

5025 Line 81, RR 4
Listowel ON
September 6, 2012

Mr. David S. Michaud, PhD
Principal Investigator
Consumer and Clinical Radiation Protection Bureau
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch
Health Canada

Dear Mr. Michaud:

RE: Health Canada's Wind Turbine Noise & Health Study

As a resident of a rural Ontario community where a wind turbine project is proposed, I applaud the Federal Government and Health Canada for initiating a study on the health impacts of wind turbines. Based on the experiences of other nearby communities where wind turbines have been installed and my dealings with the company proposing to install turbines in our community, this is an area where clear Federal standards to address human health issues would be very helpful in addressing concerns in our community.

I operate a dairy farm just east of Listowel Ontario. Recently, Invenergy announced that they were planning to install 3 wind turbines on the farm to the west of my property and more turbines on farms located a short distance surrounding us. Based on problems experienced by people living around wind turbine projects in nearby Kincardine and Ripley, these proposals are a great concern for my family. Because my family and I both live and work on this farm, we will be exposed to the noise and other effects of these turbines, 24 hours, 7 days per week.

The study design proposed by Health Canada is primarily focused on audible noise issues. Discussions with those who have been exposed to wind turbines suggest that this is only one of many potential health effects. Low frequency noise is as important, or perhaps more important, than audible noise is creating health effects. Dirty power/stray voltage related to these turbine installations is another health concern being reported by residents of other areas where turbines have been installed. I am recommending that these factors also be included of your study.

In addition to the impact on my family, I am concerned about the impact of these operations on my farming operation. All of the human health issues that are reported will also affect my dairy cattle. Reports of wind turbine projects reducing output by 20% is a major concern for my dairy operation and other farms operated by my neighbours. Experiences in other areas with wind turbine projects have resulted in abandoned farms and conversion of livestock operations to cash crop operations.

In Ontario, there are set-back requirements from residences, but there are no similar set-back standards from livestock operations. I understand that a study of the impact of wind turbines on livestock is not within the mandate of Health Canada but I would expect that incorporating parallel studies by Agriculture Canada of livestock operations

within the defined study areas would allow significant economies of scale as base data on noise levels and other issues could be shared across both studies.

Wind turbines are an important issue for the agricultural community as most of the installations are taking place on prime agricultural land. The project area defined for the Invenergy project in the former Elma and Mornington townships has some of the best farmland in the world and it is blessed with a climate that allows it to be a significant source of food products for Ontario. For example, it is estimated that more than 12,400 dairy cattle are resident in this area. This small area generates almost 3% of milk production in Ontario. The related farm operations along with the beef, pork and chicken producers drive the economy of this area and any threats to these agricultural operations will have massive ripple effects on employment in the wider community. The trivial payments being offered to farmers who have leased land for turbines will not come close to replacing the economic impact of these farming operations.

My concerns for my family's health and for my dairy operation are shared by most of the farmers in my part of rural Ontario. I expect that they are shared by other farm communities across Ontario and throughout out Canada. I am hopeful that Health Canada will establish standards that will address my concerns about the health of my family. I also hope that Agriculture Canada will partner with Health Canada on this research and investigate the impact of wind turbines on livestock operations.

Yours truly,

Tim Martin

cc. Gary Schellenberger, MP, Perth-Wellington
cc. Randy Pettapiece, MPP, Perth-Wellington