ProWind is currently looking at developing five local wind turbines that could generate a total of 10 megawatts of power. The project is in the environmental assessment stage and zoning amendments are in the works, but ground could break on the project within 12 months, Geleynse said.

Ripley-area resident Glen Wylds said he had to buy another house in Kincardine and is now maintaining two properties because wind turbines have made his original home unsellable.

He claims the wind turbines led to sore eyes, itching, ear problems, heart pounding, high blood pressure and irritability, all of which disappear within hours of leaving the area.

Geleynse is empathetic, but skeptical to the health claims. He said wind turbines are made of metal and concrete with few differences from a standard household appliance, except for their sheer size, which often approach 100 metres. He said their design and placement are now strictly regulated by the provincial government.

ProWind has faced opposition to its wind farms in the area of Woodstock, Ont., which Geleynse attributes to misinformation about the turbines.

"It may be that (residents) feel outside the community and uninformed about what's happening, or not getting paid for the turbines like others," Geleynse said.

Geleynse said he'd be interested to see a health study of the farmers who are getting paid to have wind turbines on their properties. McMurtry said wind industry players seem unwilling to look at the possibility that their farms could have harmful effects, and are often more interested in appearing innovative.

Health Minister David Caplan says he hasn't yet seen any medical evidence that supports health concerns linked to wind farms, but will look at any new studies.

(With CP/Sun Media files)

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These wind salesmen are the snake-oil cons of the 21st century. There are NO peer reviewed studies that say there are no health effects yet the wind companies and CanWEA keep saying this hoping the public will buy it and move on. To say that these people have abandoned their home and are living in motels because they are "jealous" they didn't get turbines themselves is not only ludicrous, it is insulting and shows a complete lack of understanding of the issue. David Caplan should not wait for the public/other countries/provinces to hand him studies that he might "look at"....he should be initiating a study himself!

Lots of good information here: <http://windconcernsontario.wordpress.com/>

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Post #1 By mama7592, 7 days ago | 0 Votes | Vote: [thumbs up] [thumbs down]

I don't understand. What causes the symptoms? Is it the sight of something spinning all day? I don't know, I don't get it. That's all it is... something spinning! People live right next to power lines and they're just fine. So what's

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different here ? Personaly I find wind turbines beautiful.

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Post #2 By [G Force](#), 7 days ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Doing anything causes ill health/cancer: study

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Post #3 By [oxford3](#), 7 days ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



These gigantic wind turbines have such long blades that their passage at right-angles through the wind curving around the towers' support columns produces very low (long) frequency pressure waves which are below the audible range. These low frequency pressure waves travel for great distances and impact biological and neurological systems, producing a wide range of health problems.

Unfortunately, the wind industry has benefited from governments' past practice of only addressing those pressure waves that are audible. This has resulted in the incorrect belief that "what you can't hear can't hurt you". It is only in the past few years that the phenomenon and the health impacts have come to light. The resistance by governments to recognize these negative aspects of giant wind turbines has resulted from them having already committed themselves to "wind power" policy without having conducted any in-depth impartial testing of either the turbines' health impacts or the practicality of maintaining power grid levels.

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Post #4 By [BarryB](#), 6 days ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Thanks Barry. I understand much better now. Any idea how far those waves can travel ? Does it affect only the humans ?

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Post #5 By [G Force](#), 6 days ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



These low frequency pressure waves can apparently travel much further than audible frequency pressure waves. Some experts are recommending minimum setbacks for wind turbines of two kilometers (or more) from residential properties. There are accounts of dogs barking hour after hour for no "audible" reason and of horses becoming disturbed for hours on end. Numerous wind farms are on record as having killed great numbers of bats, not by impact, but rather by rupture of their tiny lungs due to the extreme air pressure variants caused by the low frequency pressure waves. There have also been accounts of wildlife vacating the vicinities of wind turbines. In addition, an increasing number of families living close to giant wind turbines have also opted to vacate their homes in order to regain their health. If you wish to do more reading to get up to speed on the situation, I refer you to the following websites ... <http://www.wind-watch.org> <http://www.windaction.org> <http://www.windturbinesyndrome.com>

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Post #6 By [BarryB](#), 6 days ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**



Could they just make smaller turbines ? Would that be worth the expense or there would still be those waves.

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Post #7 By [G Force](#), 5 days ago | 0 Votes | **Vote:**

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