

## RE: Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules

Author: Herbert S. Coussons, MD [drc@wscare.com](mailto:drc@wscare.com) 920-639-8434

Video testimony at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUQdeUXapD0>

### Introduction

Thank you for reading and considering my comments. I am writing to express my disappointment with the process and outcome of the PSC and Wind Siting Council guidelines. It appears that the council ignored more and more evidence that shows health, safety and financial stress in communities that are burdened against their will with large industrial wind turbines. In fact in their recommendations on pages 19 thru 22, the constantly acknowledge sources that support strict guidelines to protect against disturbing noise, yet they chose to included more loose or weaker guidelines in their final conclusion. These weaker guidelines will result in annoyance, complaints, disturbed sleep and ultimately adverse health in a certain percentage of Wisconsin residents that can be mitigated from the outset by increasing the setback.

It is clear from extensive testimony, that more studies are needed to guarantee the safety of those living close to industrial wind turbines. What is the harm in adopting the most conservative guidelines until these studies can be completed? It is always easier to add more turbines than to remove turbines once they are there. Dr McFadden concluded, "*The evidence does not support a conclusion that wind turbines cause adverse health outcomes.*" Yet other expert testimony has exactly the opposite conclusion that when sited close to people, there will be an adverse health effects in a certain percentage of the population. Studies continue to determine the proper siting distance that will mitigate these health consequences. In a public presentation in Brown County Dr McFadden agreed that there is likewise "*no evidence to claim that industrial wind systems are safe*" and to claim that they are safe is not only misleading, but false." At best the jury is out and the evidence can be used to make claims by both sides of the argument. Because of this I believe it is premature to endorse the support the Rulemaking document as published on August 9, 2010 until more conclusive evidence is available.

I have reviewed the scientific literature. I have seen the testimony of residents that live in wind turbine communities in Wisconsin and elsewhere. I have reviewed the medical records of residents that have suffered from adverse health consequences. I have visited wind developments. And I have come to the same conclusions as many of studies from the US, Canada, New Zealand and the whole of Europe. *Large industrial wind turbine developments do not belong in close proximity to locations where people live and work.* I hope to show valid, accepted and reproducible data that put guidelines on siting distances.

At 30-40dB measurable objective sleep disturbances are seen.

At 40-55dB adverse health effects are seen.

Above 55dB is dangerous to public health.

Experience has shown industrial wind turbines cause noise that exceeds 40 dB when in close proximity. Noise deteriorates over distance. Allowing for proper distance will mitigate the

noise levels both experienced and predicted by independent research and the wind industry. *The safest minimum distance to protect the health and safety is to allow for less than 40dB, which correlates to 0.5 miles or 2640 feet. The optimal distance in a rural setting would allow for no more than a 10dB increase in ambient noise which would correlate to just over one mile.*

Yet the Wind Siting council came to a different conclusion, "The Council does not believe that the rules should include a noise-related setback requirement. Setback distance is only an indirect measure of exposure to noise... Evidence from studies of other sources of environmental noise, suggests that a daytime noise threshold of 50 dBA is well below the threshold at which measurable adverse health effects (e.g. hearing impairment, high blood pressure) from noise are seen." This completely ignores the World Health Organization exhaustive work on environmental noise and sleep disturbance. This is not surprising as the Wind Siting Council in majority is made up of individuals who are supported by the wind industry, or they belong to organizations whose "modus operandi is to identify barriers to renewable energy development, and come up with strategies for overcoming those problems, whether they be low buyback rates, permitting challenges, or regulatory roadblocks." In fact when Dr McFadden was asked to be an expert witness, he declined stating he was not an expert in wind energy health effects. After completing my own research I believe that a biased and uninformed group such as this is incapable of rendering a recommendation that looks out for the interests of the citizens in Wisconsin as they face decades of permanent development by the wind industry. The guidelines ignore local communities' public opinion and the rulemaking process has left local residents facing the threat of large wind developments feeling powerless and unable to have a voice in the politics of a permanent alteration to their way of life.

### Background

As Wind Energy projects continue to expand across Wisconsin and as the need for energy independence becomes more urgent, controversy over siting regulations has become a dividing point in communities across the state. The recent applications for projects in northeast Wisconsin make safe siting guidelines the center of the argument. In local townships such as ours in Wrightstown, Holland, Morrison, and Glenmore, hours of emotionally charged meetings and conflicted town supervisors have led to only more controversy. A vote of town's members as slanted as 245-18 overwhelmingly does not support the Ledge Wind project. These same conflicts are seen world wide as wind energy projects develop. It is clear that studies are presented both supporting and refuting to notion that wind turbines harm people's health. It is my opinion as a physician that the best evidence support that *building large wind energy turbines in close proximity to humans has a negative impact on the health.*

### Medical Facts

*Normal sleep is essential for health and well-being.* The science of sleep study has established the population averages for the amount of time it takes to fall asleep. The number of awakenings during the night and the number of sleep arousals that are standard. (American Academy of Sleep Medicine 2005.)

Disturbed sleep is defined as problems falling asleep, excessive awakening, excessive sleep arousals, difficulty resuming sleep after awakening, and an overall lack of restorative sleep.

Environmental sleep disorder is when outside factors such as noise cause sleep disturbance, insomnia, or results in daytime fatigue. These problems result in deficits of concentration, attention and cognitive performance, reduced vigilance, malaise, depressed mood, and irritability. The effects are seen in all ages and both genders.

*Long-term sleep disturbance has great influence on metabolic and hormonal function.* C-reactive protein is an inflammatory marker associated with the development of atherosclerotic plaques in the coronary vessels and is associated with increased risks of strokes and heart attacks. CRP as a risk predictor of strokes and heart attacks increases as sleep disturbance increases. (Meier-Ewert et al., 2004)

Leptin is secreted at night and helps to regulate appetite and glucose metabolism. When humans are sleep deprived, weight gain and impaired glucose tolerance is seen.

Cortisol has also been studied as a separate marker of disease related to environmental sleep disturbance. Higher cortisol levels are seen in individuals that are sleep deprived. Higher cortisol levels lead to increased blood pressure and impaired glucose tolerance. In fact the risk of heart attacks is two fold higher in those with insomnia. (Hyyppä and Kronholm, 1989) Many other health hazards can be directly related to sleep disturbance, including decreased immunity and susceptibility to viral illness, and many other consequences related to daytime fatigue such as work injuries, poor school performance and auto accidents. It has been shown that fatigue may impair driving more than alcohol. Work injuries may be increased, and children suffer from behavioral problems and decreased school performance. Children have problems with learning, attention and memory. These are all substantiated medical facts that stand alone as they relate to sleep disturbances. Many causes of sleep disturbance such as shift work, sleep apnea and environmental have been shown to cause the same group of adverse health effects. In summary, the overall health impact is that *death rates increase as sleep decreases* (Patel et al., 2004; Tamakoshi and Ohno, 2004) And according to Kripke et al. 1979, reduced sleep may be a greater independent risk factor for death than smoking or hypertension.

### Environmental factors

Noise disturbs sleep. Many studies over the last 30 years show there are physical responses to noise as it disturbs sleep. EEG changes, blood pressure and heart rate, body movement and restlessness, and awakening can all be measured in the common sleep study. Environmental factors such as airport noise, road traffic, railway noise, and neighbor noise have all been reported as sources of sleep disturbance. They all follow a similar curve in that as noise levels increase so do complaints of sleep disturbance. At 40 dB less than 5% of individuals show night time sleep disturbance. At 50dB about 6% have sleep disturbance. At 55dB up to 10% have sleep disturbance. At 60dB as high as 15% have sleep disturbance. (European Commission, 2004) The neighbor induced noise is worth a closer look as up to 20% of neighbors are disturbed by voices, water running, toilets, TV, radio and music as well as neighbors pets. This is important in consideration of siting wind turbines because most locations targeted for development are rural (though not sparsely populated in southern Brown County). These areas tend to be quieter at night than urban areas. The people that chose to live there do not have background ambient noise, making any additional noises more noticeable.

## Experience is the Best Teacher

Wind Turbine noise is disturbing to those who live close to them. Planners of wind turbine developments need to take into account the noise complaints from existing sites and the real world examples of the noise disturbance caused by wind developments. Many of these sites have been in place for years and those that are in close proximity to people are rife with complaints, law suits and unhappy landowners. Proper siting away from people will prevent such complaints. (Hanning, 2009) Surveys of residents living in close proximity to industrial wind turbines show high levels of sleep disturbance and annoyance. In Kewaunee County 52% of individuals living within 2400 feet found noise to be problematic. 32% within 4800 feet and 4% greater than 1 mile were disturbed. 67% reported disturbed sleep if they lived within 1200 feet. (Kabas 2001) In Sweden 2 studies yield similar results with complaints of disturbance rise as the noise levels increased from 32.5 dBA to 40 dBA. (Pederson and Persson 2007) Multiple other surveys from France, New Zealand, Canada, The United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden and others show similar results. The conclusion that industrial wind turbine noise is disturbing to people that live close to the developments is a fact. We should learn from others mistakes and not subject the people of Wisconsin to repeat the problems seen across the United States and the world. It is clear that proper siting by increasing the distance of the wind turbines from people will prevent the noise complaints. The deterioration of noise over distance is very predictable and several models exist for industrial wind turbines. (UK Department of Transport and Industry 2006; Kamperman and James 2008)

## What is the Best Distance?

At least 14 published recommendations follow the same logic. Wind turbines cause noise. Noise disturbs sleep. Sleep disturbance has a bad effect on health. The conclusions of many sound studies show that the noise decreases as the distance from the turbine increases. (Therault Acoustics, 2009 for Invenergy) Figure 9 "Predicted Noise Level Contours - Area" Shows that the entire Area shaded red will exceed 40dB. To reach an ambient level of less than 35 dB a home must be at least one mile away from the nearest turbine. To the northeast of the Ledge Wind Project that distance exceeds 2 miles. This agrees with the 14 studies tabulated in Dr Hanning's article "Sleep Disturbance and Wind Turbine Noise" (2009) Table 1 on page 33 summarizes these recommendations published between 1994 and 2009 by engineers, scientists, lawyers and physicians. The recommended setbacks vary from >0.62 miles to 1.55 miles with an average of 1.2 miles. At these distances the noise levels will be less than 45 dB. According to the WHO in their 2009 authoritative document on noise and sleep disturbance, *levels between 32 dB and 42 dB will disturb sleep and noise levels of 50dB or higher have been proven to cause health consequences.* The same study uses 21dB as a threshold for rural nighttime sleep.

According to Invenergy, the sample data from the Therault study, the ambient noise in 8 locations in rural Brown county were measured. The highest noise recorded was an isolated 56 dBA and the predominant level of daytime noise was 32dB. The ambient nighttime noise averaged 25 dBA. According to the WHO standards, between 32 and 42dB or a 10dB level above ambient sound will be disruptive. *If we use Invenergy's sound contour map, then a setback of one mile will be required to safely fall within these standards.*

## Best Choice

The council has a decision to make. With the known data on sound and sleep disturbance, with other wind farm failures by close siting, and with the wind industries predictions of sound in the wind farm – *will the council make the best recommendation for the people living in Wisconsin and take steps to be conservative by placing a setback of one mile from where people live, work, and attend school? This is the best choice based on the current data to ensure the safety of those living within a development by keeping the noise levels less than 40dBA*

Or will the council compromise the standards knowing that up to 50% people will experience disrupted sleep and 5% may suffer health effects if ½ mile is used? Or worse yet if 1250 feet is used, then up to 67% will complain of disturbed sleep and up to 15% will see adverse health effects.

## TABLES

Table 1 From Hanning 2009; Recommendations for setback of residential properties from industrial wind turbines.

| <u>Authority</u>                    | <u>Year</u> | <u>Notes</u>                        | <u>Rec'd<br/>miles</u> | <u>Rec'd<br/>Kilometers</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Frey and Hadden                     | 2007        | Scientists. Turbines >2MW           | >1.24                  | >2                          |
| Frey and Hadden                     | 2007        | Scientists. Turbines <2MW           | 1.24                   | 2                           |
| Harry                               | 2007        | UK Physician                        | 1.5                    | 2.4                         |
| Pierpont                            | 2008        | US Physician                        | 1.5                    | 2.4                         |
| Welsh Affairs Select Committee      | 1994        | Recommendation for smaller turbines | 0.93                   | 1.5                         |
| Scottish Executive                  | 2001        | Visual recommendation included      | 1.24                   | 2                           |
| Adams                               | 2008        | US Lawyer                           | 1.55                   | 2.5                         |
| Bowdler                             | 2007        | UK Noise engineer                   | 1.24                   | 2                           |
| French National Academy of Medicine | 2006        | French physicians                   | 0.93                   | 1.5                         |
| The Noise Association               | 2006        | UK scientists                       | 1                      | 1.6                         |
| Kamperman and James                 | 2008        | US Noise engineers                  | >0.62                  | >1                          |
| Kamperman                           | 2008        | US Noise engineers                  | >1.24                  | >2                          |
| Bennet                              | 2008        | NZ scientist                        | >0.93                  | >1.5                        |
| Acoustic Ecology Institute          | 2009        | US Noise engineers                  | 0.93                   | 1.5                         |

Table 3 from World Health Organization 2009; Effects of different levels of night noise on the population's health.

| Average night noise level over one year | Health effect observed in the population   |
|---|--|
| Up to 30dB                              | Although individual sensitivities and circumstances may differ, it appears that up to this level no substantial biologic effects are observed.   |
| 30 to 40 dB                             | A number of effects on sleep are observed; body movements, awakening, self-reported sleep disturbance, arousals. The intensity of the effect depends on the nature of the source and the number of events. Vulnerable groups (elderly, children and chronically ill) are more susceptible. |
| 40-55 dB                                | Adverse health effects are observed among an exposed population. Many people have to adapt their lives to cope with the noise at night.  |
| Above 55 dB                             | The situation is considered increasingly dangerous for public health. Adverse health effects occur frequently, a sizeable portion of the population is highly annoyed and the sleep disturbed. There is evidence that the risk of cardiovascular disease increases.                        |

Table 2 from Theriault 2009 for Invenergy; Summary of ambient noise levels in the Ledge Wind project assessment

| Location | Description     | 0600-0800 | 1200-1400 | 1800-2000 | 2200-2400 |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1        | Blake Rd        | 26        | 26        | 24        | 19        |
| 2        | Cooperstown     | 31        | 33        | 34        | 29        |
| 3        | Mill Road       | 34        | 36        | 34        | 27        |
| 4        | Dickenson Road  | 29        | 37        | 34        | 31        |
| 5        | Morrison Road   | 29        | 34        | 29        | 28        |
| 6        | Park Road       | 31        | 31        | 28        | 20        |
| 7        | Refuge Road     | 35        | 36        | 56        | 27        |
| 8        | Mill/Blake Road | 31        | 32        | 28        | 23        |

According to subsequent predictions, the rise in ambient noise will be 15-24 dBA based on 1000 ft setbacks. This exceeds the WHO guidelines for absolute noise levels and relative rise in noise in noise levels. The solution to keep the noise levels within acceptable range is to increase the setback.

Also consider the schools and businesses located in this area. Clearly the solution to this problem is in PROPER, SAFE siting. That siting guideline should include a minimum distance of ½ to 1 mile based on independent research and data from the wind industry.

*“There is no medical doubt that audible noise such as emitted by modern upwind industrial wind turbines sited close to human residences causes significant adverse health effects. These effects are mediated through sleep disturbance, physiological stress and psychological distress. This is settled medical science.”*

An Analysis of the American/Canadian Wind Energy Association sponsored “Wind Turbine Sound and Health Effects An Expert Panel Review, December 2009.” Peer reviewed and published January 2010.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

**Sleep is basic and important to human health. When sleep is disturbed, health suffers.**

**Noise disturbs sleep.**

**Above 30dB sensitive individuals complain.**

**At 30-40dB measurable objective sleep disturbances are seen.**

**At 40-55dB adverse health effects are seen.**

**Above 55dB is dangerous to public health.**

**Experience has shown industrial wind turbines cause noise that exceeds 40 dB when in close proximity.**

**Noise deteriorates over distance.**

**Allowing for proper distance will mitigate the noise levels both experienced and predicted by independent research and the wind industry.**

**The safest minimum distance to protect the health and safety is to allow for less than 40dB, which correlates to 0.5 miles or 2640 feet.**

**The optimal distance in a rural setting would allow for no more than a 10dB increase in ambient noise which would correlate to just over one mile.**

**As a physician and resident of Wisconsin in an area targeted for large industrial wind turbines, I ask the committee to *make the best recommendation for the people living in Wisconsin and take steps to be conservative by placing a setback of one mile from where people live, work, and attend school. This is the best choice based on the current data to ensure the safety of those living within a development.***

**Or will the council compromise the standards knowing that at 2640 feet sleep complaints will develop? What percentage of residents is an acceptable compromise when action now by proper siting will prevent these problems?**

*Respectfully, Herbert S. Coussons, MD*

State of Wisconsin  
County of Dane

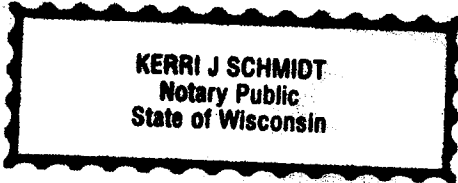
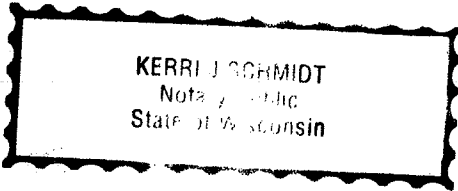
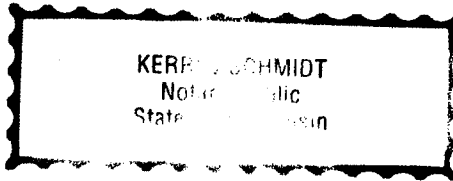
On this day February 9<sup>th</sup> 2011, personally appeared before me,  
Dr. Herb Coussens,

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

[Signature]  
Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal





## Joe Yunk

### Senate Energy Committee Testimony

February 9, 2011 -- Madison

My name is Joe Yunk; I at, N2630 Townhall Rd in Kewaunee County. My prior address was North 7905 County Trunk P, Algoma, Wisconsin which was in the Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) wind farm by Rio Creek, Wisconsin. I moved from the Algoma address to my current address on or about October 2009 to get away from the effects of the WPS wind farm.

My testimony will outline my personal experience while living in a wind farm. There have been many statements made that there were no problems with the Lincoln Township wind farm in Kewaunee County. I lived there and there are problems and I am part of the collateral damage of the wind turbine industry.

I am now living in the proposed Element Power LLC wind farm development. Yes, I moved to get away from a wind farm and now I find myself faced with yet another wind farm development right where I live.

I hope you listen to my testimony and that this information will help you make the right decisions with regard to the PSC rules for any other wind farms in Wisconsin. I would hate to see other people's life as negatively affected as mine has been as a result of living in a wind farm. I have no doubt in my mind that I will relive the awful experience once again if Element Power is allowed to build the Tisch Mills project they are planning.

In 1998 the WPS wind farm construction began about 310 yards from my home. This wind farm, the first in Wisconsin had 13 turbines of which, one was about 1,300 ft from my house and 600 ft from my property line.

I had built my home in 1980 on 6.5 acres of land which was our home farm that I lived on all my life; by the way, this farm belonged to our family since 1867 and meant a lot to me. I lived on this land since I was born.

In the summer of 2000, the turbines of the WPS wind farm began operation. I had lived on this farm all my life, I knew the neighbors well, and it wasn't long after the turbines began operating our lives began to change. In

conversations with my neighbors, I learned they too were experiencing constant disturbing noise, shadow flicker and had problems sleeping. The constant presence of these 220 ft. turbines made me feel uneasy and I was constantly irritated by them.

All the people living in this wind farm became guinea pigs / lab rats; no one knew what we were in for. It was in the fall of 2000 when neighbors and families began to divide over the effects of the wind farm. And that continued the entire time I lived there.

When the turbines began to operate, a hotline was established directly to WPS to report any problems. I had beef cattle for about two years prior to the turbines operating and never lost any animals. However, shortly after the turbines began to operate, I had beef cattle that become ill and started dying off. I reported this on the WPS hotline and nothing was done. I lost ten animals valued at \$5,000 over a two year period and couldn't afford to continue.

Because of noise complaints to WPS, within a year, two families' homes were purchased by WPS and demolished with bulldozers. At the same time WPS was settling nuisance suits with other neighbors. They were offering to buy out my neighbors but offered prices way below market value to stop the complaints. However, they never offered me any buyout opportunity and I wanted out! It was hard for me to leave my home place of 54 years. But over time, living with the constant sleep deprivation and irritation of the noise and flickering I decided to sue WPS to have them pay me fair market value for my home so I could afford to move.

I knew that I was might be risking everything I had worked for all my life, but I didn't care at this point. I didn't even try to sell my place outright because I didn't want anyone else to have to live as I did in this wind farm. I really wanted WPS to buy me out and to bulldoze the home.

I retained an attorney and filed suit with WPS. Shortly after, WPS offered me \$110,000 on my property that appraised for \$168,000. I decided not to take their offer, but proceed with the suit. I gave deposition in the summer of 2008, we were scheduled to go trail in September 2009 and WPS offered me a settlement in August of 2009 for \$163,000. With this settlement I was responsible for my attorney fees. My attorney advised me to accept this offer. After paying my attorney fees, I ended up with \$158,000.

