



January 21, 2011

The Honourable Brad Duguid
Ontario Minister of Energy
900 Bay Street
4th Floor, Hearst Block
Toronto ON M7A 2E1

The Honourable John Wilkinson
Ontario Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5

Honourable Ministers:

Re: Industrial Wind Turbines

On January 21, 2011, at a regular Board of Health meeting for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2011-09

WHEREAS the Operational Roles and Responsibilities for Boards of Health as identified in the Identification, Investigation and Management of Health Hazards Protocol of the Ontario Public Health Standards states:

- a) In collaboration with the lead government agencies with primary responsibility for the environmental health issue and/or other relevant agencies, experts and interested parties as applicable, the Board of Health shall manage identified health hazards in the environment by:
- i) Developing options and implementing action plans, including strategies for corrective actions for controlling and where possible mitigation exposure, based on a risk assessment approach. These options may include healthy public policy;
 - ii) Developing and implementing risk communication strategies for the public and stakeholders specific to the environmental health issues;
 - iii) Providing educational material and/or information to the public about health hazards in the environment and actions to minimize the hazards and/or reduce exposure;
 - iv) Monitoring corrective actions pertaining to identified health hazards in the environment; and
 - v) Addressing non-compliance with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and taking action where appropriate.

WHEREAS the sound made by industrial wind farm technology is, by its nature, difficult to measure and predictive models do not always accurately reflect the many factors influencing the nature of the sound, resulting in an incomplete hazard characterization;

WHEREAS the effect of this noise on people living nearby is not well quantified, resulting in poor or non-existent exposure assessment;

WHEREAS people in Grey Bruce have voiced concern with respect to the negative impacts from the proximity of industrial wind farms to their residence;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit request the Province of Ontario to undertake studies to explore and research in the following areas:

1. Determining the prevalence of susceptibility – what portion of exposed people suffer distress.
2. Comparisons of the prevalence of susceptibility between various Industrial Wind Turbine technologies, designs, size and siting.
3. Improving field measurement of the broad band noise including low frequency noise.
4. Finding a biomarker for susceptible individuals.
5. Collecting econometric data to assess the real costs of the new technology.
6. Examining technological changes in design, operation and maintenance of Industrial Wind Turbine installations to reduce the noise and impact on residents.
7. Community and social research to determine the best way to introduce new technology to a variety of communities so that the community and social disruption is lessened.
8. Looking at what specific community research and consultation should be undertaken before installation of an Industrial Wind Turbine development in order to ensure that everyone in the community can tolerate the new technology and all will benefit.

All with the goal to eliminate the individual distress and community disruption by:

- reducing the uncertainties related to exposure by improving measurement
- improving the technology and thus reducing exposure
- improving the process of introducing new technology into communities by developing appropriate public policy

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario; our local members of Provincial Parliament, Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Boards of Health; and all Ontario Medical Officers of Health.

Yours truly,
BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE GREY BRUCE HEALTH UNIT

Original signed by:

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Medical Officer of Health

HL/em

Copies to: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Larry J. Miller, MP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound
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Carol Mitchell, MPP Huron-Bruce
Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
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Ontario Medical Officers of Health