

National Collaboration Centre for Environmental Health

I would like to clarify Dr. Denton's statement regarding Dr. Ray Copes' and my support (or lack thereof) for wind turbines. Dr. Copes and I co-authored a report for the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health ( [http://www.ncceh.ca/en/ncceh\\_reviews/other/wind\\_turbines](http://www.ncceh.ca/en/ncceh_reviews/other/wind_turbines) ) in which we review the evidence relating to the potential for human health effects from living near wind turbines. The review was an evidence review, and not intended to advocate for or against wind turbine developments. Neither of us would characterize our views as being 'for' or 'against' wind turbines.

In our report, we find a lack of evidence in support of direct health impacts from noise, electromagnetic fields, or shadow flicker. We did, however, find some evidence that sleep disruption or annoyance may be associated with living near wind turbines. We also describe potential risks of injury from structural failure or falling ice.

There is a need for further study to assess any potential health effects relating to low levels of low frequency sound, as well as to measure impacts of wind turbine sound on sleep physiology. In assessing wind turbine sound, it is important to distinguish between the sound power level (a rating of sound produced at the source) and the ambient sound pressure level, which is what people experience in their homes or in the community. It would be helpful to have more measurements of *actual* ambient noise levels around wind turbine developments (i.e., where people live) in order to determine whether they are within WHO or other guidelines for community noise.

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