Later, my home and property were listed with a real estate agency for sale by WPS and after a period of time, it sold for \$112,000, 33% below the appraised value. **Don't tell me that wind turbines do not affect the price of real estate.** In November of 2009, a home that was within one-half mile of my house on County Trunk P sold for \$21,000 after it was listed for \$89,500.

From my experience in living in this wind farm, it is apparent that setback away from property lines is absolutely necessary. I could hear the turbines a mile away from my house. The PSCW's standard setback from a property line should be 1.5 miles.

Now, my new home and property on Townhall road is within the confines of the Element Power proposed wind farm. I'd like to know what you recommend I do now. Where can I move to and be safe from the effects of wind turbines?

February 9, 2011

Members of the Senate, My name is Mark Deslauriers and my family resides in the Town of Holland. I commend this committee for calling hearings. I am alarmed and extremely angry over the disregard the PSC and Wind Siting Council has shown the people of Wisconsin and this committee by not conducting peer reviewed, scientific based health studies prior to submission to the Senate. I am also disgusted at the lack of DNR Commitment to protect both the health of our families from groundwater contamination and the Natural Resources of WI. Today, we must all remember the Industrial Wind Turbines are private projects and not subject to eminent domain.

Members of the Senate, I would encourage you to review the DNR's Office of Energy's Website. The document identified as "DNR Guidelines" is intended to act as a resource for Wind Developers in WI. The document has not been updated since July 2004 and uses references dated no more recent than 2001 with a majority of references dating from the mid 1990's. The information is outdated in light of the many new studies on the effects on Human Health, Karst features related to drinking water, the size of current projects, and new environmental issues such as "White Nose Syndrome" affecting bats.

I find it ironic that there is only 1 sentence regarding public health and ground water but a paragraph entitled "Major Tourist / Scenic Areas stating ".....Because of the potential for aesthetic and noise conflicts, constructing Wind Farms close to intensively used tourist areas is discouraged....." So much for being concerned about my family!

On November 12, 2010, former DNR Secretary Matt Frank submitted to the Senate the document titled "Report Pursuant to 2009 Act 40 Regarding DNR Authorities Relative to Wind Energy Development". One of the main issues involves wind projects under 100 megawatts. According to Dave Siebert, Director of the Office of Energy, the DNR does not have the authority to conduct pre-construction environmental reviews. This issue still has not been addressed by the Senate! How can the wind siting rules go forward when the mechanism to protect the environment is not in place? How can Michael Vickerman of Renew Wisconsin and other environmental groups not even mention the lack of environmental review? According to the DNR and The Audubon Society, Industrial Wind Turbines are major contributors to the unprecedented decline of Whooping Cranes and bats. Destroying the environment is not green energy!

Relating to the safety of our families.....How can a 50 story structure with blades spinning close to 200 MPH be constructed 1250 feet from my front door? Why are there no inspections done by state or local authorities during the construction process? How can my land be forcibly taken for a safety zone without my permission?

**The State of WI and the DNR have an incredible responsibility to protect the health of our families and the environment since the State of WI took away local control through Act 40. We are not collateral damage as stated by Jennifer Heinzen during the Wind Siting Council Meetings.**

**Remember, Clean Wisconsin and the Citizens Utility Board officially protested the expansion of Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant in January 2011 because WI has a 35% excess electricity capacity already. Why would we further deepen our budget deficit, drive business south as electrical rates increase, continue paying huge subsidies to a few companies, many foreign owned, and harm our communities by further developing Industrial Wind Turbines in a state with a poor wind rating? I respectfully request the Wind Siting Rules be sent back to the PSC to properly address all the issues / expectations in Act 40. Our communities deserve a minimum setback of 2640 feet. Only then can we begin to ensure that our families and the environment are protected.**

**Mark Deslauriers  
8042 Holly-Mor Road  
Greenleaf WI 54126**

[wifirefightermark@yahoo.com](mailto:wifirefightermark@yahoo.com)

## IN FAVOR OF SUSPENDING THE WIND SITING RULES

Commentator Information:

February 9, 2011

Name: Jerome Hlinak  
Address: 3709 E. Co. HWY. BB  
City: Two Rivers WI 54241  
County: Manitowoc  
Email: [jhlinak@tm.net](mailto:jhlinak@tm.net)

### Attachments:

1. Presentation at the Fond Du Lac PSC hearing June 28, 2010
2. Engineering facts from Dave Stetzer and David Colling

Attach 1

Wind Siting Rules June 28, 2010

1-AC-231

**Commentator Information:**

**Name:** Jerome Hlinak  
**Address:** 3709 E Co Hwy BB  
**City:** Two Rivers WI 54241

**E-mail:** [jhlinak@tm.net](mailto:jhlinak@tm.net)

**Comment:**

The term stray voltage is misused by the majority of people. Stray voltage is when the ground is broken causing neutral current to find an alternate path to ground. This current migrates causing voltage to be measured between ground and an object. The Draft Proposal and the Straw Proposal both misuse the term in its meaning. One would think that the PSC being the government body regulating power generation and transmission would know the correct term to use. I have heard countless wind developers claim that stray voltage is not caused by wind turbines. This is true, but wind turbines do have the potential to cause electrical issues. If a wind turbine had a stray voltage problem and it migrated to a farm or a house the current would change into another form of electrical pollution.

Electric engineers and voltage consultants use the term electrical pollution to cover all electrical issues that are possible. Stray voltage is one form of electrical pollution. The term electrical pollution needs to be in the final wind ordinance to cover all electrical issues. The problem is that the PSC does not recognize these electrical pollutants as a cause to health and safety. Had the Assembly Bill 529, known as the Electrical Bill of Rights, passed all these issues would be addressed.

Wind turbines are more likely to cause objectionable current more commonly called earth currents. Other forms of electrical pollution wind turbines create are EMF's (electromagnetic frequencies), static discharge, and microwave currents along with possible others. The state of Wisconsin has a grid system electrically challenged at this time due to the lack of responsibility from the PSC and legislators on the energy committees.

The PSC does not recognize electrical issues other than stray voltage as a potential health and safety problems. We call ourselves the dairy state but allow our cows and the people in the surrounding communities to be poisoned by electrical pollutants. With wind turbines planing to go on line in the next few years, severe electrical pollution problems will escalate leaving those who don't understand these electrical issues helpless.

The comments filed by Lynne Knuth, PhD on 6/17/10 address various noise and electrical issues with wind turbines. As a dairy farmer who has struggled in the past with the PSC on electrical issues I now realize that a growing population is understanding the negative effects of electrical pollution as well as noise pollution and the shadowing issues caused by wind turbines, all which

are at this point dismissed as health related problems by the PSC and wind industry. I agree with the factual comments submitted by Lynne Knuth, PhD.

With a 1.1 foot wind turbine setback to a house we can safely say there will be a negative affect on those living there. Studies done by Dave Stetzer and Dave Colling, electrical engineers, show an increase in negative health for animals and humans alike near turbines. People living within a mile have experienced various ailments associated with electrical pollution. Far to often individuals dismiss these issues due to other factors. In Lincoln Township Kewaunee County people continue to deal with issues ignored by the PSC as non-creditable because their issues do not follow the political agenda set forth by our legislators.

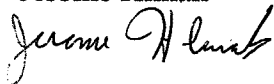
In 2004 Dave Stetzer did a study near the turbines near Lincoln Kewaunee and found a noticeable increase in heart related issues and a noticeably higher rate of death due to heart failure. Due to the time period this study was conducted the PSC deemed it inconclusive. In Fond Du Lac County these similar issues continue to surface with the PSC again washing their hands of the problems disclaiming their testimony as fact. A growing number of doctors and engineers both realize that cancer rates also increase as well as other related health issues from electrical pollution.

In the Town of Carlton Kewaunee County we addressed the electrical pollution issues. Our ordinance requires all neutral wires to be shielded. Local utilities require shielded neutrals on farm rewiring programs. Does it make sense to allow wind developers to be able to use bare neutrals to connect turbines? Should it also be recommended that wind developers be mandated to follow the American Transmission Company standards before the substations. Unfiltered transmission lines between turbines are the cause of dirty electricity as explained in the attachment from David Colling. Dirty electricity causes an increased risk of cancer as well as other health problems.

If the PSC Wind Siting Committee had an electrical engineer to help draft the wind ordinance the standards would limit the amount of turbines allowed thus creating the inability for Wisconsin to reach its renewable goal set by legislators. Local wind ordinances addressed various issues that if challenged in court would have been upheld under 66.0401 of the states statutes which allow for the standards to be based on health and safety. One nuclear generator could replace all the turbines, thus limiting the electrical pollution created by hundreds of turbines scattered throughout Wisconsin's dairy land.

I affirm that these comments are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Jerome Hlinak





# Modern Wind Turbines Generate Dangerously "Dirty" Electricity

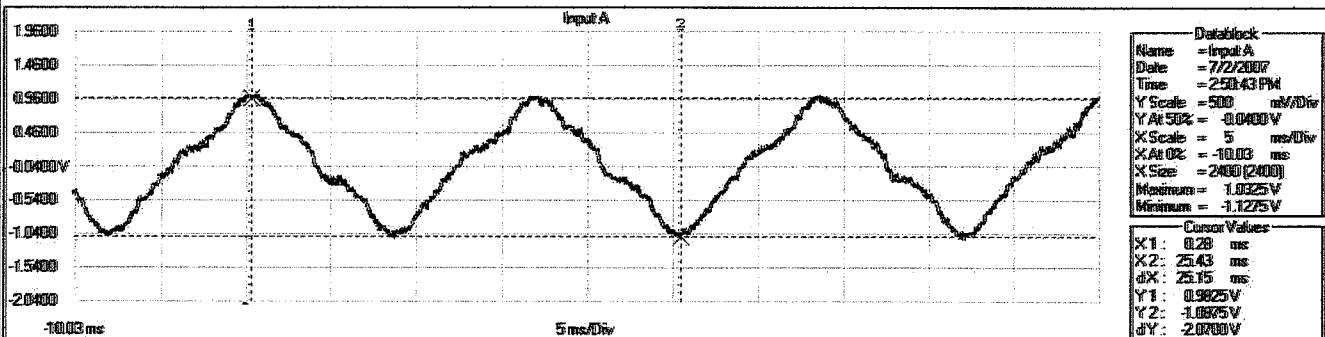
By Catherine Kleiber

## Waveforms and picture courtesy of David Colling

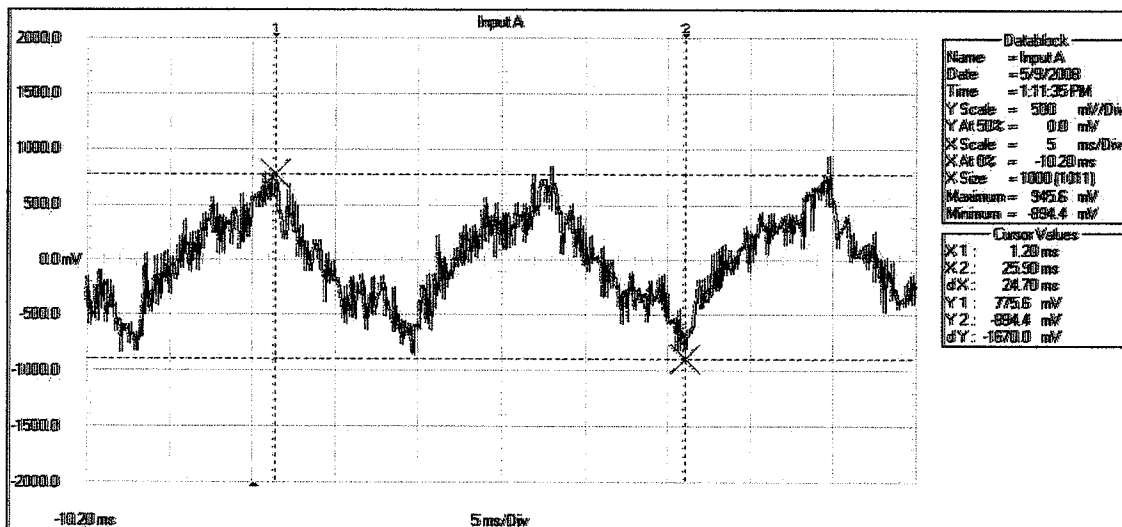
Wind turbines are causing serious health problems. These health problems are often associated, by the people having them, with the flicker and the noise from the wind turbines. This often leads to reports being discounted.

Residents of the area around the Ripley Wind Farm in Ontario where Enercon E82 wind turbines are installed feel that the turbines are making them ill. Residents suffer from ringing in the ears, headaches, sleeplessness, dangerously elevated blood pressure (requiring medication), heart palpitations, itching in the ears, eye watering, earaches, and pressure on the chest causing them to fight to breathe. The symptoms disappear when the residents leave the area. Four residents were forced to move out of their homes, the symptoms were so bad. Residents also complain of poor radio, TV and satellite dish reception. There is no radio reception under or near the power lines from the wind turbines because there is too much interference. Local farmers have found that they get headaches driving along near those power lines.

The waveforms below were taken at one of the residences in the area. The first waveform was taken before the wind farm started operation. (As you can see, a ground current problem existed even before the wind farm started.) The frequency profile of the neutral to earth voltage changed dramatically after the wind farm became operational (second waveform). There are far more high and very high frequencies present, indicated by the increased spikiness of the waveform.



Residence #3, Primary Neutral to remote ground rod, before windmills were installed and running.



Residence #3, Primary Neutral to remote rod, windmills running before the collection line was buried.

As demonstrated by these waveforms, wind turbines are extremely electrically polluting. Studies and anecdotal reports associate electrical pollution with a similar set of symptoms to those experienced by the residents of the area (1, 2, 3). The symptoms associated with electrical pollution are caused by overexposure to high frequencies and are known as radio wave sickness (4). Technical papers discuss the fact that it requires only very small amounts of high frequency signals (either from transients or communications) on wiring to induce significant electrical currents in the human body. They support findings of human health problems caused by exposure to even small amounts of high frequencies (5, 6). The specific symptoms experienced depend on both the frequencies present and the body type and height of the person being exposed. Increased risk of cancer is associated with exposure to both "dirty" power on wires and electrical ground currents (7, 8).

## **Jim Mueller**

---

**From:** Larry & Carol [cllamont1220@dotnet.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 2:48 PM

**To:** Jim Mueller

**Subject:** Wind tower commiteee Feb 9, 2011

### **Wind Tower Committee -- February 9, 2011**

I have three minutes to describe some of the situations I will live with the rest of my life.

I was a supporter of wind generation until after they were put up in my back yard. I learned so much.

The impact has been a lot bigger and more intrusive than they had been portrayed.

Where do I begin?

Constant noise – even when not turning we hear the energy wasting transformer hum, continuous distracting motion, shadow flicker, environmental impacts, loss of “flight for life”, real and potential health problems, obnoxious red FAA warning lights, interference of radio reception, and according to the Wisconsin Realtors Association, up to a 40% reduction in property value.

Living inside the perimeter of a wind farm I can address all these problems. I bought 78 serene acres 40 years ago thinking I would be safe from intrusion by others. Not so. We have many omnipresent intruders. Three near the 1250-foot limit recommended by the PSC one only 1101 feet from my house. Way too close.

I will first address the most persistent problem – noise, specifically the post-construction noise study. It seems that once the test is passed they will never be checked again and they are free to roar. I would like to make comment to three statements in this study. First – The lead engineer is hard of hearing.

After spending the better part of a week on site he said he did not witness the often described “whoosh-whoosh” of the turbines. Say what? Second – The report is very hard to understand. They even had trouble because they reported the cut in speed at 3m/sec when it should be 3.6m/sec. The significance of

this is that the turbines where not producing electricity 71% of the time that day, just spinning slowly in the breeze. Thirdly – what is really meant by the engineer hired by the utility requiring all parties to meet before the test “to ensure a successful test”?

I borrowed a noise meter; on this meter I have had turbine noise readings as high as 63dbA. This is 20 TIMES the recommended 50dbA level. Remember these are on a logarithmic scale. Nobody is monitoring these abuses. Does anybody care – other than the people that have to live with under these conditions?

Monitoring should be continuous, unannounced and with no per-agreements. Noise is noise.

I passed my drivers test because I stayed under the posted speed. Does this exempt me from further monitoring – Hell no. Nobody is monitoring turbine noise. Why have guidelines if nobody gives a rip if they are ignored.

Our township has a nuisance ordinance. There are five definitions of causing or being a nuisance. The turbines are blatant violators of four of these categories. Here again the wind farms are beyond the law. They are not being monitored or held accountable. And they think they are good neighbors.

Another issue that bothers me is Vickermans band of 15 that was selected to advise the PSC on wind tower placement. What a folly. Who would ever have predicted this select group would support wind energy almost without reservation. What a waste of time and money. This is like asking a select group of tavern owners if they favor prohibition or not.

And I'm not totally buying into the green energy thing. Proponents say that the energy is carbon free. Nobody has talked about the large trail of energy and carbon that it takes to build, deliver and maintain these behemoths. It is the most expensive and least dependable way to generate electricity. 10 cents per kwh as opposed to 3-4 for coal and 2-3 for nuclear. And we still have to maintain all our other forms of generation because of there undependability.

If this information doesn't slow down the green theme a little check out some towers. Many are covered with dark splotches from a lubricant or something. Many blades are streaked with the same stuff. How much of this stuff are they splattering around the countryside?

These are a financial boon to those few that 'host' these things. \$175,000 over the life span is nothing to sneeze at. The rest of us put up with all these conditions for nothing. Many of the "hosts" are unhappy also but they cannot be too vocal.

And finally, I get so frustrated when the press buys into how great these things are as told to them by the well funded industry that build them or distributes there product. Especially when they tell us who live within the wind farm "some people just do not like these things". I challenge them to come live with us for a while and then try to think of anything you do like about them.

I would welcome any response to my comments. Did you hear them, do you understand? Any questions?

Larry Lamont

W 2362 Ash Rd

Malone, WI 53049

February 7, 2011

Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules  
Room 412 East  
State Capital, Madison WI

Our names are Jim and Darlene Mueller. We built our house in 1978 and have lived in the Town of Marshfield for 32 years, long before the Blue Sky Green Field Wind Project came to our neighborhood.

Today you will hear the same speeches that we heard years ago from energy companies, wind development companies and anyone else that can profit with the construction of wind turbine projects. You will be promised financial gains for the hosting land owners, townships and the county where turbines will be constructed. You will hear about extra jobs that will be created during construction and post construction for maintenance and operation of the turbines. You will be told of studies have been done by universities that there are minimum effects caused by the wind turbines. We-energies promised us that they will help resolve any problems that may occur with the wind turbines.

Here is what we now have with the Blue Sky Green Field wind turbine project in our township. Noise levels that can best be described as that of a jet engine roaring above your house especially during night hours when the air is heavy. You will be awakening at night for hours at a time with no chance of being able to get back to sleep. When wind turbines are not roaring like a jet, you will hear banging of brakes and mechanical grinding of turbines when changes in wind direction and wind speeds occur. You can no longer open your windows in your home during the summer. You will experience loss of television and radio reception. There will be flickering in your homes from the spinning of the blades. You now are closing your curtains during the day to avoid motion sickness. You will suffer losses of property values when you have spent your lifetime paying for your home and now want to sell to fund your retirement.

With the complaints received from citizens in our township it was decided that a committee would be formed in our township to try and resolve these problems. This committee includes several town board members, Larry Lamont and myself and two people representing We-energies. Here is what we have accomplished. After arguing for over a year about television and radio reception losses, We-energies now offers a base Dish family plan to get us television reception and cirrus radio for radio reception.

We-energies asked this committee to have citizens contact their hotline first with problems. The hotline number is (887)380-0522 and is only responds during daytime hours. You can leave a message during nighttime hours. Citizens call evenings when the turbines roar like jet engines to complain but will not get an answer until the next day. By then the jet noise is gone and We-energies respond by stating that everything is running normally. We-energies was able to pick the times and dates of the required sound study so they were able to control the testing to make sure they would be in compliance of the 50 dBA during their sound study. We have been told since they were in compliance during testing that they do not need to do anything about the noise. We would have to do a noise study to prove them wrong.

Our township does not have the money to finance a noise study. Fond du Lac County receives \$625,000 last year from wind turbine revenue, but also refuses to finance a sound study. Larry Lamont has taken decibel reading as loud as 63 decibels at his home which is 20 times higher that the maximum of 50 decibels, but no one will come out to confirm noise levels.

Today I would like to ask the members of this committee for your home phone numbers. I would like the opportunity to be able to contact you each time we are awoken by the noise of the wind turbines so you personally will understand what we are going thru. We cannot understand how any committee or even the Public Service Commission would approve noise guidelines that are not enforceable. There needs to be guidelines set that are enforceable and monitored by an agency that will enforce these guidelines.

This is only one of our problems. Since we already have the wind turbines, who is going to step forward and help us? Who is going to reimburse us for the loss of our property values because people not wanting to live with problems associated with wind turbines. I work as an insurance agent. We insure homes. This gives me the opportunity to work with realtors in our area. In speaking with realtors the market is slow in most areas. The one area that still is in demand are homes out in the country with one acre or more land. People enjoy the beauty and quietness of country living, except if you live in a wind turbine area. Realtors tell us that properties in the turbine project are hard to sell. One of the first questions asked is: is this property near any turbines? One realtor said if anyone tells turbines do not make any difference, tell them straight to their face they are liars.

