

Peer-Reviewed Study Shatters Claims That Wind Turbines Are “Safe”

Published on January 26, 2015

Written by Mark Duchamp, The World Council for Nature

Link found between infrasound emitted by wind turbines and complaints of “unbearable sensations” by

residents. In a groundbreaking study at Pacific Hydro’s Cape Bridgewater windfarm in the state of Victoria, Australia’s leading acoustical engineer Steven Cooper found that **a unique infrasound pattern**, which he had labelled “**Wind Turbine Signature**” in previous studies, correlates (through a “trend line”) with the occurrence and severity of symptoms of residents who had complained of **often-unbearable “sensations”**.

These include sleep disturbance, headaches, heart racing, pressure in the head, ears or chest, etc. as described by the residents (symptoms generally known as **Wind Turbine Syndrome (WTS)**, or the euphemism “**noise annoyance**” – ed). (1)

The acoustician also identified “discrete low frequency amplitude modulated signals” emitted by wind turbines, and found the windfarm victims were also reacting to those.

The Wind Turbine Signature cannot be detected using traditional measuring indexes such as dB(A) or dB(C) and 1/3 Octave bands, concludes his study. **Narrowband analysis** must be used instead, with results expressed in dB(WTS).

He suggests medical studies be conducted using infrasound measurements in dB(WTS) in order to determine the threshold of what is unacceptable in terms of sound pressure level.

The findings are consistent with the official **Kelley studies** published in the US more than 30 years ago, which showed that infrasound emitted by early, downwind turbines caused sleep disturbance and other WTS symptoms (2). **These studies were shelved**, upwind turbines were designed, and the regulatory authorities simply trusted the wind industry’s assertion that the new models did not emit dangerous infrasound. **The Cooper study now proves they were wrong.**

Another conclusion of his study is that the Danish method used for measuring low-frequency “noise annoyance” near wind farms is inadequate. So are the wind turbine noise standards applied to wind farms in Victoria, Australia and New Zealand, known as New Zealand Standard 6808. **Just as inadequate are all other standards regulating “annoyance” near wind farms around the world.** They simply don’t take infrasound into account.

The Waubra Foundation, Dr Sarah Laurie, Dr Nina Pierpont, Dr Robert McMurtry, Ms Carmen Krogh, Dr Michael Nissenbaum, Dr Chris Hanning, Dr Jay Tibbetts, Dr Sandy Reider, Dr David Iser, Dr Amanda Harry and scores of other medical practitioners and researchers from around the world **are vindicated by this benchmark study**, as are

the residents reporting WTS symptoms themselves, many of whom have had to regularly or permanently abandon their homes.

Regarding the future, Steven Cooper recommends that further studies be conducted in order to establish “**a threshold to protect against adverse impacts.**” (1)

He also writes: “the vibration surges described by some residents as disturbance during the shutdown could be attributed to wind gusts exciting resonances of the blades/towers and requires further investigation“. (1)

This is a turning point. **The wind industry can no longer claim that their machines do not emit enough infrasound to affect residents**, nor that health professionals publicising the problems and calling for further research are causing the suffering, nor that wind farm victims are causing their own woes (the often-used argument that “it’s all in their heads” – i.e. the “nocebo effect”). Yet the wind industry and its abettors had clung to that straw despite the numerous accounts of ill-effects on animals. (3)

Contact:

Mark Duchamp
Chairman
+34 693 643 736
wcfm@live.com

References:

(1) Cooper study (released Jan 21 2015): <http://www.pacifichydro.com.au/english/our-communities/communities/cape-bridgewater-acoustic-study-report/?language=en>

(2) Neil D. Kelley study, (1985): <http://waubrafoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Acoustic-Noise-Associated-with-the-MOD-1-Wind-Turbine.pdf>

(3) 1600 miscarriages at mink farm/: <http://wcfm.org/2014/06/07/windfarms-1600-miscarriages/>

and...

Windfarms and birth defects: <http://wcfm.org/2014/03/31/windfarms-vertebrates-and-reproduction/>

See also:

The statement from the residents who participated in the Cooper study: <http://waubrafoundation.org.au/2015/steven-coopers-cape-bridgewater-acoustic-research-commissioned-by-pacific-hydro-released/>

Peer review of the Cooper study by acoustician Dr Bob Thorne

PhD: <https://worldcouncilfornature.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/letter-from-bob-thorne-to-steven-cooper-21-jan-2015.pdf>

Letter (peer review) from Robert Rand to Steve Cooper – 21 Jan

2015: <https://worldcouncilfornature.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/letter-from-robert-rand-to-steve-cooper-21-jan-2015.pdf>

Letter (peer review) from Stephen Ambrose to Steven Cooper – 22 Jan

2015: <https://worldcouncilfornature.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/letter-from-stephen-ambrose-to-steven-cooper-22-jan-2015.pdf>

Radio interview of Steven Cooper: <https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2015/01/21/wind-energy-study-finds-links-to-impacts-reported-by-residents/>

Dr Sarah Laurie's comprehensive testimony on the health effects of wind turbine sound and vibrations: <http://wcfm.org/2015/01/18/health-and-wind-farms/>

21 Peer Reviewed Articles On the Adverse Health Effects of Wind Turbine

Noise: <http://stopthesethings.com/2014/12/17/21-peer-reviewed-articles-on-the-adverse-health-effects-of-wind-turbine-noise/>

TV podcast on the Cooper study: www.todaytonightadelaide.com.au/stories/wind-farm-science

Share This: