

Health Canada released a preliminary summary of the results of its two-year study of wind turbine noise in November 2014.

Health Canada reported significant exposure response relationship between increasing wind turbine noise levels and high annoyance.

This *conflicts* with the *other* finding of "no evidence linking exposure to wind turbine noise with self-reported sleep problems, or other self-reported illnesses..."

The wind power lobby has since used the study to promote the idea there are no health impacts from industrial-scale wind turbines.

It is *not true* that the Health Canada study found no health impacts from wind turbine noise. People are reacting to noise, shadow flicker, blinking lights, and vibration. Sleep disturbance, headaches and other effects are reported in Ontario, and around the world where there are large wind turbines.



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**It's TIME  
for the TRUTH  
in ONTARIO**

Scientific knowledge of wind turbine noise emissions is advancing rapidly. It is time for the wind industry to stop using outdated studies to deny adverse impacts on residents near wind turbines. It is time for the Ontario government to stop further approvals until regulations can be updated to reflect current scientific findings.

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## **“Annoyance” is a health effect**

Annoyance is a technical medical term that denotes significant distress. Annoyance is a health impact in itself.

Here is an explanation from the National Institute of Health in the U.S.: “Even seemingly clean sources of energy can have implications on human health. Wind energy will undoubtedly create noise, which increases stress, which in turn increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer.”

## **The Health Canada Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study on “annoyance”**

Health Canada gave Wind Concerns Ontario a summary document which showed that:

- As wind turbine noise levels increased, so did annoyance
- Wind turbine noise is linked to annoyance at 35dBA which is lower levels than other sources of noise, such as traffic
- Wind turbine noise annoyance in Ontario was seen 1-2 km from turbines
- Percentage of “extremely annoyed”: 16.5% at 550 metres to 1 km; **25% at 550 metres**

## **More studies:**

The Council of Canadian Academies also released a report: “the evidence is sufficient to establish a causal relationship between exposure to wind turbine noise and *annoyance*” and, current methodologies using A-weighted noise levels (dBA) to measure turbine noise are not adequate to assess the impact on nearby residents.

Acoustician Steven Cooper’s study on the Cape Bridgewater project in Australia found a link between physical symptoms of residents and specific aspects of turbine operations. Cooper’s study found that increased levels of infrasound generated by the turbines increased the severity of the symptoms reported by nearby residents. This confirms the work of acousticians examining problems at houses in Ontario. The Australian Senate Commission acknowledged Cooper’s work, and recommended that an independent scientific committee provide advice on the impacts of noise and infrasound.

## **What these recent studies mean for Ontario:**

- there ARE health impacts from wind turbine noise
- the Ontario setback of 550 metres is inadequate for protection of health
- the Ontario 40 dBA noise level is inadequate for protection of health

**What the wind power industry says is not consistent with the recent study results, and does not align with the reality reported by people in Ontario living in wind turbine projects.**