Things can be done to make our lives more bearable. Why are wind turbine blades allowed to turn when not producing electricity? Wind turbines do not produce electricity until wind speeds reach eight miles per hour. If turbines would not turn until wind speeds of six miles an hour we would not have to listen to the noise, flickering and would be able to get reception on our televisions and radio stations. The technology is out there to do this, but again no one is monitoring this.

Because the Public Service Commission and our lawmakers have not stepped forward

to do what needs to be done our wind turbine committee is at the mercy of We-  
energies. This committee hasn't had meetings anymore because of lack of  
responsibility of our lawmakers. The best way to describe what has been done to the  
citizens in the Blue Sky Green Field Wind Project is legalized rape of our rights.

Last year Darlene was home sick with the flue. I expected to find her resting in bed.  
When I came home she was on the floor in an interior hallway with blankets and a pillow  
over her head trying to get away from the noise created from the wind turbines. This is  
when I realized our house was no longer our home.

Sincerely,

*James Mueller*  
*Darlene Mueller*

James Mueller  
Darlene Mueller  
N8710 Pine Road  
St. Cloud, WI 53079

# **GenMet** Corp.

**SUPERIOR METAL FABRICATION**

I am Eric Isbister. My wife and I own GenMet, a 70 employee metal fabrication company located in Mequon Wisconsin. We are working hard to grow our company and diversify our customer base. GenMet's employees and owners have an interest in alternate energy. The wind industry in particular utilizes a lot of fabricated metal. We have joined a number of wind industry associations and we have started to grow our business in this space. Many of the manufactured parts of these large machines are produced local to the final installation. If we don't install wind turbines in our state we won't likely manufacture them here.

Therefore our job should be to minimize restrictions on wind turbine installation to technical issues such as those necessary to protect personal and property safety. The protection provided by setbacks should be based on science (for example ice damage) and derived from hub height and blade length not an arbitrary distance.

We have yet another job and it is to grow jobs in Wisconsin. Our manufacturing base, if reinvigorated, can provide good paying careers. If manufacturing is to grow it will need today's young people. The jobs will need to ignite their passion. Alternate energy does that and you can help make it happen in Wisconsin.

The country that manufactures innovates and becomes the leader. For example we in Wisconsin are a leader of agricultural equipment design and manufacture because the farms are here. The problems that need solutions are here. The problem solvers have made us an industry leader in agricultural equipment. We have the engineers and manufacturers. The wind industry can be our future leadership industry.

Don't make laws that move the wind industry out of our state.

Thank you.

Eric Isbister

CEO

**GenMet** Corp.

10245 N Enterprise Drive

Mequon WI 53092

Phone (262) 238-7000 ext.125

Fax (262) 238-7007

[www.genmet.com](http://www.genmet.com)

SUPERIOR METAL FABRICATION

Superior Safety, Quality and On Time Delivery  
Supported by Employee Led Continuous Improvement and State of the Art Technology  
Resulting in Profitable, Long Term Customer Relationships.

ISO 9001 – 2008 Certified

10245 N. Enterprise Dr.

Mequon, WI 53092

Phone 262-238-7000

Fax 262-238-7007



My name is Gerry Meyer. I live at W6249 County Road Y, Brownsville Wisconsin. I live in the Forward wind factory erected by Invenergy.

I agree that there are some energy issues in the state although there are reports that we have 35% more electricity than we currently need. Probably at some point we will need that extra capacity. I hope that we also can agree that if this is an issue we need to solve the problem using a science based approach as this is a very technical field not one that can be solved by throwing out the word "green" or "renewable" and expecting to solve the problem.

The Forward project was the first big project in the state with the Blue Sky Green Field right after it. The wind companies pretty much wrote the rules telling the PSC this was safe. Science and common sense were not used. I have heard many times that a 1000 foot set back from a home is a safe set back. Then 1250 feet is safe. That sound levels of 50 Dba or even 65Dba is safe. We hear that there is no affect on property values and that shadow flicker is minimal and can be eliminated. Non of this is true.

I live in a wind factory. The rules that the PSC approved last fall does nothing to stop the suffering of those living near irresponsibly placed industrial wind turbines. How can you not know that **world wide** where ever there are large industrial wind turbines there are health problems, sound problems and property value loss?

Since Governor Walker proposed the 1800 foot set back from property lines all we hear from the pro-wind people is Wisconsin will lose \$1.8 billion in wind energy. This shows me that this industry is not designed with science, but of the lust for money.

The PSC did not use science for the rules they approved last fall. They used recommendations from the wind siting council that was legislatively designed to be strongly biased to make wind energy development in Wisconsin easy. I was at those meetings and saw the one council member that lived within a wind farm boundary ignored when he spoke about responsible siting and was denied his request several times to play a recording of sound he captured one morning at 4:00 AM when he could not sleep.

I have been labeled "anti" wind by a member of Renew Wisconsin. That was not true. I went to informational meetings for the Forward project and was neutral. This seemed like good thing just as we were told. I listened to what I know to be misrepresentations from Invenergy and the PSC. I was not a part of the group fighting the project. I actually thought is it possible that I could host one of these on my six acres of land. I sure was naïve and ignorant.

The turbines around my house began turning on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. Our quality of life immediately changed. First of all it sounded like a jet flying over. I actually looked into the sky for that jet. That turbine is 1560 feet directly north of my house. My first thought

was "We've been had". I began a daily noise diary. My wife and then 13 year old son immediately began having head aches and sleep problems. At least I was sleeping. Or so I thought. As time went on I realized I no longer dreamed. Now I only dream when I am away from home. I would have a pulsing feeling at the base of my neck and feel nauseated when I sat on the edge of the bed. We had other symptoms, but did not connect any of these to the turbines or anything else.

About two months after the turbines start up some out of state visitors came and gave me a copy of a radio interview done by Doctor Nina Pierpont from Malone, New York. She had been studying people that live close to large industrial wind turbines and the affects these people were experiencing. As she talked about symptoms these people had I found that we were experiencing those same symptoms.

As time went on our quality of life got worse. I felt unmotivated. I felt exhausted and needed one or two naps during the day to try and alleviate the sleep deprivation I was experiencing at night. I had trouble remembering customer's names on my mail route and could no longer do simple calculations that in the past I did in my head. I felt stressed and angry, especially when working outside in the garden which in the past was a relaxing activity.

I hear people say "I know about noise because I live near an airport", or I live next to the highway or train tracks. None of these compare to the sound of large industrial wind turbines. I am not a sound engineer, but I do know that there is a low frequency sound or infra sound that often we do not physically hear, but our body feels. Does this get better or do we get used to it. NO. My symptoms are getting worse. I usually sleep until about 1:30 or 2:30 AM then am woke up about every hour or get only restless sleep. Often by 4:30 or 5:00 AM I can not longer sleep.

I have had my cortisol level checked. Cortisol is a stress hormone. I had it checked in July of 2009. My level, which is analyzed by the Mayo Clinic, was 254. It should be less than 100. In late September early October of 2009 all 86 turbines were shut down for 21 days. During that time I found I had lost 17 of the 37 pounds I had gained since the turbines went on line. I also was feeling better. The day after the shut down I again tested my cortisol. It was 35. From 254 to 35. Don't that tell you something or at least raise a red flag that appropriations need to be made to do an epidemiological study in the current wind factories before more wind energy victims are produced in more wind factories?

Sleep deprivation causes a number of diseases. A partial list includes high blood pressure, diabetes, depression, memory loss, impotence and heart disease. This list comes from Bellin Heath in Green Bay.

I have 5 wind turbines within 3300' of my house. From this experience I know that a 2640' set back is not enough so an 1800' set back from a property line would be a

giant compromise. I know that 50 decibels is too loud. I know that 45 decibels is too loud. I have a sound meter to experience this. I feel 5 decibels above the ambient sound is a safe sound level especially at night. We need property value protection clauses just like those of neighbors to land fills and quarries. We also need to end the shadow flicker that is trespassing on to neighboring properties.

My time is up. I have much more to say as one can not put 2 years, 11 months and 6 days of hell into a few minutes.

Please suspend the current rules so nonparticipating property owners get proper protection from large industrial wind turbines.

Thank you

Gerry Meyer  
W6249 County Road Y  
Brownsville WI 53006-1103  
920 948 7469  
gcmeyer@fastbytes.com

# **Health Effects We Feel From Living Near Industrial Wind Turbines**

## **Written in the fall of 2008 with several updates**

13 year old son -: Can't sleep or interrupted sleep, headaches, tells us and teachers "It feels like my head is spinning 100 miles an hour. In general more anger than in the past. Most nights sleeps with one radio and some night two radios running to cover the turbine sound.

wife:- Headaches, lack or loss of sleep – often up in the middle of the night to read and try and get tired again due to either direct sound from the turbines or low frequency noise not heard but felt by the body. Ringing and buzzing in the ears. In early April, 2010 we went on a vacation to Montreal, Canada. It took 4 to 5 days for the ringing to go away. We came home after dark. When we turned on to our road she said, "The ringing is back". Updated July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009. After being to the Dr. in January and advised to watch blood pressure went back today as it has been continuing to climb. Also gaining weight. Dr told my wife, lack of sleep will cause both of these issues. Now she has been prescribed a sleep aide to see if this will help first. If not then I will need to go on blood pressure meds. Also she (doctor) said that lack of sleep can cause heart disease, dibetes and fibromyalgia. We know some people who have that and I certainly do not want this.

Gerry: -Tenseness, anxiety, occasional headaches (in the past rarely got headaches), light headed, unusual feeling in the base of the neck, nausea, anger (that elected officials have allowed this to happen) (anger from the constant sound), lack of motivation, tired most of the time, having trouble remembering names and facts, lack of feeling happy, not dreaming at home. Only dream when away from the wind farm which would show not getting into deep sleep or REM sleep. Added April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Recently I have been experiencing chest pains. When I go away for a few days the chest pains go away. Crackling or hissing in my ears is now constant. I also have been gaining weight, especially the last month. In all 26 pounds since the turbines began turning even with eating less and not in the late evening. At question is my cortisol which I hope to have checked soon. Updated August 17, 2009: On Friday 8-14-9 I received the results from my Dr. from my cortisol check. I was told it is moderately high and recommended that I see an endocrinologist for further testing. I have now gained 27-37 pounds. During the worst sleep deprivation (July 29, 2009) my cortisol level was 254. It should be less than 100. On October 19<sup>th</sup> after all 86 turbines were shut down for almost 21 days and noticing that I had lost 17 pounds, I again tested my cortisol level and found it to be 35. More recently I get about 2 hours sleep a night. After that I am either consciously awake or toss and turn. When YOU get a normal nights sleep you don't even think about the chemical changes and nourishment your body and brain during sleep. Now that my sleep is deprived I am learning. Those affects you can read about in other documents I will submit. One is from my federal health insurance while looking for an approved endocrinologist due to my high cortisol level. Updated 6-20-2010. I have blood tests about every six months to most specifically check thyroid levels but other tests as well. This is the first time that my glucose level was above standards and a concern to my Dr. Diabetes is one of the diseases connected to sleep deprivation. Yes, I am concerned. Updated January 13, 2011. Today's glucose level is 114. Not terribly high, but above standards. It is increasing while I eat fewer foods with sugar in them.

Our dog – He will walk down the sidewalk and look at the turbine because of the noise. I have commented to my wife and oldest son that "Trigger is acting like an old dog (he is 7) he walks around slow, sleeps a lot and does not have much motivation". When I finally admitted and wrote down my motivation issues I realized our dog was experiencing the same.

This is due to five industrial wind turbines being erected within 5/8 of a mile (1005 meters) from our home. One is 1560 feet (475 meters), one 2480 feet (756 meters), and three are 5/8 of a mile (1005

meters) away from our house. Occasionally I hear one to the east 7/8 mile (1408 meters) away and one directly south 1 mile (1610 meters) away. Sometimes the first three mentioned are equal in sound and can be heard inside the house sometimes in all rooms. Some say, "You can hear the train or you can hear traffic and that is not a problem". That is correct. That is not a problem, but the large, loud, industrial wind turbines emit a different sound, a constant sound that does not go away and a low frequency sound that penetrates the house and body that sometimes the body does not consciously hear, but feels.

Written and submitted by  
Gerry Meyer  
W6249 County Road Y  
Brownsville WI 53006-1103  
920 948 7469

The document below is from a woman I will name Sue. Sue is a very private person that at this time wants to remain anonymous. I know her boyfriend and in our conversations I would learn that she was suffering from many health issues. I would suggest that she explore the possibility that her health was being affected by the wind turbines. It took many months for Sue to take her boy friend's advice and call me. Now that I have interviewed Sue I would say she had the worst health symptoms of anyone I know living in a wind factory. When I talked with her she did not want our conversation to be recorded nor for me to take a photo of her. I wrote every comment she made on paper, went home and typed my hand written notes and took them back for her approval. Below is what I wrote and near the end comments I wrote after they moved in early June or about a month ago.

May 14, 2010

I wrote this after receiving a call from Sue. I went to her home and as I listened to her I wrote down the symptoms she recited to me. Because up until now she did not believe the turbines were the causes of her symptoms she did not think about which wind direction might be causing the worst nights of sleep deprivation or making certain symptoms more severe. I later took note of the distances of turbines from their home. The closest is about 1560 feet as measured with a range finder. Interesting is that is the same distance as the closest turbine to my house. Two other turbines are ½ mile away. One is 7 tenths of a mile away. There are two more that could be in the ½ mile range, but I did not estimate the distance of those turbines.

On about April 29 I received a phone call from a woman in great distress about the serious health affects she is experiencing due to living near large industrial wind turbines. I had been talking to her boyfriend for at least six months about what he had been telling me about her health. I had suggested the large industrial wind turbines near their home. She was in denial that the turbines were causing her serious health issues.

Sue moved out to live with her boyfriend on Road X about September 7th of 2007. She has two sons in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades from a previous marriage. Some of the large industrial wind turbines were erected however the turbines closest to their home were not yet up or turning. The area where she lives is somewhat near where the first turbines were erected. The turbines closest to their home and causing the most noise and discomfort are turbines 107, 40a (?), 44, 45 and 48 and probably turbine 22a to the NE of their home.

The concerns began about 2 months after Sue moved to rural Oakfield just ½ mile north of the Fond du Lac County line. As soon as the turbines began turning she had a tightening in her chest, pain in her chest and gasping for air as well as headaches. Sue has a history of headaches which were not greatly enhanced by living in her new residence. She had migraine headaches in the past, but she mentioned these headaches are not migraine headaches, yet they are more severe. She would take large amounts of over the counter pain killers going from one brand to another looking for relief. Later she learned that these headaches were migraines, but were different from what she experienced before moving to this home surrounded by wind turbines.

Then came eye pain. It feels like the left side of her head is inflamed although it is not. As time went on the headaches became excruciating and the left eye hurt more.

She mentions she is becoming forgetful. Talking on the phone is painful and tries to avoid it.

She also realizes she is more crabby than in the past over simple, stupid "stuff".

At issue is lack of sleep, often getting an hour of sleep, looking at the clock and over and over at the night goes on. She tried Benadryl for sleep, but it did not work.

This spring the health affects got greater. She had severe abdominal pain. She had an upper GI series with negative results. She had an abdominal CAT scan with "all is OK results". One doctor told her stress was the cause. The only different catalyst in her life is the industrial wind turbines.

From March 6<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 she lost 20 pounds. Sue states that otherwise her daily life is no different than the past other than the sleep deprivation caused by the wind turbines. She feels like her body is changing. She has been tested for allergies. Nothing shows up.

Sue's body reacts to foods that never were a problem for her in the past. She enjoys drinking milk, but her stomach no longer can handle milk.

She has been on a hormone medication for about 10 months which she now has quit taking because it began causing her to feel "weird" and delusional.

She feels very frustrated and angry over this invasion of her life. Often she has difficulty breathing. She does not smoke. She often has a fluttering in her chest. In one episode of concern for her life she went to the emergency room.

She has had a CAT scan of her sinuses with normal results. She is tired, exhausted, has anxiety, and stressed. One doctor told her that her immune system is low.

Again when Sue moved to this home in September of 2007 she was in good health and felt really good.

Her eyes and ears have hurt the last few months. Most recently she has spots in her eyes and does not dream anymore.

After our discussion Sue called me with concern that she does not have good circulation. Her feet and fingers are always cold with winter being especially uncomfortable.

In talking to Sue and her boyfriend I found this was to be their dream home. There was 35 acres of land with the house and barn. They found they no longer could live here under these conditions (the loud, sleep depriving, severe health causing life in a wind factory). Because of the farm land and offer in their price range was accepted.

Sue and her boyfriend moved in early June. Most of Sue's symptoms are gone and the remainder has greatly improved. She did exactly what Jevon McFadden's presentation to the wind siting council suggested. She visited health care professionals many times. She had many tests and numerous blood test with normal results. No serious underlying health issues, yet her body was greatly affected. I don't think any findings filtered to the state health department? She feels much better now that she is not living near the large industrial wind turbines that affected her life for about 20 months.

Update October 2, 2010. Sue's boyfriend told me she is a new person since moving away. She feels better and has motivation and ambition she has not had since the turbines began turning.

This information should raise red flags to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin that there **IS** serious health issues related to large industrial wind turbines being placed too close to residences. Leading doctors and science related professionals are suggesting a 1 mile or more setback from homes. Where is the science that shows that living 1000' from an industrial wind turbine is safe? The state health department states (Wind siting council presentation by expert Dr. Jevon McFadden) "**Evidence does not support the conclusion that wind turbines *cause* or are *associated with adverse health outcomes*".** If you look at this letter, the cortisol testing that I have done and information about many others with serious health issues from living in wind factories you should determine that a moratorium on wind factory construction needs to be enacted until epidemiological studies can be done.

We hear testimony that Wisconsin is lagging in wind farm construction and jobs are being lost. Why should Wisconsin be a leader in wind energy production? Why aren't Wisconsin legislators, doctors and other leaders speaking out for the health and safety of its residents?

As Written by Gerry Meyer

# Wildlife-How Industrial Wind Turbines Affect Them

January 31, 2009

This of course is not a scientific study. It is just from daily living inside an industrial wind farm and the affect it has had on wildlife on our property and others in the Town Of Byron area here in Fond du Lac County, WI. We used to see 16 to 20 turkeys if not every day every few days before construction of the industrial wind turbines began. Now that construction has been completed and since March 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2008 we have seen ONLY one turkey.

The same goes for deer. We used to see on a regular basis a deer or two down our lane behind the house or in one of our two gardens. We have 6+ acres of land with over 3 acres in heavy pine trees and an acre of wild flowers. That is pretty good habitat for deer. We have not seen a deer or deer tracks on our property since construction began.

Our neighbor, Dave C, across the road bought 40 acres when our neighbor discontinued farming. Part of that land has woods on it. Dave's father many years ago built a hunting stand on a corner of the woods in a tree and shot many deer from it. I later used that same stand and now Dave hunts from that very same tree. This year he saw no deer from that hunting stand. The only thing he saw was shadow flicker from industrial wind turbines and the annoying sound from those same turbines.

Another neighbor, Greg B, whom I have known since a child has a 19 acre woods between turbines 6 and 7. He used to feed the deer from his back yard deck. Since construction of the wind turbines began he has not seen any deer accept on opening day of deer hunting in November of 2008. Three deer were being chased and they ran through his yard.

At a town hall meeting today (1-31-9) with state senator Joe Liebham with about 80 people in attendance I mentioned this (not seeing wildlife) and I heard many yeses and agreeing head nods.

We don't see and hear the song birds like we used to at our feeders. If the turbines are turning we no longer hear song birds. A friend, who also lives in the project, recently told me he no longer sees the hawk that used to hang out by his home. We don't see kestrels or hawks and I no longer hear the owl that would frequent the woods adjacent to my property. Yes, there definitely is an affect on wildlife when industrial wind turbines take over the neighborhood.



We know residents two miles north of this wind factory and they are seeing more deer than before the industrial wind turbines were erected.

Update June 15, 2010. We continue to see no deer and no turkeys. We used to see hawks and hear owls at night. It was so neat to hear them. They have not been present since the turbines began turning. We do have some Cardinals and a few other song birds that come to our feeders. There are very few compared to what we had prior to the turbine construction.

October 10, 2010 – We heard an owl tonight. It is the second time I have heard an owl since construction began. We used to have owls in the woods behind our house on a regular basis.

One of the first siting council meetings in the PSC center in Madison I asked a PSC staff member about no mention of wildlife in the items to be discussed. I was told that would be up to the DNR to respond to. I have read the DNR letter concerning wind and wildlife. It is so weak it is pathetic. It is all generalizations and no requirements. These happenings are going on world wide wherever large industrial wind turbines are placed. Why is the PSC blind on this? Instead of promoting wind energy why isn't the Sierra Club and other environmental groups striving to protect the wildlife rather than kill it and stress it? Why won't the wind energy victims be heard? \$\$\$\$\$\$

Written and submitted by  
Gerry Meyer  
W6249 County Road Y  
Brownsville WI 53006-1103  
920 948 7469

As a retired Postal Service employee I am covered by federal health insurance. The very first time I went to the company's web site this is what greeted me on the home page. Very fitting to wind energy.

