

Wind Turbines, Noise and Health

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- submitted by
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THE EFFECT OF WIND TURBINES ON HEALTH.

I first realised there might be a problem associated with wind turbines when I was introduced to a couple living near a wind farm in Cornwall. The distance from their home to the nearest turbine is about 400 meters. They told me about poor sleep, headaches stress and anxiety symptoms brought on when the wind was blowing in certain directions. At times, they told me that they have been so disturbed by the noise that after several disturbed nights sleep, they have sought refuge in a nearby bed and breakfast establishment (far enough away not to be similarly affected by the noise).

Since that meeting I have spoken to and / or corresponded with 39 people living between 300meters and 2 km from the nearest turbine of a wind farm all of whom were suffering from the consequences of the noise coming from the turbines. This disturbance is by no means always there and is worse in certain wind directions. The cases mentioned below are from several wind farms in the UK with a variety of turbine sizes from the smaller, older turbines to the taller more modern turbines. However I have had correspondence from people living near wind farms in New Zealand and Australia and have evidence from other sources, (newspapers, journals and papers) of people being similarly affected in France, Germany, Netherlands and the USA.

What this shows is that there is number of people suffering from the consequences of noise from the wind turbines. I'm sure that the cases mentioned here are probably the "tip of the iceberg" and further independent investigation is warranted. The cases are kept anonymous in order to protect the individuals concerned. There is much concern within communities that if one is seen to complain about the noise that if they decide to move away their properties will be difficult to sell and possibly devalued as a result. Therefore they feel that they are in a "Catch 22" situation.

METHOD

All people involved in this survey were contacted either by phone or in writing. Questionnaires were completed for all cases. Questionnaires were sent to people already known to be suffering from problems which they felt was due to their proximity to wind turbines.

The identity of the people questioned has been withheld in order to maintain confidentiality. The respondents were from a number of sites in the UK- Wales, Cornwall and the north of England

Example of questionnaire.

- 1) Name- (preferred but optional)
- 2) Age 18-30 30-45
45-60 >60
- 3) Occupation
- 4) Address and /or postcode

5) Which wind farm is near your property?

6) How far away from your property is the nearest turbine?

7) How long have you been living at this property?

8) Do you feel that your health has in any way been affected since the erection of these turbines?

9) If yes please answer the following:-

Do you feel that since living near a wind turbine/turbines you have experienced excess of the following symptoms (i.e. more than you did prior to living near these structures)?

Headaches	yes	no
Palpitations	yes	no
Excessive tiredness	yes	no
Stress	yes	no
Anxiety	yes	no
Tinnitus (ringing in ears)	yes	no
Hearing problems	yes	no
Sleep disturbance	yes	no
Migraines	yes	no
Depression	yes	no
Other- please specify		

If you have answered yes to any or the above questions, have you approached your doctor regarding these symptoms? If yes please state any tests and/or treatment initiated.

10) Do you feel that your quality of life has in any way altered since living near the wind turbines? Yes no

If yes could you please explain in what way you feel your life has been altered.