

Setbacks under the new regulations : New Section 16-50j-95

It is now clear that 500 foot setbacks do not protect the health of CT citizens. Since the beginning of the hearings on petitions to erect Industrial Wind turbines here in Connecticut, an avalanche of research and reports has swept over us all. "The fact is that turbine noise seems to be more disturbing than any other noise of the same decibels, and scientists are straining to learn why. It was suspected but not known, in 2010, that noise from turbines was injurious to nearby resident's' health. Developers and wind companies declared, "there is no evidence" that proximate turbines are bad for one's health. That is demonstrably not a true statement: it was not clear, at that time two years ago, when we first came before you, just what the pathway or causal link was between wind turbines and illness, but there were multitudes of people all over the world, who found that living near turbines was uncomfortable to unbearable. Carl Phillips, a noted epidemiologist, says "there is clear and compelling evidence " internationally that turbines make some people ill; some of those who live near turbines will suffer. I offer you a copy of and a link to Dr Phillips' report.

Just what part of the audible or inaudible noise is most troublesome, is a matter of intense study at the moment: Dr. Salt in St Louis is studying the effect of infrasound on the inner ear Rand and Ambros, professional accousticians, found themselves experiencing the illness caused by nearby turbines when they were investigating infra- and low frequency sound in an abode near a turbine in Massachusetts. Dr, Pierpont has named the set of symptoms "Wind Turbine Syndrome" and continually publishes her findings, respected by many people in the medical community, and Dr Nissenbaum of Kent, Maine has recent material from scientific, peer reviewed studies showing the relationship of proximity to turbines and illness. At the 10th international conference on Noise as a Public Health Problem, he declared that those within 1400 meters (4,209 feet) feet showed significant sleep disturbance; "current ordinances determining setbacks of less than 1.5 km must be regarded as unsafe."

Frey and Hadden and Hadden, Dec 2011, reviewed a huge amount of scientific and professional reports to conclude that turbines from 35 to 50 meters high should have a set back of 2km; turbines greater than 100 meters should be 3km away from habitation.

Denmark, which has more turbines per capita than any country in the world, regulates 2 km. Victoria state in Australia demands 2 km, Scotland recommends the same. Both the French Academy of Medicine and the U.K. Noise Association recommend a minimum of one mile.

It is clear that Industrial Wind Turbines do indeed harm their neighbors; it is necessary to provide safety to those who live nearby, and present thinking is that a minimum of 1.25 miles is required to do so.

Doesn't the Siting Council, in light of the emerging research, look out dated and uninformed to suggest 500 feet?

Properly Interpreting the Epidemiologic Evidence About the Health Effects of Industrial Wind Turbines on Nearby Residents

Carl V. Phillips, Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society, August 2011, vol 31. #4 303 315.

Wind Turbines and Proximity to Homes : The Impact of Wind Turbine Noise on Health

Barbara Frey, BA.MA Univ. of Minnesota

Peter J. Hadden, Bsc, FRICS (MD)