Gerry Meyer  
W6249 County Road Y  
Brownsville WI 53006-1103

From <http://fepblue.org> federal employees Blue Cross insurance  
Sleep Needs and Insomnia

We've been doing a giant experiment on ourselves by turning night into day. In the millennia before electricity lit up our nights, we slept about 10 hours a night. Today Americans average just under 7 hours' sleep on weeknights, and a half hour more on weekends. That's a whopping 20 hours less sleep each week. And 20% of us sleep less than 6 hours a night.

What are the effects of this radical change? For the most part, we don't know. The scientific study of sleep is still young. We're just beginning to chart the territory, from the basics of normal sleep patterns through the woes of insomnia and further to the exotic lands of sleep disorders called parasomnias, where mild-mannered men howl like wolves and women ravage their kitchens for food while fast asleep. It's a fascinating journey for scientists as they discover the role of sleep in learning, memory, disease, immunity and aging. There is already lots of evidence of a feedback cycle between not sleeping well or enough and poor health.

For many of us sleep is a frustrating issue. We have so many tasks and distractions that we can't get our kids or ourselves to bed on time. When we do get to bed we lie awake with racing minds or restless legs. Our partners snore so loudly it makes us crazy. We wake up in the wee hours and can't fall back asleep. By day we're so drowsy we can't think straight. We nod off in meetings and at stoplights--or worse, while actually driving.

Our basic problem is too little sleep. But about 64 million Americans a year also have insomnia, often for long periods. Insomnia is trouble falling asleep, waking up often, waking up early and being unable to fall back asleep, or waking up not feeling rested. Another 18 million or so have sleep apnea, where part of the throat relaxes and repeatedly closes the airway until they snort or gasp and breathe again. As many as 12 million have restless leg syndrome. And another quarter million has narcolepsy, causing "sleep attacks" where they may suddenly lose all muscle tone and collapse.

There's help for nearly all of these problems. This week we'll start with the basics of sleep needs and insomnia. Next week we'll discuss some of the other sleep disorders that trouble our days and nights, like restless legs syndrome and narcolepsy. To learn about the serious health condition sleep apnea, search the Cover Story Archives for our article *More Than Snoring: Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)*.

## How much sleep do we really need?

- **Infants:** 11-18 hours per night
- **Toddlers:** 12-15 hours
- **Preschool kids ages 3-5:** 11-13 hours
- **Kids 5-12:** 9-11 hours
- **Teens:** at least 8.5-9.5 hours
- **Adults:** 7-9 hours (women in the first 3 months of pregnancy often need several more)

Good morning, Co-Chairs Vukmir and Ott and members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on PSC 128.

My name is Julie Voeck. I am the Director of Regulatory Affairs for NextEra Energy Resources and am responsible for representation of the company in regulatory and legislative matters in Wisconsin.

NextEra Energy Resources, a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy, is the largest owner of wind projects in the United States. We operate 115 electric-generating facilities in 26 states and Canada, including 80 wind facilities that produce more than 8,000 MW of wind power and represent investments of over \$11 billion.

NextEra operates three facilities in Wisconsin... the Point Beach Nuclear Plant in Two Rivers... the Butler Ridge Wind Energy Center in Dodge County... and the Montfort Wind Energy Center in Iowa County.

NextEra's presence in Wisconsin has created and over 650 permanent jobs. Our facilities also help boost the state's economy through other direct benefits, including nearly \$400,000 in landowner payments, an expanded tax base and the purchase of local goods and services.

When Special Session Bills AB 9 and SB 9 – relating to wind siting – were introduced at the request of Governor Walker, it sent shockwaves through the wind energy industry. If passed, not only would the legislation severely limit future investment in Wisconsin by NextEra... it would likely shut down the state's wind energy industry.

NextEra is equally concerned about potential action by this Committee to suspend PSC 128. This would create unpredictability in the market, driving investors and developers who depend on market stability out of Wisconsin.

NextEra is currently pursuing a potential 100MW project in Wisconsin that would contribute roughly \$180 million to economy as well as create 100-200 construction jobs and

eight to ten high-quality permanent jobs. Suspension of PSC 128 would put this project in jeopardy.

With that in mind, I would ask the Committee to withhold action to suspend or modify PSC 128. We believe the rule should be implemented and given adequate opportunity to work before any modifications are considered.

PSC 128 was crafted through a fair, open rulemaking process and represents several years of study by state regulators to consider the position of all stakeholders. The end result is a statewide wind siting standard that addresses the concerns of landowners, while also supporting continued economic development in Wisconsin.

I would also like to stress that NextEra takes any concerns regarding our projects seriously, and we are not aware of any scientific, peer-reviewed information linking wind turbines with negative health effects or diminished property values.

However, as the county's leading generator of wind energy, we are keenly aware of the negative impact arbitrary and onerous regulations have on wind energy development... and the jobs and economic benefits it brings to communities across the nation.

In closing, I would once again ask the Committee to support economic development and job creation in Wisconsin, and withhold action to suspend or modify PSC 128.

NextEra Energy Resources looks forward to further discussing the points brought up in my testimony. At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions.

# SECONDWIND

Second Wind Financial Services  
1719 Route 10 East, Ste. 207  
Parsippany, NJ 07054  
Phone (973) 292-0025 Fax (973) 292-0019

## CUSTOMER CREDIT INFORMATION

Legal Company Name: WES Engineering INC Years in Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Lease Option: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 706 S Orchard St State of Incorp.: WI COUNTY: Dane Fed Tax ID#: 27-2026743  
Phone: 608/259-9304 Equip LOCATION: (If different) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: 608/299-0426 Location Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch, Parent, If Other, Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact: Wes Slaymaker Location Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: Wes@WESengineering.com

## BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

Name: Wes Slaymaker Home Address: 706 S Orchard St  
Social Security #: 309-66-2341 Madison, WI 53715  
Ownership %: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Tim Laughlin Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ownership %: 50  
List Others Separately: \_\_\_\_\_

## BANK REFERENCE

Name: Park Bank Contact: Tom Pope  
Address: 815 Greenway Cross  
PO Box 8969 Checking Acct # 235707  
Phone: 608/278-2843 Savings Acct # \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: 608/278.2853 Loan Acct # \_\_\_\_\_

## TRADE REFERENCES

Company Name: Pioneer Windworks LLC Contact: Jason Vidas  
Address: 222 North Elm St Phone: 608/333-7041  
LaFarge, WI 54639 Fax: 608/237-2106  
Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name: Wave Wind Contact: Tim Laughlin  
Address: 4589 Cty Rd TT Suite A Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We hereby authorize the release of any and all credit information from the above listed references, and certify that all is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge. The undersigned individual(s), recognizing that his/her/their individual credit histories may be a factor in the evaluation of the credit applicant, hereby consent(s) to and authorizes(s) the credit provider to obtain and use a consumer credit report on the undersigned, now and from time to time, as may be needed in the credit evaluation and review process and waives any right or claim they would otherwise have under the Fair Credit Reporting Act in the absence of this continuing consent.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

February 8, 2011

Representatives of Wisconsin  
Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules

Re: PSC 128 Wind Siting Rules

Wisconsin legislative members reviewing wind turbine siting rules PSC 128:

I own and operate a Wisconsin based business with 4 employees that is involved in wind and renewable energy technology. I moved here 5 years ago in part due to progressive policy on renewables and the prospects for work, as well as the quality of life for myself and my family. WES Engineering assists schools and businesses who are interested to install wind turbines to offset some or all of their energy use or sell energy to a utility. These clients are very committed to improving the air quality in Wisconsin and demonstrating leadership in reducing the carbon footprint of their entities.

I am expressing my support for the adoption of the PSC 128 wind siting rules as written. These reasonable regulations and setbacks for wind turbines in Wisconsin will allow Wisconsin businesses like mine to design and construct wind energy projects around the State where there are good wind resources. These projects employ many Wisconsin businesses in design, construction and operations. The projects also include benefits for the local communities, including revenues, employment and energy generated from a Wisconsin resource without any carbon emissions, water usage, or other harmful emissions. There are operating wind projects in Wisconsin with satisfied neighbors and communities, the Montfort project west of Dodgeville has operated nearly ten years with few complaints, and 20 large wind turbines.

I realize wind turbines can have negative impacts on neighboring properties, but believe the PSC rules are some of the most stringent in the Midwest and offer a compromise that allows wind turbine projects to continue while also affording more protection for neighbors. Many tall structures in Wisconsin have similarly been seen at times as a blight that should not be allowed (cell towers and transmission towers), but each persists in WI and the rest of the world as necessary components of a modern world.

This country was made great and important in the world through technological advancement and industry, not always the best for peace and quiet living, but certainly the best to maintain our world leadership position. Let's keep some reasonable regulations allowing wind turbines to be sited in the State.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wes Slaymaker, P.E.



President

WES Engineering Inc.

[www.WESengineering.com](http://www.WESengineering.com)

[wes@WESengineering.com](mailto:wes@WESengineering.com)

608-259-9304

**IBEW LOCAL UNION 2150**  
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**  
**N56W13777 SILVER SPRING DRIVE MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53051-6127**  
**262-252-2552 \* 800-551-1151 \* FAX 262-703-3520**  
**FORREST CEEL, BUSINESS MANAGER**

Feb. 9, 2011

Senator Vukmir, Representative Ott and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Mike Bellcock and I am a Business Agent and Legislative Director for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2150. Local 2150 is the largest labor organization representing energy workers in the state with over 4500 members employed by investor-owned and municipal utilities, electric co-ops, and electrical, gas, and telecommunications contractors. In addition, our members manufacture medium and large size transformers at Waukesha Electric Systems that serve the electric grid throughout North America.

Our organization supports a common-sense, balanced energy approach for the state which would include a mix of coal, nuclear, gas, hydroelectric, solar and wind energy as well as other emerging technologies. We believe such an approach is good for the state of Wisconsin as it will help hold costs down for ratepayers, spur economic development and ultimately result in more good jobs for Wisconsin residents.

Local 2150 supports the current version of wind siting rule (PSC 128) including the setback standards contained in the rule. We have concerns that amending the rule to be more restrictive to wind energy development could have a very negative impact for Wisconsin based manufacturing and construction companies and workers. Wisconsin based employers such as Michels Corporation and Waukesha Electric Systems, as well as concrete companies, tower manufacturers and constructors, road builders and others employ hundreds of Wisconsin workers who are directly involved in the wind energy industry here and throughout the country.

The current wind siting rule was developed to balance the interests of many stakeholders, and as written, will preserve as well as expand job opportunities for Wisconsin workers, which would help fulfill a high priority of the administration.

Thank you,

Mike Bellcock  
Business Agent  
IBEW Local 2150

**IBEW LOCAL UNION 2150**  
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**  
**N56W13777 SILVER SPRING DRIVE MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53051-6127**  
**262-252-2552 \* 800-551-1151 \* FAX 262-703-3520**  
**FORREST CEEL, BUSINESS MANAGER**

Feb. 9, 2011

Senator Vukmir, Representative Ott and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Mike Bellcock and I am a Business Agent and Legislative Director for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2150. Local 2150 is the largest labor organization representing energy workers in the state with over 4500 members employed by investor-owned and municipal utilities, electric co-ops, and electrical, gas, and telecommunications contractors. In addition, our members manufacture medium and large size transformers at Waukesha Electric Systems that serve the electric grid throughout North America.

Our organization supports a common-sense, balanced energy approach for the state which would include a mix of coal, nuclear, gas, hydroelectric, solar and wind energy as well as other emerging technologies. We believe such an approach is good for the state of Wisconsin as it will help hold costs down for ratepayers, spur economic development and ultimately result in more good jobs for Wisconsin residents.

Local 2150 supports the current version of wind siting rule (PSC 128) including the setback standards contained in the rule. We have concerns that amending the rule to be more restrictive to wind energy development could have a very negative impact for Wisconsin based manufacturing and construction companies and workers. Wisconsin based employers such as Michels Corporation and Waukesha Electric Systems, as well as concrete companies, tower manufacturers and constructors, road builders and others employ hundreds of Wisconsin workers who are directly involved in the wind energy industry here and throughout the country.

The current wind siting rule was developed to balance the interests of many stakeholders, and as written, will preserve as well as expand job opportunities for Wisconsin workers, which would help fulfill a high priority of the administration.

Thank you,

Mike Bellcock  
Business Agent  
IBEW Local 2150



Submitted by

Dr. Larry J. Lark  
Chm. Town of Holland Wind Study/Ordinance Committee  
2427 Park Rd  
Greenleaf, WI 54126  
920-864-7411  
larrylark@rocketmail.com

  
\_\_\_\_\_


State of Wisconsin

County of Dane

On this day February 9th 2011 personally appeared before me,

Dr. Larry J Lark

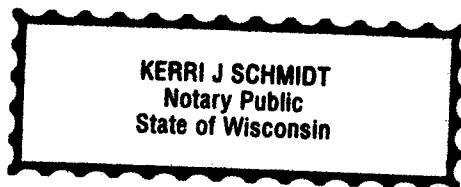
to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal



To: Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules

From: Theresa Lark, retired Math Instructor for FVTC (Appleton) --

I have lived in Brown Co for over 35 yrs. I'm in the township of Holland, 1000 ft from the proposed Turbine # 60 of the Invenenergy Ledgeview Wind Project.

---

A large Wind Turbine Company from Chicago has come into my neighborhood and proposed secretive business contracts with my neighbors that will lower my property value, take away my property rights, and put my safety and health, and that of my family and guests in jeopardy. This has been done without any previous disclosures to me.

If this wind farm is built on my neighbors' properties according to the current PSC RULES, the infringement of the setback which overlaps part of my property will prevent me from building, developing, or utilizing the effected land. Therefore I am asking that you suspend the current PSC RULES and consider the setback and noise levels established by the Ordinance of my local township of Holland ... a 2,640 ft setback from property lines and a noise level of not more than 5 over ambient.

The proposed Wind Farm is in an area where the turbines will at best be 25% efficient, and average only 17%. I'm a math teacher and those numbers just don't make good business sense. Wisconsin cannot continue to support this tax-subsidized industry. It is infuriating to think that my tax money is financially supporting an industry that in turn is infringing on my property rights, lowering my property values, and in the long run, increasing the tax on electric rate payers, and using my taxes to support the subsidy in the first place ... it's a ridiculous, vicious circle!

I know we need to increase building, business and industry, and economic development in Wisconsin, but Wind Farms are not doing that. They create short-term temporary jobs, and only a few jobs thereafter. It takes just a few days to build and put up a turbine... I watched that in my neighboring township of Glenmore last September.

There are no long term jobs after the turbines are built. And now on the acres where those windmills stand, there will be no other development for years and years... no new homes or farm buildings, no industry, nothing.... It has all been halted! This is not progress... it's stunting the growth and development that our economy needs.

The jobs that would be created by future property and economic development are gone

with job-killing wind energy policies, higher taxes on energy and business, and lost property rights.

Submitted by

Theresa Lark  
2427 Park Rd  
Greenleaf, WI 54126  
920-864-7411  
terry [lark@ymail.com](mailto:lark@ymail.com)

Theresa A. Lark

State of Wisconsin

County of Dane

On this day February 9th 2011, personally appeared before me,

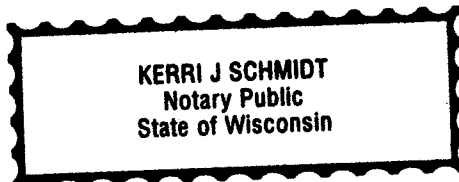
Theresa Lark

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Kerri J Schmidt  
Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal



February 8, 2011

Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules

RE: PSC 128 (CR 10-057) Relating to the siting of wind energy systems.

Dear Legislator,

We support proper siting of anything...a manure pit, silo, barn, new home, etc. We have ordinances in our town to protect ALL residents regarding siting.

Our State now tells us we must allow industrial wind factories to occupy our farm and residential land... squeezing in between our homes. These factories are given the title of wind FARMS with carte blanche...even though Wisconsin is on the very low end scale for wind generation.

Our homes are about one to two RESIDENTIAL blocks from each other...which is about 600'-1200' from each other. Many are even closer than that...just right across the road. We're not the wide open plains.

Industrial wind factories are tall as a 50 story building. (Only two buildings in Wisconsin are taller.) Imagine looking at 50 story turbines...with spinning blade movement ...two blocks from your home...EVERY DAY.

Our fields of crops sit quiet most of the year. We don't hear tractors often...or cars consistently...but we're told we must listen to turbines day and night with noise limits exceeding the RURAL norm.

The proposed 1250' setback to the corner of an innocent neighbor's home includes a portion of their land. Land they own and pay taxes on will now be taken from them without regard.

As a former realtor and president of our board of realtors in the 80's when the economy tanked... house values went down. BUT houses near a water tower, factory, or other undesirable...fell even lower...or didn't sell at all. When the economy bloomed, house values went up. BUT those houses near the undesirables...still sold for less or not at all...because now the economy was good...why buy the undesirable houses?

Turbine companies won't support property value guarantee because they KNOW the property values drop up to 40% from the turbines.

Whether you have turbines coming to your area or not, you and your constituents as taxpayers are subsidizing these...helping to foot the bill.

Jobs will be created initially, BUT remember...many turbine parts are foreign sourced. Once turbines are up, jobs are unsustainable and fall drastically.

Energy costs WILL rise...existing companies WILL be electrically cost-devastated...and prospective companies WILL SNUB Wisconsin.

In turbine areas, new development will NOT happen. Home and business construction jobs will be lost. Turbine areas also border cities...whose expansion is then restricted.

Globally, countries are including a minimum of one to two mile setbacks, lower noise limits, improved control over communication interruption, etc. YET WE ARE TOLD CONSISTENTLY... we are not those other



February 9, 2011

RE: Please allow the wind siting rules to take effect.

Dear Members of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules:

The Citizens Utility Board urges you to allow the "wind siting rules," codified as PSC 128 (CR 10-057), to take effect without modification.

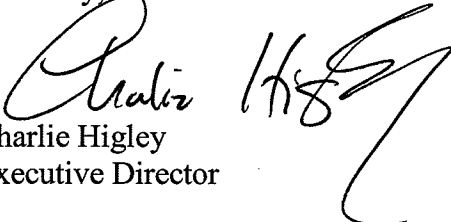
CUB is a member-supported nonprofit organization that advocates for reliable and affordable utility service. Since 1979, CUB has represented the interests of residential, farm, and small business customers of electric, natural gas, and telecommunication utilities before regulatory agencies, the Legislature, and the courts.

The wind siting rules will allow for the rational development of wind farms in Wisconsin with positive impacts for electricity consumers while protecting the interests of local landowners. Wind farms produce electricity using free fuel. Wind projects help protect electric ratepayers from rising rates caused by ever-increasing prices for the fossil fuels from which Wisconsin utilities derive most of their electricity.

Modifying the wind siting rules could jeopardize further development of wind projects in Wisconsin, and make Wisconsin ratepayers more dependent on fossil fuels and associated rate hikes.

Please allow the wind siting rules to take effect without further modification.

Sincerely,

  
Charlie Higley  
Executive Director

February 7, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing you to suspend the PSC Wind Sitting Rules that are to go into effect March 1. There needs to be more time for all parties, especially the Legislatures, to gather more information. These rules affect the whole state, every single citizen. Not just the people that live near wind farm or people that will be living with them soon.

I totally support and like Governor Walker's proposal to place wind turbines 1800' from those who are not hosting the turbines. But that is already a compromise. If you truly and honestly want to do the right thing is to have a minimum of **2640ft setback from property lines**. This is truly the only way to protect my family's property rights. I am in all favor of this safe distance. So many other states and countries are setting a ½ mile setback to protect people, animals, and property. This is the morally and economically right thing to do and I feel that is a compromise for what we have to live with. I am also asking for 5dba over ambient for a noise limit.

I am a Morrison resident with a family of 5 that will have to live with the wind turbines in my neighborhood for the rest of my life if the Inverengy project for the Morrison area goes through. This is a serious issue with serious people. My family and I are terrified of what are life is going to be like if these monsters come to our community. Our community is an over populated that has no room for these huge wind turbines. Something needs to be done now, not tomorrow and not next week about the setback, health & safety issues, shadow flickering, and other terrifying aspects that come from those type of dinosaurs.

We need to protect Wisconsin taxpayers from the injustices of the proposed PSC wind sitting rules. Rules currently proposed by the Wind Sitting Council, a group appointed by the PSC and heavily weighted with members who have a direct financial stake in wind development, would plunder rural families of their property values and property rights, as well as expose them to health risks induced by or exacerbated by chronic sleep deprivation caused by the noise generated from turbines located so very close to homes.

I believe so many people do not understand what life it is like living under or close to a wind turbine. Even you and others in the room probably never experienced the trauma that comes from wind turbines. I would like to share with you one experience that a very good friend of mine just experienced less than a week ago when he visited the newest WI wind farm in Shirley.

I was graciously invited to go to a neighbor's home that is within approximately 3400 feet of 3 of the 500 foot tall Shirley Wind turbines (the closest being approximately 2700 feet from their home). They can see 6 of the turbines from their home - the farthest being miles away. The couple built this home and has lived there for 30 plus years and is now in their mid/upper 60's. They wanted me to experience the effect the turbines are having on them.

