

Health Risks and the O.F.A.

A five-year study of people living near wind turbines in the U.S., Britain, Italy, Ireland and Canada concludes that those living close to wind turbines are at great risk of heart disease, panic attacks, migraines, tinnitus, vertigo and sleep deprivation. The report says wind turbines also trigger nightmares and harm cognitive development in children.*

Dr. Nina Pierpont, a distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Paediatrics, is the author of the report to be published in October. She says wind turbines are dangerous and recommends they be placed "no closer than at least two kms. from homes." She adds: "The wind industry will try to discredit me, but I can cope with that. This is not unlike the tobacco industry dismissing health issues from smoking."

Numerous well-recognized academics, medical practitioners and scientists back her conclusions, with Dr. Lord Robert May, Oxford University Epidemiologist and former Chief Scientific Advisor to the U.K. Government, describing Dr. Pierpont's research as "impressive and important". Other supporters include: Dr. Henry Horn, Professor of Population Biology, Princeton University; Dr. Ralph V. Katz, Chairman of Epidemiology, N.Y.U.; Dr. Jerome Haller, Professor of Neurology, Albany Medical College; Dr. Owen Black, Senior Scientist, Legacy Health System, Portland; Dr. Joel Lehrer, Professor, Otolaryngology, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

If wind power developers think the above is unscientific or biased, they should check with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), which represents 38,000 farm families and businesses. In a letter to the Minister of the Environment (July 20, 2009) the OFA says, "Rural residents in Ontario are reporting significant health-related problems they attribute to nearby wind turbine projects." The OFA "has called for a comprehensive epidemiological (health risk) study on wind turbine impacts to justify appropriate setback provisions and strongly suggests a review be done prior to the approval of projects." The OFA also "**strongly recommends** a scientific study be undertaken on wind turbine setbacks **immediately**."

Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer for the Public Health Agency of Canada says "Concerns of possible health effects resulting from living in close proximity to wind turbines are becoming more common" and "the need for additional epidemiological investigations and evidence has been identified." He notes "I take these concerns seriously and will continue to monitor the evidence as it becomes available."

Provincially, 44 municipalities (including Grey Highlands) have asked the Liberal government for a full, independent epidemiological study before proceeding further with approvals of wind turbine projects. Locally, our Grey/Bruce medical officer of health has also requested such a study. *Think all these people know something the wind power developers would rather not admit?*

A public service message paid for by citizens who seek to preserve the quality of living in Grey Highlands. People who actually live here and who care about this community.

* www.mailonsunday.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1203770/Are-wind-farms-risk-health.html#ixzz0N8n9soQh