I drove up their driveway and got out of my car. I looked around and the presences of the 3 closest turbines are very imposing. I listened and could hear the thrumming of the blades and the whir of the gearboxes, but the noise I could hear has was not particularly loud - the wind speed this morning was 10mph so a pretty calm day.

I walked up to the door and was invited in the house to see the wife wearing industrial earmuffs in her kitchen which she removed right away when I walked in. She went to the doctor this week due to ear pain (a new condition) and the earmuffs help - Doctor found nothing physically wrong.

The husband asked me to sit in his rocker and just left me alone for a while. I heard the whir and whoosh, but it was pretty muffled. **But here is what is scary to me** - as I sat there over the course of 10 minutes or so, I could start feeling pressure in my right ear (facing the window that faced the turbines). This was not expected. At first, it was just "weird", but the longer I stayed, the more unsettling it was.

After a while the husband and I walked outside around their home. As we walked on the side of the home, he stopped and I immediately said to him **"I know why you stopped here!"** It was a strange phenomenon - that place at that moment, I felt the same 'pressure' he did - must be from how the house is situated, wind direction, etc. I thought this was very weird so I walked back to the front of the house and came back to that spot a number of times and the same sensation was present each time. It is hard to describe but there is a difference in pressure that you feel in your head. The pressure feeling was present in most places, but particularly bad in some.

The longer I stayed at their home the more unsettled I became. I honestly don't know how else to describe it. Unsettled is the best way - the physical feeling of pressure in my ears did not go away, and the longer we visited, it felt like pressure was being felt in my temples. This is a feeling that my body was telling me was not good, and quite frankly, I did NOT want to stay. Not because of any lack of hospitality, but the feeling that was in my head was not pleasant at all. It triggered a flight response in me - I wanted to leave. This on a day of 10mph winds....

This couple has offered to invite anyone to their house to experience this first hand. Plan to spending some time there - my body's reaction worsened over time (that is this couples experience as well when they return after being gone a while). Bring a magazine or newspaper and sit in the husband's chair. While I can't say your reaction will be the same, it is worth your time. Even this couple's reaction to the sound/pressure is different, so sure it will affect each of you in different ways.

This is my first visit of any length inside an affected home and it was eye opening. The setback and wind speeds were certainly not even close to the worst it could be, and despite that, **I wanted OUT!** ... I could not live there.

Now after reading that, how can that not give you chills down your spine or scare you. This is only one family that is affected. There are thousands more just like them. If they can be affected so much by one turbine being more than a ½ mile from their home, what would life be like for them if they were far closer like 1250 ft that the PSC wants or even 50 more around their home. Can you live in a home like that? Could you see yourself living a typical normal life in that type of situation? Every legislature needs to experience this before they truly make a decision. I told you this experience because the setbacks are so important to saving our lives. You have big discussion to make. Please suspend all the PSC Wind Sitting Rules ASAP.

Thank you,

*Sarah A Vercauteren*

Sarah A. Vercauteren  
Town of Morrison  
Brown County  
7566 County Road W  
Greenleaf, WI 54126  
(920) 864-2896

P.S. Please include my written letter to you to be included in the records.

State of Wisconsin  
County of Brown

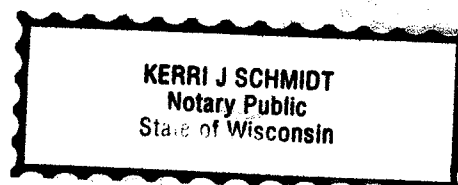
On this day February 8<sup>th</sup> 2011, personally appeared before me,  
Sarah Vercauteren,

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

*Kerri J Schmidt*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary's Signature

10/26/13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal





2/8/2011

Joanne and David L. Vercauteren

3410 Park Rd

Greenleaf, WI 54126

920-864-7315

[joever2@yahoo.com](mailto:joever2@yahoo.com)

To whom it may concern;

We are writing you this testimony in regards to this hearing on 2/9/2011 for the Wind Siting Rules. Please do not disregard our testimonies, put a halt to the PSC 128. Without high taxpayers subsidies these wind turbines would never have been placed in Wisconsin making all of Wisconsin citizens Lab Rats. There is all kinds of proof out there that shows harmful effects to our health, our property values lowered, possible harm to our water and harm to nature's animals and birds that can not protect themselves. They do not belong in such a populated area so close to God's living creatures.

There is around 300 up or in construction in Wisconsin already and there are problems in all the areas. To meet the 2025 RPS they will have to put up 12,000 Wind Turbines. What we all would like to know is where do you plan on putting them? They are already destroying our beautiful state of Wisconsin. They're also turning families and friends against each other. Our small townships will never be the same, that's what the green of money and greed does to people. It's all about the money and nothing else.

Anyone that thinks these things belong anywhere near homes, schools, churches or business is wrong, and are not looking out for the good of the people. My husband and I are hoping you take our testimony to heart and put a halt on the PSC 128. Please do not allow them to continue this destruction in this great state of Wisconsin.

My husband and I would like to thank for this hearing and your time.

Respectfully submitted

Joanne and David I. Vercauteren

*Joanne Vercauteren David I. Vercauteren*  
State of Wisconsin

County of Brown

On this day February 8, 2011 personally appeared before me,

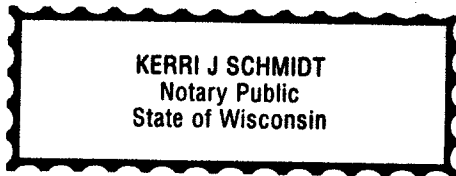
Joanne + Dave Vercauteren,

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

*Kerri J Schmidt*  
Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

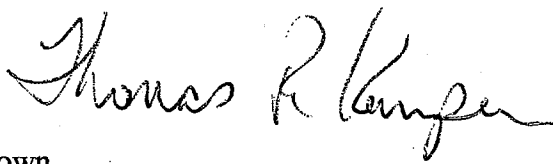
Notary's Seal



Written Testimony  
To be submitted at the public hearing scheduled for  
February 9, 2011  
Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules  
PSC 128 (CR 10-057)  
Relating to the siting of wind energy systems.

- Any rules establishing setbacks must be from property lines and nothing less than property lines. Anything less than setbacks from property lines results in a taking from a non-participating property owners.
- Sound limits should be set such that the noise level is never greater than 5DB over ambient level.
- NO non-participating property owner should be subject to ANY level of shadow flicker.
- Taxpayer dollars MUST NOT be used to fund this industry. If the wind energy industry is such a good idea, then let it stand on its own funding.
- Before another industrial wind turbine (any wind turbine over 100 feet) is constructed, a SCIENTIFIC study MUST be done to ensure that any one living closer than 2640 feet from a wind turbine will not sustain health and/or safety effects.
- Rules must incorporate a requirement that states the owner of the wind turbine must guarantee that they will compensate anyone within one mile of the wind turbine that ends up selling their property for less than the appraised value, will compensate that owner for the difference between the sale price of the property and its appraised value.
- If an owner chooses to site a wind turbine on their property, one turbine must be sited such that it is closer to the owner's house than any turbine is to a non-participating house.
- Wisconsin has a surplus of electricity now. Wind turbines would add no value to the electrical supply and in fact will raise rates causing businesses to locate in states where electrical rates are more favorable.
- Finally, please take whatever action is necessary to suspend the current rules that are set to take effect on March 1, 2011.

Tom Kempen  
6968 Pleasant View Road  
Greenleaf, WI 54126  
920-864-2090



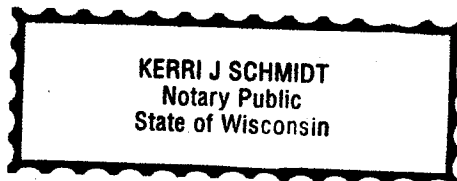
State of Wisconsin County of Brown

On this day 02/08/2011, personally appeared before me, Thomas P. Kempen, to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

  
Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal



1874 Wayside Rd  
Greenleaf, WI  
February 8, 2011

Dear sir:

I am a property owner in southern brown county and I am opposed to windmill generators in this area for the following reasons:

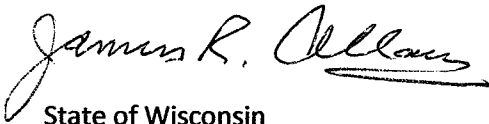
- Proven health effects on sleeping and physiological effects from continuous noise of the turbines
- Kills and injures birds and other wildlife
- Flicker affect on neighbors
- Danger to water supply when installing the base due to cracks in rock covering water supply

In addition, it decreases land values for the neighbors of the land where the generator is located and stops neighbors from putting up fences or trees on their own property that would affect the generator. This is a taking away of your own property.

These generators need to be placed away from where people are living. They need to be at a minimum setback from the property line of 2640 feet (1/2 mile).

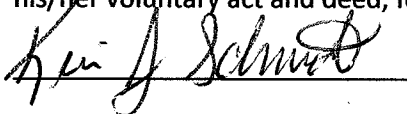
Please consider our opinions in this matter as we need to live with this for the remainder of our ownership.

Sincerely,  
James R. Allan



State of Wisconsin  
County of Brown

On this day February 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 personally appeared before me,  
JAMES R. Allan, to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

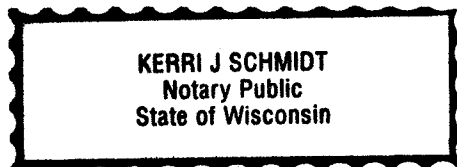


Notary's Signature

10/20/13

Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal



## Larger setbacks will **NOT** prevent *responsible* wind development

Many claims have recently been made about how increasing wind turbine setbacks would be a job killer and put current/future wind energy projects at risk. But safer setbacks do not have to prevent development of wind energy at all. They would, however, require wind developers to *responsibly* develop projects by using more modern and efficient wind turbines, and gaining the consent of those living nearby.

Recently, the Glacier Hills Wind Park (GHWP) went through Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) approval. Using information uncovered during that process as an example, we can see how wind energy can still be accomplished with larger, safer setbacks.

On page 25 of the PSC's Final Decision document (Docket 6630-CE-302, ref #126124), a table describes the number of 'preferred' turbine sites affected by varying setback increases from the then standard 1000 ft. setback. Affected sites could be moved to match the setback, moved to an alternate site, or eliminated. Out of the proposed 90 turbines, 15 were said to be affected by a 1250 ft. setback, 39 at 1500 ft., 60 at 2000 ft., and 81 at 2500 ft.

The Glacier Hills project was approved by the PSC, but with a setback of 1250 ft. And we can now see that even though 15 turbine sites were indicated to be affected by such a setback, the turbine locations were adjusted so that the full 90 turbines were placed. Despite all the arguments against the 1250 ft. setback, the project was not affected in the end.

Apply this experience to a similar planned wind project lamented as being impractical with increased setbacks, Invenenergy's Ledge Wind farm. This project is planned as 100 - 1.5MW turbines generating 150MW of electricity, designed with 1000 ft. setbacks. As seen in Glacier Hills, increasing setbacks to 1250 ft. would likely have little or no impact on the number of turbine locations. Taking into account that many of the 'affected' sites could be easily relocated (as the 15 locations in Glacier Hills were), increasing setbacks all the way to 2000 feet would likely affect only 50 out of the 100 turbines.

Now consider that GE offers the 2.5MW GE 2.5 XL turbine, and Vestas offers the V112 3MW turbine. If the Ledge Wind project used more modern, more efficient turbines, such as the V112, the project could produce *the same* 150MW output with *only half* the proposed turbines.

So we see that with a more responsible 2000 ft. setback and modern turbine technology, the Ledge Wind project could still be built, and generate the same output.

If ideas such as expanding the wind project footprint and gaining property owner participation are taken into consideration, then it is even feasible to have an acceptable setback of 2640 ft from non-participants in place and still go forward with wind energy.

If this is really about renewable energy, and not about wind company profits, then the extra effort to enforce safe setbacks would not be a deterrent to wind project development in Wisconsin.

*Eric Malvey*

2-08-2011

State of Wisconsin  
County of Brown

On this day February 8<sup>th</sup> 2011, personally appeared before me,  
Eric Malvey,

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

*Kerri J. Schmidt*  
Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal



920-864-7640

Glen Peotter  
5706 Big Apple Rd.  
De Pere, WI 54115

Please include this testimony in the official records.

Public Hearing Testimony February 9, 2011

### Health Issues

I am personally at risk for health issues being close to or within 3 miles of industrial wind turbines per experiences, testimonies, world health collected information. There are already six 50 story industrial wind turbines within about 2 miles of my home. I have always had motion issues, am not able to fly in an airplane without 2 weeks of after effects, I wear hearing aides, and this year I will celebrate my 67<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am not able to attend this hearing as I am home from the hospital for just a week after having open spinal surgery with instrumentation. This is a very serious surgery.

I would like the health issues findings, the international symposium in Canada from October 2010, plus all the world health studies and findings to be considered. It seems that every week or month more information is available about the actual findings of the ill effects of turbines. There seems to be an ill wind blowing. Please consider that people have health issues to deal with. Many of us with those issues are living in rural areas to keep away from the lights, noise, pressures, of more industrialized areas. We paid a higher price to live out here with longer traveling time, higher rural electric rates, more consumption of vehicle fuel, planning and curtailing unnecessary traveling. We paid those prices our entire lives to secure a safer, quieter, and healthier place to live.

### Property Rights

**I am asking for 2640 feet or more setback from property lines to protect my property rights.**

**I am asking the committee to suspend the PSC rules and introduce legislation to change the rules. I am asking that the fair rulings include a property value agreement as they do for landowners residing next to landfills.**

I am asking you to consider my property rights even if I did not already have health reasons that put me at risk from the effects of a wind turbine ghetto. After this back surgery, what if I am not able to continue to do the physical part necessary to keep living in a rural area and situation? Honored Representatives, the whole population is aging. I do have risk factors that would contribute to my not being able to live close to turbines, but all that aside, what about the property rights of all rural citizens who may be not able to keep living in their beloved country homes for other very real reasons? Are they to have their property devalued or unable to sell at all? Why is this right in the USA? How is it legal and fair to make a law or rules that say because someone else wants WIND, our rights are to be demolished? Where are these people to get the means to even move elsewhere? Why would rural Wisconsin homesteads and farms be sacrificed and become collateral damage just to allow others to override for their own financial gain?

Finally, why must those in my situation face financial ruin to "maybe" create some jobs that cannot even be counted or accounted for with real facts and figures?

Honored elected officials, please remember that we are not just numbers but real people with faces, lives, hopes, in all stages of living with others counting on us for their existence. We are counting on you for real and insightful evaluation, review of laws and rights of individuals, and to stand up for us. We have lived here all of our lives, contributed, voted, had faith in this system. Now we are counting on you. Thank you for listening and considering.

Glen Peotter *Glen Peotter*

State of Wisconsin  
County of Brown

On this day February 8th 2011, personally appeared before me,  
Glen Peotter

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

*Kerri J Schmidt*  
Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal





920-864-7640

Nancy Peotter  
5706 Big Apple Rd.  
De Pere, WI 54115

please include this testimony  
in the records.

Public Hearing Testimony February 9, 2011

### Health Issues

Personal testimony, my family is composed of three "at risk" adults at this address. I already have blood pressure issues which I monitor, motion sickness issues (a lifetime issue for me) and high sensitivity levels to sounds, lights, flickering (driving on a road canopied by trees such in door county) as well as many medications. Clinical monitoring after a night of wind turbine noise exposure reveals dangerously high blood pressures including in people with no prior history of hypertension—up to 2.5 mile distance. My daughter is extremely a high risk person with diagnosed conditions which make her unable to be exposed to loud sounds, pressures, smells, almost any and all prescription or over the counter medications. She is a human being in a very fragile state, is disabled, and has a questionable prognosis. My husband is also very sensitive to motion, has hearing aids, and an individual unable to tolerate or use prescription or over the counter drugs. Health issues are not a numbers game to us; they are a very personal reality. We care and are involved in this wind turbine issue on a level that most would not understand.

December 9, 2010 is the last day the 4 x 4 foot wooden sign with two steel fence posts and braces was visible on our property. It read, TAKING MY FAMILY'S HEALTH IS NOT A RIGHT, its A WRONG. The sign was removed, stolen, taken. Not a scrap left. Four other signs in this area were smashed with the remains left on the owner's lawn. In my opinion, this is not right either but is demonstrating the ugliness this issue is turning into. Our media campaigns about bullying in schools, while bullying is yet acted out in our communities by adults.

I am asking for a 2640 foot or more setback from property lines not only for health issues, but to protect my property rights. This homestead we have spent our lives building is what we have. We have carved out what we have with your own hands and resources. If a neighbor is enabled by a law or wind biased ruling to build 50 story industrial wind turbines on our property lines which publications, records, and testimonies, and human experience clearly show harm and damage both human and animal existence, we have nothing. We are in our mid 60's; we can't just start over at this time of our lives. We will not be able to physically exist with the effects or financially exist with the taken property rights. How can we sell our 40 acres to get money to even move away? Would you buy a lovely piece of land with woods and flowing

creek in a community that allows all the surrounding neighbors to construct huge turbines by simply agreeing? Would you put yourself in that position or risk? Consider the reality reports showing from a 40% decrease in value to not being able to sell at all. What would those reality companies have to gain by creating false figures? Only the wind companies would gain by denying those facts. Common sense would show the reality. I am asking that fair rulings include a property value agreement as they do for landowners residing next to landfills.

I AM ASKING THE COMMITTEE TO SUSPEND THE RULES CREATED BY state Public Service Commission and introduce legislation to change the rules. I do not believe the rules as they are now are a fair compromise or study. The people deserve better representation than this.

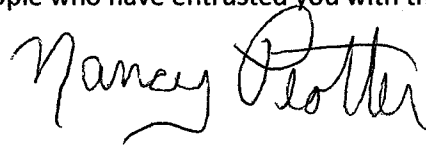
On a recent public radio broadcast I asked Keith Reopelle for real and actual numbers of business and people hired in Wisconsin wind turbine industry. I spoke of the recently closed Oshkosh wind turbine production company. I asked for actual figures and explained my concern about generalizations and the lack of true figures. When he took the mike, he said a few words from a 2009 report and again many generalizations and "I think" statements. I still had no answer or proof, and I had no opportunity to so state. It is now 2011 and there are no better figures or information from an expert than an old report from 2009? We know the construction work is temporary and gone once the turbines are erected. For those few and temporary jobs and a big maybe, residents are required to give up their health, their property value, their ability to exist and manage the end stages of their lives. We need protection by our elected representatives.

For years I have listened to America criticizing other nations about their human rights policies. What about my human rights for health and happiness? What about my property rights to not be taken over?

Please listen, hear, review carefully and represent the people who have entrusted you with this great honor.

Thank you!

Nancy Peotter



State of Wisconsin  
County of Brown

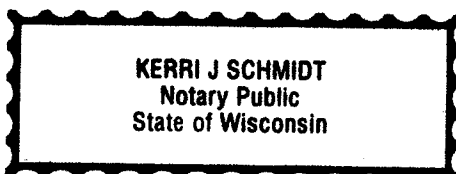
On this day February 8<sup>th</sup> 2011, personally appeared before me,  
Nancy Peotter

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

  
Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal



February 9, 2011

To: Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules

Re: PSC 128 (CR 10-057) Relating to Wind Siting Rules


Dear Committee Members,

I am asking you to suspend the current wind siting rules that are currently set to take effect on March 1, 2011.

These rules do not adequately protect the health and safety, and property values of Wisconsin residents. If wind turbines are going to continue to be developed in Wisconsin, they must be at least 2640 feet from property lines. Ask yourself if you rather buy a property with industrial size turbines 1250 ft from your front door or the exact same property without any turbines. To me, it is common sense that wind turbines sited too closely to homes will decrease the property values. Currently, turbines that are placed too close to homes are causing a great deal of health effects. Ask the person who lives next to industrial wind turbine about health effects and then ask a person who financially benefits from wind turbine development the same question. Who are you going to believe? The person who has is gaining nothing, but has everything to lose, or the person who is gaining everything, and has nothing to lose. Listen to the people are already being negatively impacted by industrial wind turbines. What is going to happen to the people who are already collateral damage because they have wind turbines too close to their home?

Please do what you have the power to do and vote to SUSPEND the current wind siting rules.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Brian C. Schmidt  
17733 Taus Road,  
Reedsville, WI 54230  
(920) 754-4158

State of Wisconsin

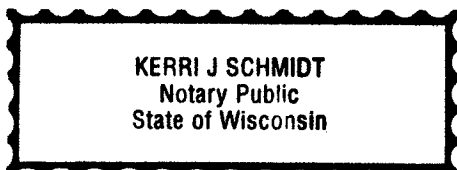
County of Manitowish  
On this day February 9th 2011, personally appeared before me,  
Brian C Schmidt

to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

  
Notary's Signature

10/20/13  
Notary's Expiration Date

Notary's Seal



Testimony of Tom Meyer

1 of 2 Pages

1805 Parmenter St  
Middleton, WI 53562

608-332-8331

[Tom@tommeyer.com](mailto:Tom@tommeyer.com)

JCRAR February 9, 2011

I am a Wisconsin Real Estate Broker, I live in Middleton, and have held a real estate license since 1989. One of two Realtors on the fifteen member State of Wisconsin Wind Siting Council, I joined three other Council members in writing what is known as the Council's *Minority Report* submitted to the Public Service Commission.

Professionally and personally, I favor efforts to develop alternative energy solutions. I was grateful to be asked by the Wisconsin Real Estate Association to be considered to serve on the Council. All my life I've been an avid waterfowl and upland bird hunter. I grew up in Antigo, Wisconsin, the son of a sporting goods store owner, I'm a typical Wisconsin outdoor enthusiast. From a Real Estate Perspective I came into the Council work curious to learn about this Wind Farm Development process. I attended all but one of the meetings over the six or seven months, and drove out Fond du Lac County to walk around a couple of wind farms. I was impressed by the enormity of the industrial turbines and how they dominate the rural community landscape.

From a perspective of an outdoor guy with a real estate and business background there are three areas where the legislature could help Wisconsin residents and energy interests create a workable solution.

First: If you agree location is a factor in establishing real estate value, you certainly agree that one or more 400 foot industrial turbines with 200 foot long rotating blades towering over the property would more likely than not diminish the property's value. The Wind Turbine Impact Study of 2009, by Appraisal Group One of Oshkosh, Wisconsin is the mathematical data to support what every first time home buyer knows to be true: **industrial giants in your backyard harm your property value**. The majority of the Council members chose to throw caution to the wind---they rejected common sense *and* the evidence of the Wisconsin licensed appraisers.

Second: The four of us in the minority tried to add some transparency to the process to help residents become better informed before wind developers come to their towns. We asked for advanced community notification rules. We were defeated. The objections were summed up clearly by a WE Energies employee on the Council who said, and I quote, **"...the people band together and basically leverage against you. ..Landowners hold out (thinking) we'll maximize our revenue."** The energy interests tell you building turbines on farms is good for the farmer. And their actions tell us *they* decide how much "good" the farmer gets. When rules prevent Wisconsin residents from negotiating in a free market to profit from sharing their land, their community culture, we've taken a giant step back from progressive thinking.

Third: The wind developer's leases are designed to expand the rights of the energy interests. These are lengthy & complex documents, created with expert legal guidance. These leases may be for unlimited lengths of time, and include rights that extend beyond the right to build turbines. Developer's use a term of "signing up", to describe their work of negotiating leases with landowners. We suggested that the Wisconsin law which requires you to have a license if you are negotiating a lease and receiving compensation should extend to wind farm developers. Once signed, these contracts have a significant monetary value and are basically sold for compensation. The connection between action and compensation is clear, yet the majority of the Council voted us down. Free of real estate regulation, the terms and prices forced on landowners are not market driven. Real estate licensing will level the playing field for the landowners and farmers who have a right to an opportunity to make informed decisions before giving away more than access to their land.

In conclusion, there may not be a magic number to the setback question. A 2000 foot setback is supported by scientific evidence beyond my ability to explain. Establishing at least an 1800 foot setback requires the developers to involve Wisconsin property owners who are most impacted by the turbine component of wind energy. There is nothing to fear with a setback that protects property rights and health of Wisconsin residents. With an 1800 foot setback, a percentage of the profits will be redistributed from the investors to participating landowners and neighbors, and wind turbines will continue to be raised in Wisconsin counties where adequate wind exists.

Wisconsin residents monitored and video recorded nearly every Wind Siting Council meeting and have the videos available on [www.betterplan.squarespace.com](http://www.betterplan.squarespace.com) .

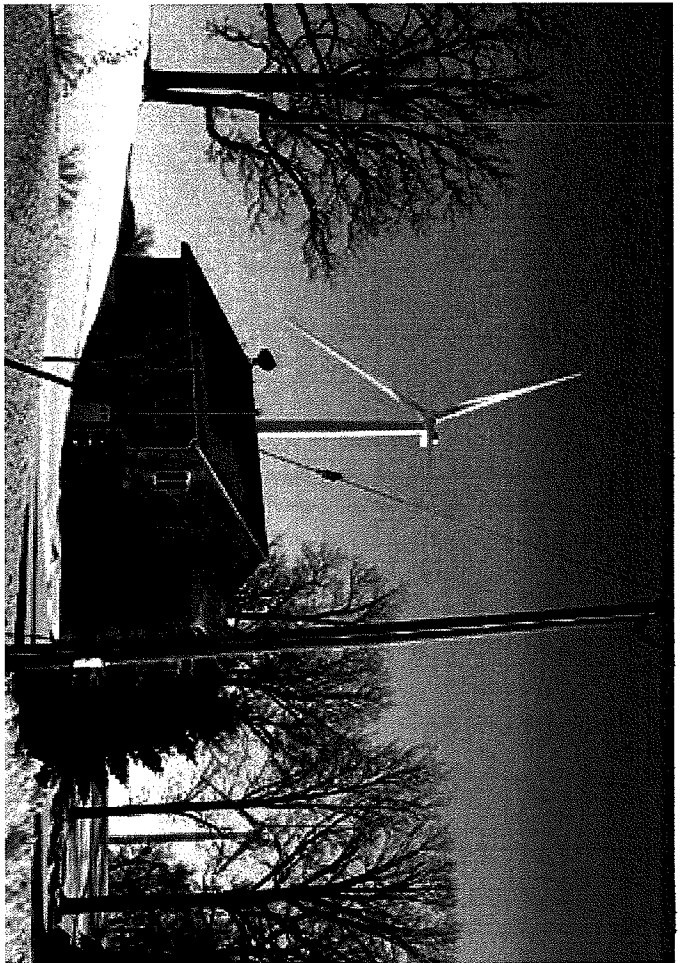
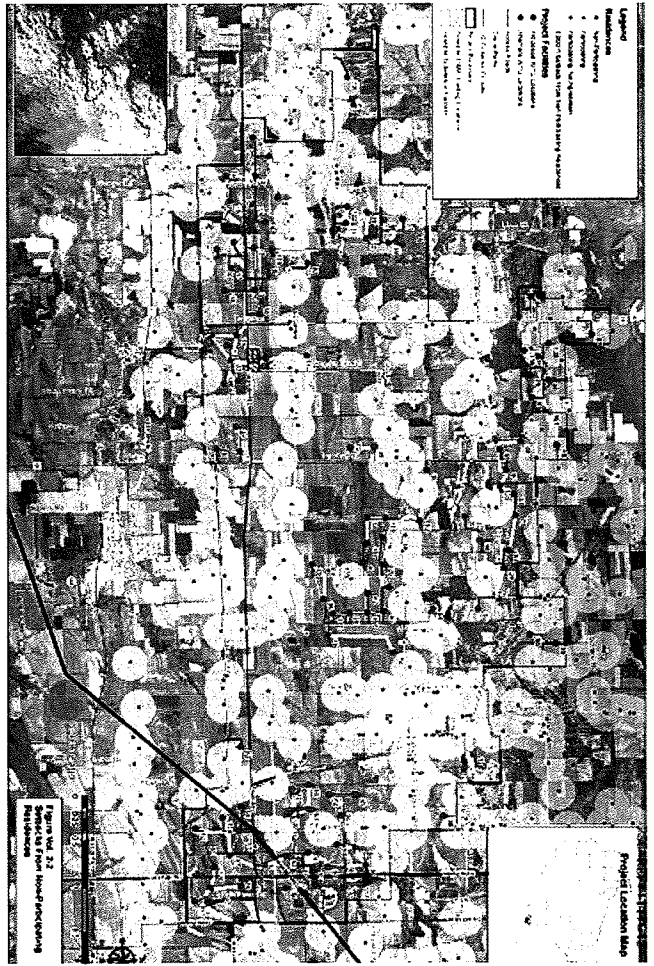
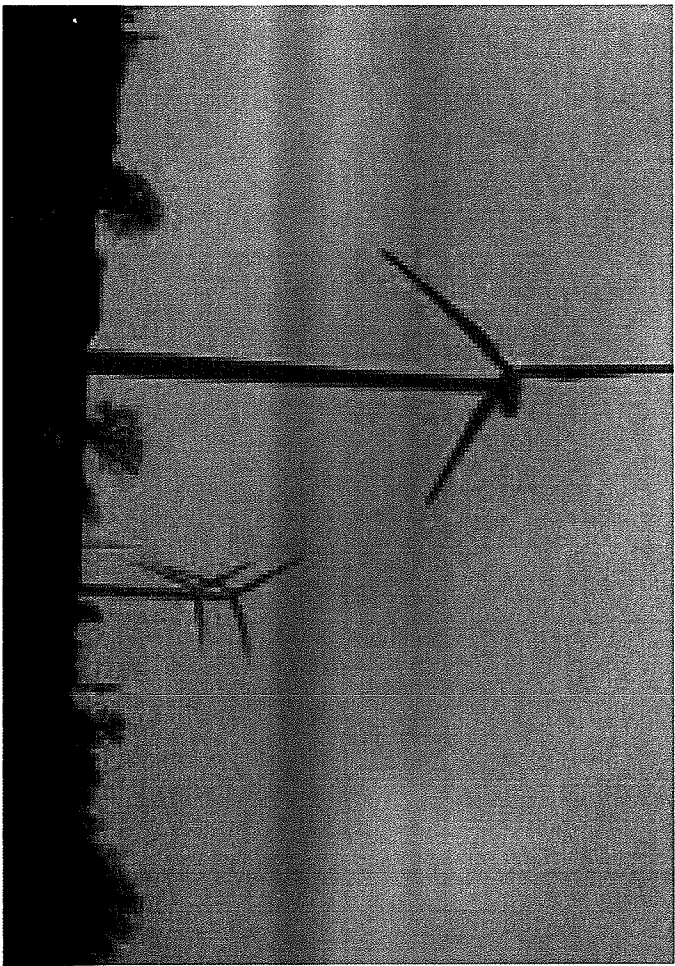
Testimony of Tom Meyer

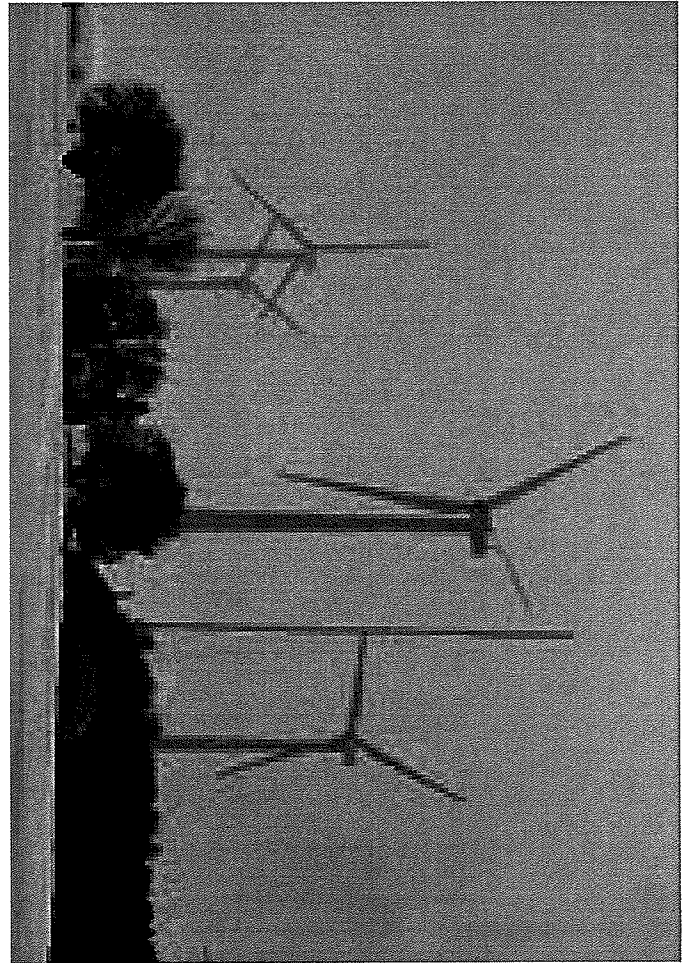
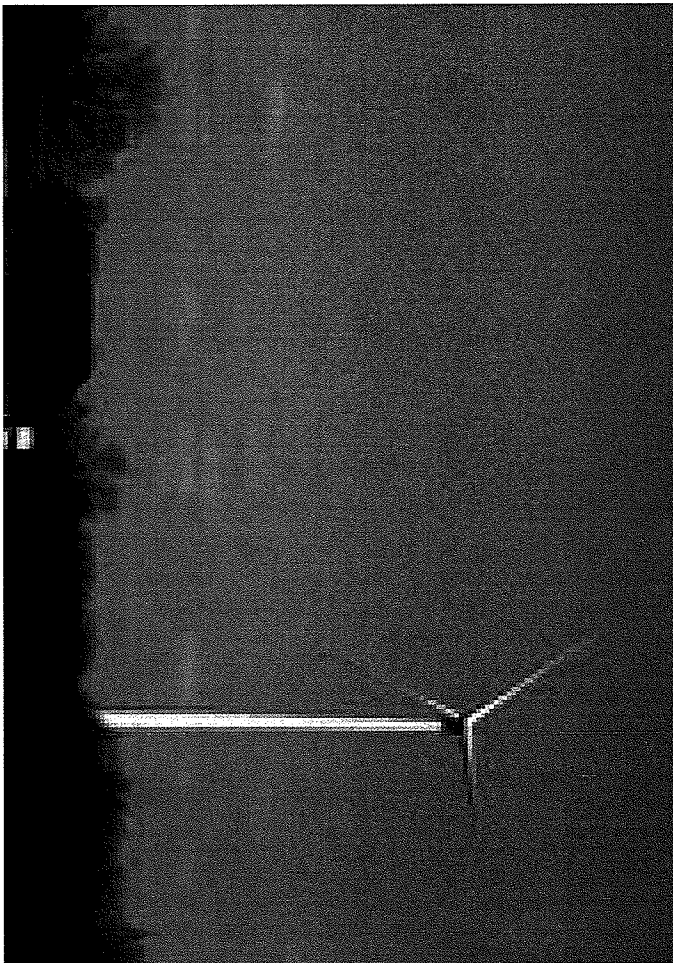
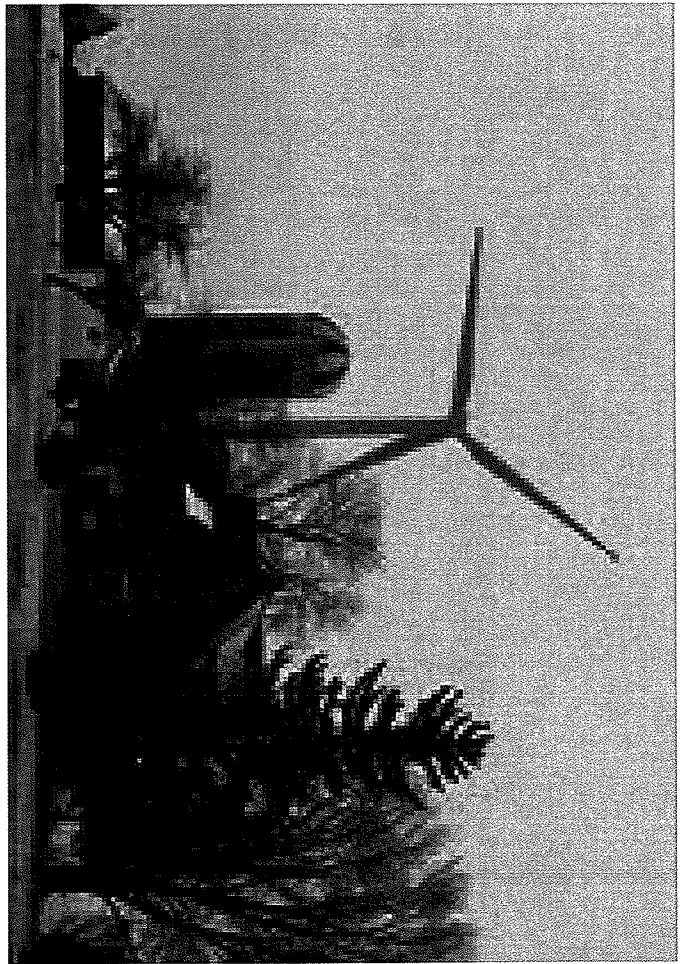
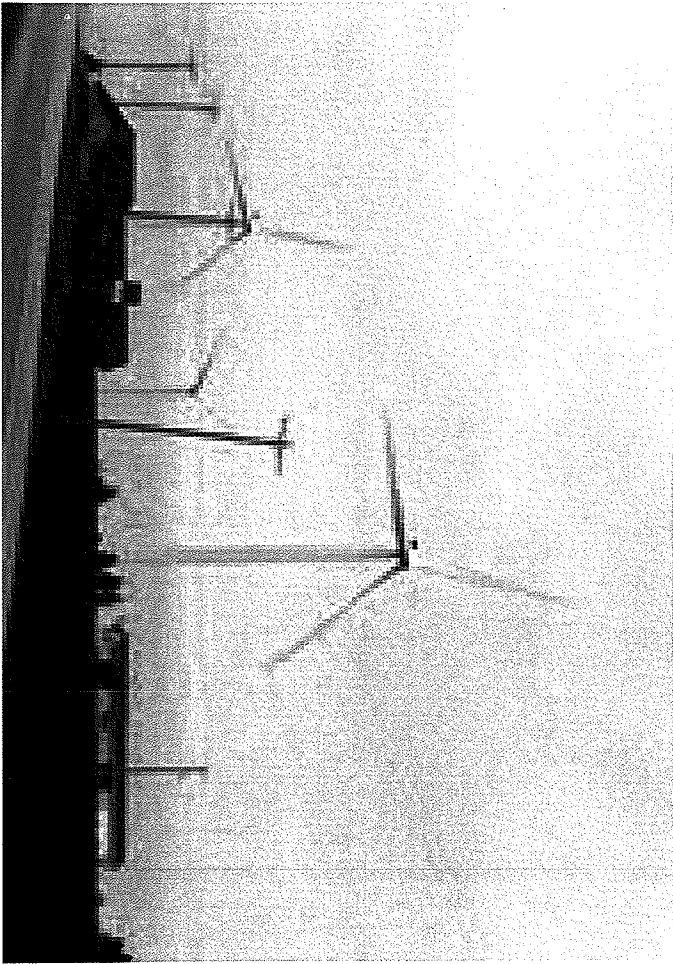
Page 2 of 2

**Membership on the Wind Siting Council called for in 2009 Wisconsin Act 40  
as appointed by the Public Service Commission,  
a check with the legislative language and  
identification of financial or organizational interests in the promotion of wind energy systems**

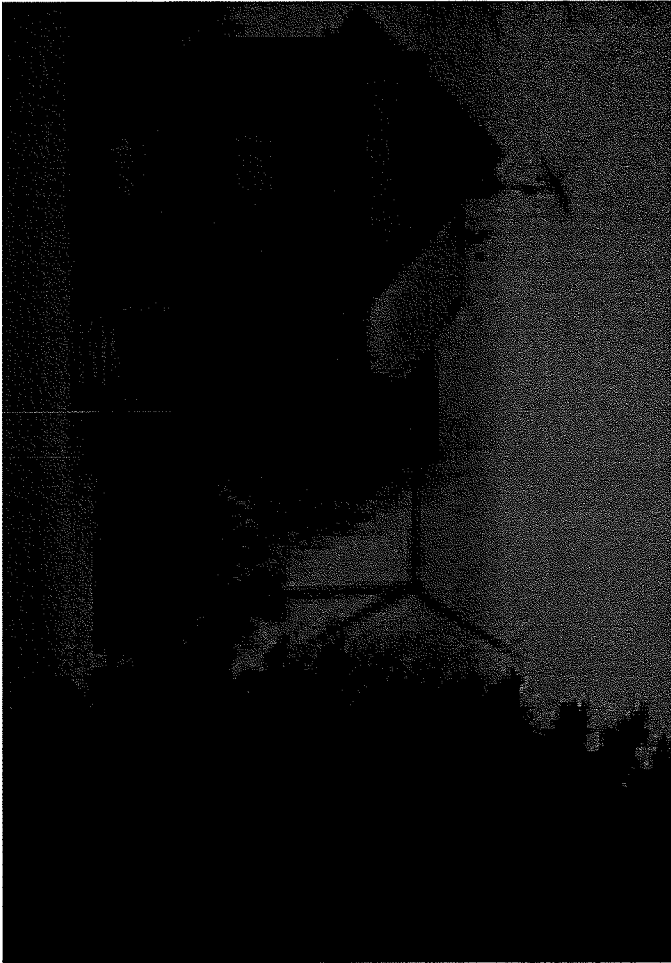
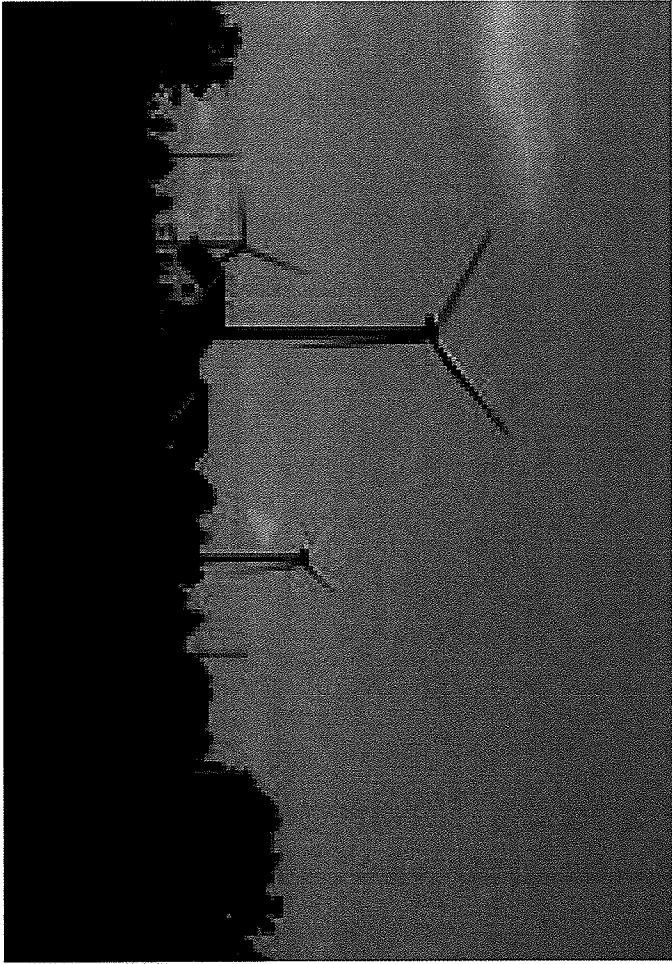
**SECTION 1. (b) There is created in the public service commission a wind siting council that consists of the following members appointed by the public service commission for 3-year terms:**

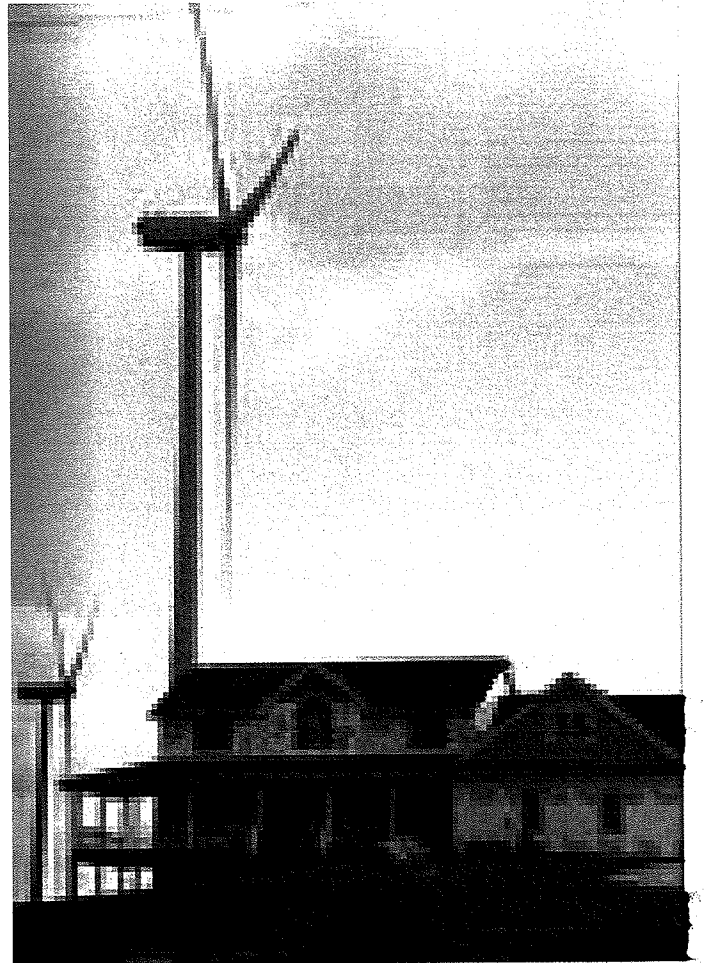
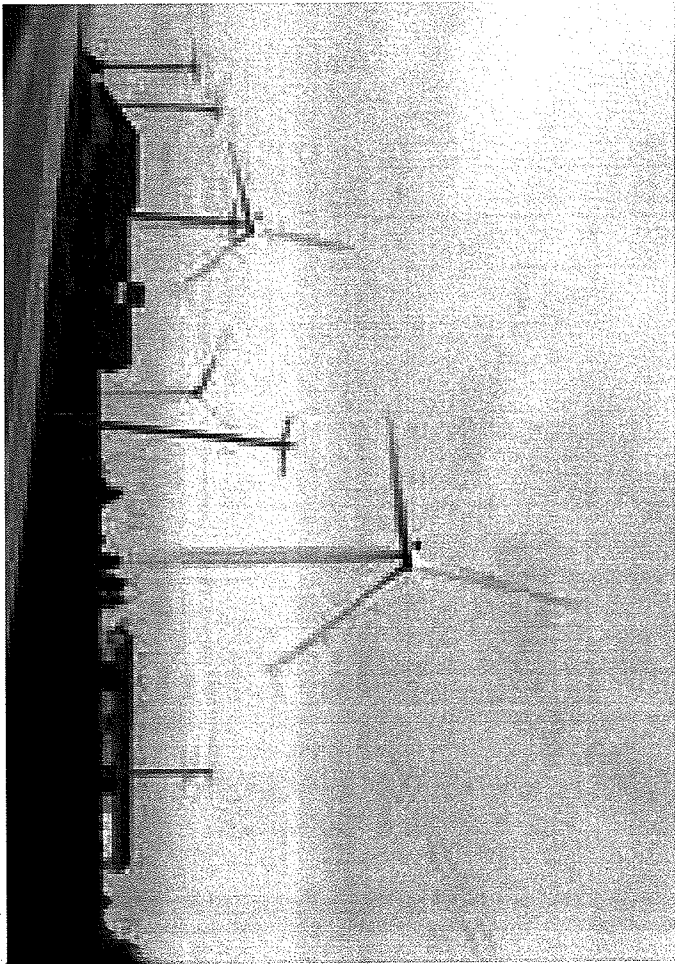
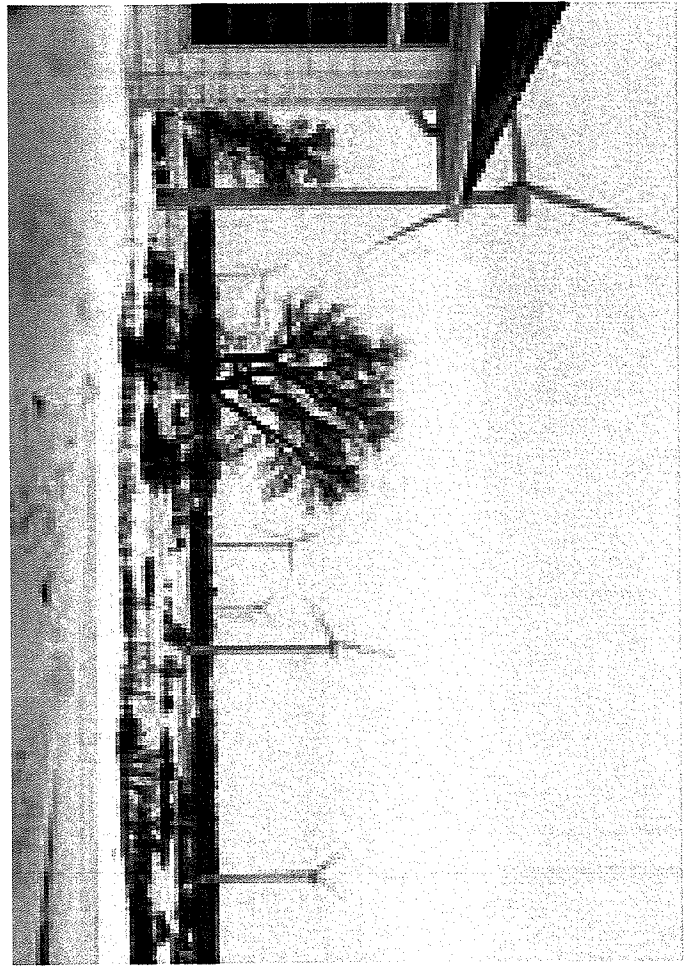
| NAME  | AFFILIATION   | APPOINTMENT<br>MATCHES<br>LEGISLATIVE<br>LANGUAGE? | INDEPENDENT OF FINANCIAL<br>OR ORGANIZATIONAL<br>INTEREST IN THE PROMOTION<br>OF WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS? |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>1. Two members representing wind energy system developers.</b>   |   |  |   |
| Tom Green   | Wind Capital Group  | Yes  | No  |
| Bill Rakocy   | Emerging Energies of Wisconsin, LLC   | Yes  | No  |
| <b>2. One member representing towns and one member representing counties.</b>   |   |  |   |
| Doug Zweizig  | Town of Union (Rock Co.) (town wrote a wind ordinance)  | Yes  | Yes   |
| Lloyd Lueschow  | Green County (no industrial wind activity)  | Yes  | Yes   |
| <b>3. Two members representing the energy industry.</b>   |   |  |   |
| Andy Hesselbach   | We Energies   | Yes  | No  |
| Dan Ebert, WSC Chair  | WPPI Energy   | Yes  | No  |
| <b>4. Two members representing environmental groups.</b>  |   |  |   |
| Michael Vickerman   | RENEW Wisconsin   | Yes  | No  |
| Ryan Schryver   | Clean Wisconsin   | Yes  | No  |
| <b>5. Two members representing realtors.</b>  |   |  |   |
| George Krause Jr.   | Choice Residential LLC  | Yes  | Yes   |
| Tom Meyer   | Restaino & Associates   | Yes  | Yes   |
| <b>6. Two members who are landowners living adjacent to or in the vicinity of a wind energy system and who have not received compensation by or on behalf of owners, operators, or developers of wind energy systems.</b> |   |  |   |
| Dwight Sattler  | Landowner, living .7 of a mile (3,700 feet) from a turbine  | No   | Yes   |
| Larry Wunsch  | Landowner, living 1,100 feet from a turbine   | Yes  | Yes   |
| <b>7. Two public members.</b>   |   |  |   |
| David Gilles  | Godfrey & Kahn, former WPSC General Counsel   | No   | ?   |
| Jennifer Heinzen  | Lakeshore Technical College, President of RENEW Wisconsin   | No   | No  |
| <b>8. One member who is a University of Wisconsin System faculty member with expertise regarding the health impacts of wind energy systems.</b>   |   |  |   |
| Jevon McFadden  | Wisconsin Department of Health Services<br>Not a member of the UW System Faculty and admitted non-expert on this topic. | No   | ?   |













## John Muir Chapter

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter  
222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 1, Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3201  
Telephone: (608) 256-0565 Fax: (608) 256-4562  
john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org

### **Support PSC 128, Wind Energy Siting Rules, Before the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, PSC 128 (CR 10-057), February 9, 2011 at 10:00 AM in 412 East**

Thank you for accepting our comments today. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters of the nation's oldest, grassroots environmental organization working to promote clean energy and protect water resources in Wisconsin. For the past several years, we have supported the thoughtful efforts of the Public Service Commission and the legislature to develop fair, statewide siting criteria for wind turbines under PSC 128. The process that went into developing PSC 128 relied on extensive stakeholder input and peer-reviewed research. Giving this rule the chance to go into effect will allow 572 MW of wind energy investments that are currently stalled to move forward. The Sierra Club is here today to urge the members of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules to support PSC 128.

Uniform wind siting rules are critical to Wisconsin's economy. As of 2010, the wind industry employed 85,000 people nationwide. Wisconsin is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> for its wind resource potential, with about 450 MW of installed projects as of 2010.<sup>1</sup> Yet, we have less than one fourth of the wind development of Illinois, which has over 1,800 MW in installed projects despite having similar wind resources. Just yesterday the media reported that Minnesota had jumped to 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation with 2,196 MW in installed wind developments, due to aggressive renewable standards and other key policies.<sup>2</sup> Iowa has long been second in the nation, with 3,670 MW. PSC 128 offers wind energy businesses with regulatory certainty that is sorely needed in order to compete with neighboring states for wind energy jobs.

Uniform wind siting rules are about improving public health. Wisconsin currently relies on coal to meet 70% of our energy needs. A 2010 Clean Air Task Force study found that fine particulate matter emitted by Wisconsin's power plants results in about 456 heart attacks and 268 premature deaths every year in our state.<sup>3</sup> Mercury emissions from coal plants are linked to neurological problems that have required fish consumption advisories for every water body in Wisconsin. And the problem does not stop at the smoke stacks. Last year, the *Racine Journal Times* reported on coal ash pollutants from Oak Creek that have resulted in permanent drinking water contamination for local residents. And this year, an Earthjustice study identified coal ash sites in Kenosha and Cassville with dangerous levels of cancer-causing chromium.<sup>4</sup> Health problems cost Wisconsin money and reduce our quality of life. PSC 128 will allow cleaner, safer wind energy alternatives to move forward.

For all these reasons and more, we urge the members of this Committee and the Legislature to support uniform wind siting rules under PSC 128. Thank you for considering our comments on this important matter.

#### **Selected Sources:**

<sup>1</sup> US Wind Energy Projects Database, AWEA, <http://archive.awea.org/projects/>

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota continues to be a leader in wind energy, *Echo Press*, Feb 8, 2011, <http://www.echopress.com/event/article/id/82032/>

<sup>3</sup> The Toll from Coal: An Updated Assessment of Death and Disease from America's Dirtiest Energy Source, Clean Air Task Force, 2010, [http://www.catf.us/coal/problems/power\\_plants/existing/map.php?state=Wisconsin](http://www.catf.us/coal/problems/power_plants/existing/map.php?state=Wisconsin)

<sup>4</sup> EPA'S Blind Spot: Hexavalent Chromium in Coal Ash, Feb 1, 2011, Lisa Evans, Earthjustice, <http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/CoalAshChromeReport.pdf>

# TOWN OF CLAY BANKS

Door County, Wisconsin

Myron Johnson, Chairman  
Mark Heimbecher, Supervisor  
Patrick Olson, Supervisor

Jessica Bongle, Clerk  
Trudy Kruger, Treasurer

February 8, 2011

Representative Garey Bies  
Room 216 North  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison WI 53708

Senator Frank Lasee  
Room 104 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison WI 53707-7882

Dear Representative Bies and Senator Lasee:

Please be advised, the Town of Clay Banks, Door County, is opposed to the Wind Siting Rules as proposed by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

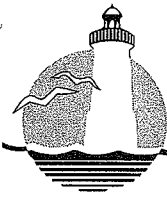
Our Town firmly believes that decisions for wind siting should be made by local government. There are vast differences in our communities, i.e. land topography, land use, populations, ages of populations, home densities, etc. These are all variables that must be considered when siting wind turbines. One common standard on wind energy construction and operation is not a doable one 'size fits all' solution. The impact of wind energy systems on one community can be vastly different than on another.

The Town of Clay Banks initiated and conducted our own study over the course of a year and resulted with the adoption of a comprehensive Town Wind Siting Ordinance. We concluded that studies on low frequency noise required a minimum setback of 2,650 feet from an existing building. Further, our study was conducted in greater detail than the PSC, expounding on the impact that wind turbines would have on our community, i.e. public health and safety, environmental, compatible land use, water quality, emergency communications, certification, decommissioning, etc, etc.

The PSC guidelines are seriously flawed in protecting the health and wellbeing of our communities. I urge the proposed rules be sent back to the Public Service Commission for further intensive study. We further request reestablishing greater local government control and responsibility in rules governing the siting of wind turbines.

Sincerely,

Myron Johnson, Chairman  
Town of Clay Banks



# Fond du Lac County

PLANNING/PARKS DEPARTMENT

(920) 929-3135

FAX (920) 929-7655

City/County Government Center

160 South Macy Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

February 8, 2011

Representative Jim Ott  
Co-Chair  
Joint Committee for Review of Admin. Rules  
Room 317 North  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53707-8953

Senator Leah Vukmir  
Co-Chair  
Joint Committee for Review of Admin. Rules  
Room 131 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-8953

Honorable Representative Ott and Senator Vukmir:

I am writing to express my support of PSC Rule 128. The rule will create a level playing field for Wisconsin's growing wind energy industry and provide reasonable regulation of wind turbine siting everywhere in Wisconsin where wind is a viable resource. I encourage your Committee, the Legislature and Governor Walker to allow the new PSC 128 rule on wind turbine siting to take effect to assure Wisconsin's place as a renewable energy leader. PSC 128 is in many ways similar to the siting rules developed by six town boards and plan commissions in Fond du Lac County. If encouraged, renewable wind energy will continue to produce family wage jobs for state residents and payments to our farmers that by their own choice participate in Wisconsin's renewable energy program.

Fond du Lac County is home to three major utility-scale wind farms comprised of 168 turbines and 268 MW of electricity generation capacity. Wind farms in Fond du Lac County involve six town boards and town plan commissions representing 8,831 town residents. All six towns administer their own, unique zoning ordinances. In all six towns, town boards that approved permitting for wind farms are still in office by their own choosing and with support of their constituents. Local regulation of wind turbines has not been without controversy, but town government has been stable over time, from pre to post wind farm operation.

Town government takes the lead on utility-scale wind farm regulation in Fond du Lac County. The typical wind turbine setback in all six of our towns is 3 times the maximum height of the wind turbine. A typical wind turbine is 430 feet in height in our county. This equates to a setback of about 1,290 feet. Typically, setbacks for wind turbines detailed in local developer agreements written by towns in Fond du Lac County are as follows:

1. Setback from municipal/civil structures is 3 times the maximum height of a turbine.
2. Setback from participating residences is 600 feet. 1.1 times the turbine height is allowable with written permission of participating resident. This equates to a 473-foot setback.
3. Setback for non-participating residences is 3 times the maximum height of a turbine. 1.1 times the turbine height is allowable with written permission of non-participating resident.
4. Setback from a property line is 1.1 times the maximum height of a turbine.
5. Setbacks from communications and utility lines are 1.1 times the maximum height of a turbine.

Our town plan commissions and town boards held all the public hearings, heard all the pros and cons, imposed conditions on siting turbines and executed developer agreements that nailed down the specifics

February 8, 2011

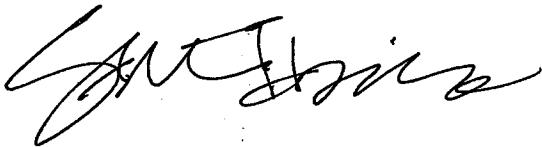
Representative Jim Ott & Senator Leah Vukmir

of locally grown regulations. One of the most respected private attorneys in our part of the state was legal counsel for all six towns in our county that host wind farms. Developer agreements are comprehensive. Town boards and their legal counsel anticipated the issues to arise out of a utility-scale wind farm throughout the life of such projects. Town boards and wind energy developers hammered out the developer agreement details including the five details listed above during many hours of open town planning commission and town board meetings.

Utility scale wind farms in Wisconsin have meant a lot to local businesses. Farmers that want to continue working their farmland have additional income to support their operations. Land rental payments for turbine sites bring farmers \$5,000 each year for each turbine site. Farmers invest these dollars, \$829,900 in 2010, into growing crops or their dairy herds. One of our local contractors, Michels Corporation of Brownsville, Wisconsin, has been the prime contractor in several utility scale wind farms. Michels was the prime contractor and paid living wages to just over 200 employees in the Fond du Lac/Dodge County area during the construction of the Forward Energy Center and the Blue Sky/Green Field wind farm. Michels was also part of the construction team for both Butler Ridge and Glacial Ridge projects elsewhere in Wisconsin. Michels has been in discussions with 4 other wind developers each with 100 MW projects around Wisconsin.

Before tightening up the regulation of wind turbines in Wisconsin, give the new PSC 128 rules a chance to work. The rules are similar to wind turbine rules developed and used successfully in Fond du Lac County. A committee with representation across the entire spectrum of the utility-scale wind farm issue developed PSC 128.

Best regards,



Sam Tobias  
Director of Planning & Parks

cc: Allen J. Buechel, County Executive  
Senator Randy Hopper, 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Senator Joseph Leibham, 9<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Senator Luther S. Olsen, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Senator Glenn Grothman, 20<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Representative Steve Kestell, 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Representative Joan Ballweg, 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District  
Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, 52<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District  
Representative Richard Spanbauer, 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Representative Daniel R. LeMahieu, 59<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Upper Midwest Regional Office  
400 1st Avenue North, Suite 535  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

612.767.6241 phone  
888.767.6241 toll free  
612.767.6248 fax

February 9, 2011

I apologize I am unable to be here today, but I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding PSC 128. My name is Brian Lammers, and I am the Director of Development for the Upper Midwest for Horizon Wind Energy. As the third largest owner of wind energy in the US, Horizon is active in over 20 states in developing, constructing, owning and operating wind farms. We first entered Wisconsin in 2003, where we started to develop a project, Quilt Block Wind Farm, in Lafayette County. This is our most advanced development project in Wisconsin, and the one that has the most potential to be affected by the possibility of suspending PSC 128.

As a wind farm owner with a long-term timeline, Horizon aims to be a positive member in the communities that we are in—both before a project is built and for the 20 year expected lifetime of the project. With our landowners in Lafayette County, we have paid \$600,000 directly to them in development rent payments to date—money which has directly been supporting the local economy.

From a development perspective, Quilt Block Wind Farm is mature, and provided we are successful in signing a long-term power purchase agreement, is ready for construction in 2012. Overall, this project will cost around \$200 million, of which a significant amount will be spent locally. The construction jobs will likely total around 250, with long-term operations and maintenance jobs to be over a dozen people. Each year while in operations, the project will pay over a million dollars through property tax payments to the local communities in and royalty payments to our host landowners—funding that can help decrease the amount of property tax revenue needed from residents to maintain budget levels and funding that can help improve lives.

In the two-year process, involving six rounds of public hearings, PSC 128 went through the PSC rulemaking process in a balanced and fair way. The end result is a bill that has a solid balance of allowing developers like ourselves to take some of the risk out of siting projects while protecting Wisconsin residents.

As written, PSC 128 includes in its uniform statewide protective standards for projects under 100 MWs. As a company we have learned in other areas that without statewide standards, it is possible to spend years and millions of dollars in developing a wind farm, only to have permitting difficulties unexpectedly come up at the last minute; without this stable environment, it would be less appealing to develop projects in Wisconsin.

In addition, PSC 128 requires local municipalities to have good neighbor payments for non-host landowners, ensuring that the entire community benefits from having a wind farm. In addition, PSC 128 has safe setback distances, once again ensuring predictability for developers like us.

As passed, the wind siting rule supports rural economic development by providing development, construction, operations, maintenance, transportation, legal and even hospitality jobs. Horizon is hopeful that we will soon build our Quilt Block Wind Farm, and to help realize the project that we started with our community partners back in 2003.

We ask that you do not suspend the rules that have already been created in an open, fair, and balanced way.  
Sincerely,

Brian Lammers  
Director of Development

## WISCONSIN STATE CONFERENCE

**International  
Electrical**



**Brotherhood  
Workers**

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO and All Central Bodies

### INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS SUPPORT WIND DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS

February 9, 2011

Contact: David Boetcher, 608-334-0462

The membership of IBEW WI State Conference supports the PSC windsiting rules as a long sought compromise to protect landowners of wind tower projects and neighbors to those projects along with the many jobs they create. By having a uniform set of statewide standards we not only help landowners but we also give confidence to the many businesses and workers in Wisconsin that are part of this growing piece of the economy.

We need to create regulatory certainty now to retain and capture the jobs created by this industry. From the many manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin now specializing in wind energy components to the many electricians we have and are training in wind tower construction, making more onerous regulations will send a cold chill on job creation.

The PSC rulemaking process last year was open, balanced and fair, and will allow developers to site projects efficiently while protecting Wisconsin's residents. In over 2 years of study, the PSC took into account input from all major stakeholder groups.

Without uniform statewide standards for projects under 100 MW, many current Wisconsin wind projects will not go forward. Projects currently in development will be jeopardized by a possible suspension and alteration of PSC 128. These projects represent as much as \$1.5 billion in investment and approximately 1.6 million job-hours.

In addition wind energy is a major source of local revenue. Projects in Fond du Lac and Dodge County will pay landowners slightly more than \$1.2 million annually to and almost \$1.6 million to local governments in 2010. PSC 128 protects the rights of landowners to host wind turbines, providing them with a new source of revenue. We will always be using and spending money for energy – lets keep as much of that reinvested in Wisconsin as possible.

The Wisconsin IBEW State Conference is made up of 20 locals around the State. Our 16,000 members are employed in all facets of electrical work – construction, utility and manufacturing. We are constantly working to increase job opportunities, improve the standard of living and working conditions for our members. Our political involvement is a major part of that effort.

#####



February 9, 2011

**TO:           The Joint Committee for the Review of Administrative Rules:**  
Senator Leah Vukmir, Co-Chair       Senator Joseph Liebham  
Representative Jim Ott Co-Chair    Representative Dan Meyer  
Senator Glenn Grothman            Representative Daniel LeMahieu  
Representative Gary Hebl          Senator Lena Taylor  
Representative Frederick Kessler   Senator Fred Risser

**FROM:        Brenda Salseg**  
Town of Forest-St. Croix County, WI

**RE:           Public Hearing on PSC 128 Clearing House Rule 10-057**

Just four months ago, my husband and I traveled here to Madison to attend and testify at the public hearing held in October before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities, Energy, and Rail. Back then, it had been just a little over a month since most of my neighbors and I found out about the wind agreement with Emerging Energies to site 39 turbines 500-foot tall in our small township. We wondered how the project could have developed with so few people knowing about it and without a public hearing. Some had heard rumors but could not believe the size and scope of the project. How could what was done have been legal? Through open records we found the agreement was managed by attorneys for the town and the developer and backed by a select group of hosting landowners who wanted the deal done. Two town supervisors, both with conflicts of interest, approved the project.

During those first few days after learning about the agreement, my neighbors and I had many questions. We researched the pros and cons of wind energy systems. I read how windmills were good for people and good for the planet. I watched the videos of turbine sound and shadow flicker. I read about the effects of low-frequency vibration on hearing, muscles, and organs. Many of my neighbors are farmers, and they worried if livestock would suffer from stray voltage. What would happen to our rural lifestyle, the birds and wildlife, and investments in our homes and property? With ten to twelve proposed within a mile of my home, and one just 1200 feet, what could I do if I was opposed to living in a wind project? Still, I thought, government would not allow industrial wind if it could cause us harm.

We were told the wind is free, and our electricity needs will be cleaner, greener, and cheaper. Cleaner and greener does not equate with health and safety issues or the fact the power plants work much less efficiently when ramping up or down in response to wind. Wind energy is not cheaper when it is variable and inefficient and not viable unless taxpayer subsidized, and takes a double dip through electricity rate hikes.

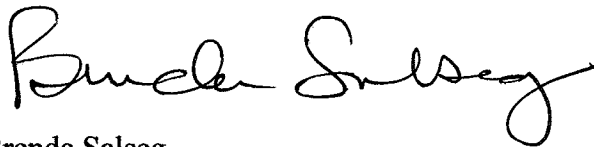
The more I searched for answers, the more apparent it became that there was no protection. Communities all across the world are banding together to fight the negative effects of industrial wind. Right here in our own home state hundreds of people live with unacceptable noise many times above natural ambient levels. Wind projects are negatively affecting the health of people, pets, and animals. Buffer zones cross property lines and take from adjoining landowners. I read the stories of so many people who health began to fail as soon as the turbines began operation.

I found out very quickly that few want to believe these people all with similar stories, all of which have spoken the truth and many of which are in this room today. Those who stand to make financial gain deny and manipulate the truth because safe setbacks cut into profit margins. They call us liars, whiners, NIMBYs, and anti-green for defending our quality of life and protecting our investments, for some of us, all that we own of value.

Hundreds of ordinary people like my neighbors and me, as well as physicians, acoustical engineers, and scientists have researched, studied, and lived with the evidence you have been given through testimony today. We are your source of proof that industrial wind is not safe and does not belong in densely populated rural areas, too close to nonparticipating homes. By state law, I cannot leave my driveway in my car without putting on a seatbelt. Yet people are put at risk every day by turbine blades spinning as fast as 170 miles per hour. Where is the safety net for the people of Wisconsin?

The Public Service Commission is not composed of elected officials and does not represent the voters of Wisconsin. Yet the Commission is attempting to make policy and pass laws that further erode the health and safety issues of wind energy systems and our private property rights. We, from the Town of Forest, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, ask that you as a committee stand up for the people of Wisconsin, and stop the PSC 128 Clearinghouse Rule effective for March 1, 2011 and lead to uphold our constitutional rights for us all.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Salseg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Brenda Salseg  
2969 – 210<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Emerald, WI 54013

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

10:00 AM  
412 East  
State Capitol  
PSC 128 (CR 10-057)

Relating to the siting of wind energy systems

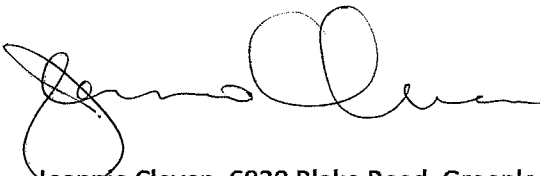
I can't help to wonder how many more peaceful nights I will be able to enjoy in my own home. I can't believe people like Jennifer Heinzen who referred to us as "collateral damage" has made decisions that will directly affect me and mine. She was also quoted as saying she didn't know why people are so against these wind projects but "it doesn't matter what they think." The Wind Siting Council is loaded with bias as most of the members have a financial gain in the wind industry. This fact must be considered. These are the people that are blatantly ignoring the safety and health issues that are pouring in daily from projects all over the world. I have seen photos and videos of turbines exploding, breaking, and catching on fire. There are issues with shadow flicker, ice throw, noise and each and every one of these issues could be curtailed with a more reasonable setback distance of no less than 2640 feet from PROPERTY LINES. The rules were unjustly run through during the "lame duck session" and must be suspended now until further research can be done. The Wind Industry Symposium held in Canada this past fall holds startling information that needs to be paid attention to. My property values and my health are not unimportant.

If I had a dog that was a nuisance to my neighbor, I would have to do something about that dog, like get rid of it. And yet, these turbines – which have been proven to my satisfaction to have tremendous health and safety risks will be allowed to be built too close to my home. The World Health Organization has deemed safe noise levels in RURAL communities to be 35 decibels during the day, 30 in the evening, and 25 overnight. To say 45 and assume it's just a "little louder" is not correct. 45 decibels is TWICE as loud as 35 decibels. I live in a rural community, not an urban one. I've heard mention of compensation for people with issues. I do not want money for these issues. You cannot "pay" for my health and safety. That is a price only I could pay and it's because of decisions you are making. You must consider the safety and health of the residents of Wisconsin and err on the side of caution. Please suspend these rules to give more time to the issue. Once the rules are in effect, there's no turning back and there is way too much unbiased information out there to ignore it.

The following list of information is only a portion of why these rules need to be suspended. These points need to be considered along with the knowledge that we are NOT collateral damage. We are people with rights and lives that should not be discarded in the name of some feel good legislation that does way more harm than good.

- Wind turbines actually decrease the number of jobs. A study in 2010 by the University of Rey Jaun Carlos about Spain's employment history concludes that 9 jobs were lost for every 4 "green" jobs created. In addition, these green jobs cost over \$1 million each to create. This is interesting given Spain's large wind turbine manufacturing base and large number of installed wind turbines.

- Renewable energy cost is too high and impede job growth in industry. Using data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average family of four would have household electric bills in 2016 of \$188.66 if the power was supplied by coal. If wind were used to supply 100% of the electricity used by this family, the cost would be \$339.58, an increase of 55%. These numbers would devastate the industries in Wisconsin that rely on large amounts of electricity in their manufacturing process.
- Wind Turbine projects requires huge taxpayer subsidies to be profitable to the developer. These subsidies are millions of dollars of tax and rate payer's money into the hands of a few companies, many of them foreign owned. Remove these subsidies and let the free market drive the electricity providing system.
- Wind turbine projects decrease property values to neighboring landowners. A study by Appraisal One Group in 2009 showed a decrease of up to 40%. The Lawrence Berkeley Labs study of land values touted by the wind interest as showing no impact to pricing has been discredited in multiple peer reviews. Multiple homes in the Fond du Lac County wind complex have not sold because of their close proximity to wind turbines.
- Wind turbines do not decrease emissions from other electricity generating sources. In studies in California and Colorado, the wind turbine projects actually increased emissions because of the cycling of coal and natural gas power plants to ensure a steady flow of electricity during periods of little wind. World-wide, not a single coal plant has been shut down because of wind turbines.
- Eliminate the Renewable Portfolio Standard. Wisconsin business cannot afford the addition cost of subsidized renewable energy. Force the marketplace to innovate and engineer new solutions to the problem. We should not be throwing money at the wrong solution simply because it is here. Force the wind industry to prove scientifically that they are the long term solution.
- Wisconsin currently has about 300 wind turbines in operation or under construction. To meet the 2025 RPS mandate an additional 12,000 turbines will be required. Where will the state put them? The marginal wind available is in the Eastern quarter of the state, which is also the most densely populated area of Wisconsin. The experiences of residents in Fond du Lac County have proven that wind turbines do not mix well in populated areas.
- In January, Clean Wisconsin and the Citizens Utility Board officially protested the expansion of Point Beach nuclear plant in Two Rivers because they say the state has more than enough electricity to meet its demands. Why then are we encouraging wind energy?

 2-9-11

Jeannie Clevon, 6830 Blake Road, Greenleaf, WI 54126

## ATTENTION=JOINT COMMITTEE for REVIEW of ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Message from a tax paying and voting resident of the Town of Forest , St.Croix county, Wisconsin.

You are part of an important committee with the responsibility of setting and administrating guide lines involving wind energy in Wisconsin. I beg of you to take the time to listen to ALL sides of the arguments about the issues surrounding wind generation. The setback rules that are presently recommended are not adequate to protect non-participating land owners. Property owners that own large tracts of land may not see this as an issue, but if the construction is near to a non-participant and the wind generator causes noise or shadow flicker that is detrimental to their health it seems apparent that their only recourse is to abandon their property. If the property doesn't resell and the township can't collect taxes on the abandoned property, isn't this a negative impact on the area. From more than just a few fact finding missions by people in other areas including in other states, it is becoming more and more apparent, that wind energy generation is not as "green" as it is advertised to be. Without your assistance on the rulings committee to consider ALL input I fear that us "small" land owners have no way of protecting ourselves. We pay taxes into our townships and our school districts just like our neighbors with large tracts of land. Unfortunately we don't have the large acreage buffer to get away from the side affects that are becoming more apparent. Many of our small acreage land owners consider our property to also be a retirement investment. Most of us hope to either hand this property down to our next generation, who will be the next tax payers and voters in that community. Or the property will be listed and sold to some new family that wants to move into that area. But it is becoming obvious in other areas that the property values are not indicating the desire of people to move into or stay in the proximity of these towers. I believe it is necessary for our elected leaders to listen to ALL of the voters and tax payers. Respectfully, Laverne Hoitomt 3162 State Road 64 Glenwood City, Wisconsin

# Invenergy

February 9, 2011

Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

*Re: Clearinghouse Rule 10-057, Wind Siting Rule*

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

Invenergy is the nation's largest non-utility affiliated wind power generation company. We're based here in the Midwest, in Chicago, and we've developed and placed in service more than twenty wind farms across the country.

Our company is proud to have invested in Wisconsin. Our first wind farm here, the Forward Energy Center near Fond du Lac, became operational more than two years ago. We'd like to do even more business in the state and to make a deeper investment through continued wind development.

Unfortunately, after two years of work by many stakeholders on the establishment of a uniform siting standard, we remain in a holding pattern. The prolonged process has created, and now may cause to continue an atmosphere of regulatory uncertainty.

**PSC 128 would provide stabilization of the regulatory environment. It is in that vein that I am writing in support of the adoption of PSC 128.**

Wind Development significantly and positively impacts the economy of Wisconsin. Our Forward Energy Center, for example, provides \$1.5 million annually in landowner payments, local taxes and the use of over 40 Wisconsin business. Wind Development also creates jobs in the construction trade and provides opportunities for Wisconsin contractors; a Wisconsin contractor constructed the Forward Energy Center at over \$50 million.

Further, projects impact the Wisconsin economy at all stages of development; with 5 year developments providing \$500,000 in landowner payments to rural communities, and \$1.5 million spent on Wisconsin based engineers, environmental consultants and legal support.

Stabilization of the regulatory environment is crucial to encouraging such development. The suspension of PSC 128, in contrast, would mean pressing the 'pause button' on investment and watching much of that potential go to other states where the rules are fair, clear, and certain.

PSC 128 is a common-sense approach to establishing reasonable wind turbine siting rules. Crafted over a two-year period, it reflects input from a number of stakeholders - including the citizens of Wisconsin.

PSC 128 may not be perfect. Perhaps no standard would be. But it is a good and fair compromise that balances many different interests. The adoption of PSC 128 will make it

# Invenergy

possible for numerous wind developments to finally go forward. It would be a green light for investment - and jobs.

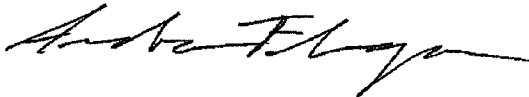
Invenergy very much wants to do business and create jobs and investment in Wisconsin. But to continue to invest here, we must have a partner in those who shape public policy. As state legislators, you can remove barriers to business development and help shape a stable regulatory climate.

It would be an environment that encourages investment. An environment in which wind is a plentiful crop - a crop harvested with great results for the citizens of this state.

Please feel free to contact us for more information as your committee considers this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Flanagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Flanagan  
Vice President - Development

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
**JOINT COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
February 9, 2011

**Julie Voeck**  
Director of Regulatory Affairs  
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

**STATEMENT OF POSITION CONCERNING THE SITING OF WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS  
IN WISCONSIN – PSC 128 (CR 10-057)**

*Julie Voeck*  
*Director of Regulatory Affairs*  
*NextEra Energy Resources, LLC*

(262) 814-2639  
[Julie.Voeck@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Julie.Voeck@nexteraenergy.com)





1000 megawatts requires 500-600 turbines and a total footprint of only 200-300 acres. That's 1/3 to 1/2 an acre needed per turbine. Folks like GE, Vestas, American Superconductor, and Wausaukee Composites stand to lose \$2 billion dollars.

So please think about this ? We need 200-300 acres (offered by landowners) in exchange for a \$3 billion industry opportunity? Good deal or not ??

Please do the right thing...No more compromises or splitting hairs. Setbacks over 1250 feet and turbine placement dictated by fence posts and not based on proximity to homes are game breakers...

Please **DO NOT SEND** this **BACK TO THE PSC AGAIN**. Adopt **PSC 128** as the blue print or the game plan. The results could be Super ! Do we Punt or Move the ball down the field **NOW!?**

**GO PACK GO**

Thank you....

Kim A. Egan  
Wind Wisconsin  
608-516-0233  
kimegan@gmail.com

Feb. 9, 2011

Hearing on PSC 128 (Clearinghouse Rule #10-057)  
PSCW Wind Siting Rules

Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules  
February 9, 2011

Testimony by Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E.  
for  
Towns of Glenmore, Morrison, and Wrightstown of Brown County

Thank you, Co-chairs and Committee Members for providing us this opportunity to comment upon the wind siting rules which could go into effect next month.

Our towns support suspension of these rules for two reasons. The towns have existing wind siting ordinances in which they have invested hours and hours of effort to ensure the safety and health of their residents. A March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to convert to the state rules is not possible since any local ordinance change requires an open process by the planning commissions and the town boards and, then, via town public hearings.

Secondly, the previous legislative committees sent the draft rules back to the Public Service Commission because of some key concerns about safety and health protections. Instead of providing for more stringent requirements, the PSCW relaxed the setback provisions and reduced payments to non-participating property owners. Then, as you know, the lame-duck committees did not provide for public hearings on those changes.

Our towns also support having an opportunity, after suspension of the rules, to explain the good, bad, and ugly in the proposed rules based upon our research and experience.

Progress has been made but an essential element is still lacking. Rules or standards intended to protect the health and safety of people must be based upon scientific fact rather than scientific opinion. We still lack statistically-controlled epidemiological studies to assess the wind turbine impacts on humans and animals. There are peer-reviewed scientific studies which say that significant evidence of negative impacts exists. On the other hand, there are peer-reviewed scientific reports which stress that there is no true scientific proof that turbines are harmful. Both groups of authors, including our own State Board of Health, are correct. There just are no controlled scientific studies except one which was recently published. That one was not considered in promulgating our state rules.

Wisconsin has an opportunity to do epidemiological studies in their existing wind farms. The University of Wisconsin and the State Board of Health is capable of doing such studies. The time is ripe because 1) there are complaints of health issues from Wisconsin residents in or near existing wind farms, 2) studies are necessary to determine setbacks which are adequate but not extreme and 3) all

indications are that the Wisconsin utilities already have enough renewable generation planned for meeting the state requirement for 10% by 2015.

We call upon the wind energy industry to help fund such studies because the use of better science would improve their designs, speed their project application process, and help reduce their liability. I, personally, call upon the licensed Professional Engineers in the wind industry to remind themselves that, as P.E.'s, they have an ethical responsibility to the public which goes beyond obligations to their employers or their clients. Their designs and operational procedures must be based on good science. They should voice support for controlled studies.

Such studies are also important to Wisconsin residents since it is more likely that, in the future, continuing federal subsidies will prompt wind development in Wisconsin but the power will be sold and used in other states.

That said, we offer comments on some key fixes needed in the proposed rules.

Historically and reasonably, setbacks have been defined as a distance from property lines for structures or other land use--until wind turbine projects came along. Ironically, the state decided to allow wind turbines, which greatly exceeded traditional height restrictions for structures, to also have direct impact beyond the property line as to the neighbors' use of their land. Adequate setbacks from property lines are necessary not only for safety and health reasons but also to minimize financial impact for non-participating landowners.

Another concern is that the proposed rules do not allow the towns to decide the acceptable means to provide financial collateral for future decommissioning. In the proposed rules, the wind turbine owners get to decide that.

A third concern is that when wind projects are sold, the towns should have some authority to approve the new owners. Most likely, if the statutes still require 10% renewable energy, it will be the utilities which will be forced to buy the projects from the developers. But, if not, the towns need to have better protection from irresponsible owners.

A fourth concern is that the rules do not provide explicitly for local authority to protect the environment such as groundwater. County experts often know the sensitive areas and the risks they represent better than the DNR. This is a huge concern for our towns because of the nature of the Niagara Escarpment and its many karst features. Karsts are rock fissures which often provide a direct pathway to groundwater. One University of Wisconsin expert estimates only 10% to 20% of karsts have been found and officially mapped in Brown County.

And, the last concern is that the rules only apply directly to wind energy systems less than 100 megawatts. Legislation should provide for explicit protections for residents near the largest wind developments as well.

Thank you for your consideration.