SUBMISSION FROM KIM TERRY

Wind Farms

I have been a supporter of Renewable Energy for over 40 years but I also believe that people have the right to be protected from unreasonable levels of noise. If you were to build any other form of renewable energy project you would have to comply with strict noise limits. With wind power, the limits are much more lax, particularly at night.

My first involvement with Wind Farm Assessment was in 1993. Since then I have examined and reported on over 100 wind farm Environmental Statements on behalf of Local Authorities or objectors in England, Wales and Scotland and have given evidence at over twenty Public Inquiries for objectors groups or for Councils.

“I am a strong believer that decisions should be based on the best scientific facts and to better promote that aim I have organised and chaired meetings on wind farm noise, given papers at national & international wind turbine noise conferences and written articles on various aspects of wind farm noise. I am on the organising committee of the biennial international wind farm conferences. I was on the DTI Noise Working Group on wind farm noise in 2006/2007 and am part of the Project Management team for RenewableUK’s research project into Amplitude Modulation”.

The above statement is from Dick Bowdler, a well respected and well known acoustician.

He has been heavily involved in monitoring noise at 2 properties situated close to Hadyard Hill wind farm in S Ayrshire. These 2 families have been experiencing noise and sleepless nights for 6 years since the wind farm was commissioned. Only now are SSE admitting to there being a problem and that the noise emitted from their wind farm is over and above what was the agreed levels when planning consent was given. These families have been going through hell and many more in Scotland are experiencing the same problems

The planning regulations in Scotland urgently need tightening and more protection from noise should be considered. ETSU is now recognised as NOT giving residents sufficient protection from noise. There is a 2km guideline in place but this is never adhered to when planning consent is given. It is well known that distance plays a part in this problem. Turbines are getting ever higher and are making more noise. To add insult to injury, the 2 families mentioned here now face 2 more wind farms which will be very close to them. One wind farm, Assel Valley, will be just under 2km away from their homes but the other, Tralorg, will be closer still. This will surround their properties and they will be living in a windfarm. The Assel Valley windfarm is only 1km away from the village of Pinmore where there are 17 homes who will all be affected both visually and by noise at this distance. This has got to be morally wrong and it is no wonder that people are against wind farms when this kind of thing is being allowed to happen. It is happening all over Scotland and is no different to many parts of the world. There are desperate people out there whose lives have been totally ruined by this 'green energy' and for whom life is just one constant drudge now.
Rural communities are being ripped apart with this policy. Neighbour is being set against neighbour and even families are falling out over wind turbines. This is because the lucrative subsidies paid are a big temptation to landowners and farmers. They don't care about the environment. They only care about the obscene amounts of money they will be earning. It is morally wrong to expect the people in fuel poverty to pay for wealthy land owners to become more wealthy.

“The noise problems at the relatively small but growing number of wind farms is due largely to the noise being too loud, having a particularly annoying character and because government and developers have miserably failed to manage the situation properly”.

This is another quote from Dick Bowdler. A moratorium on wind farms is called for until proper investigations have been carried out on noise and health and the wind industry. There is ample evidence coming out from all over the world now that health is affected. Even if the aspect of low amplitude modulation is not accepted, lack of sleep and disturbed sleep causes heart problems, depression, and high blood pressure added to which a lower life expectancy can also occur. This is widely recognized as a problem by sleep experts. Indeed, the recent case of Jane and Julian Davis in the High Court in England, the judge stated that he firmly believed the family’s ill health had been caused by the wind turbines which were too close to their home. How many more families will have to suffer this fate before the government brings in more stringent planning legislation. Quite the opposite is happening and wind developers are being allowed to place larger and larger turbines closer to homes and this cannot go on.

Many rural properties are unsalable. It is no use the wind industry claiming that homes fetch a higher price when a wind farm is built close by. What absolute tosh! You only have to speak to the unfortunate people trying to sell their properties to know that people do not want to choose to live close to them. What are these people to do when their homes have been left without value and they are unable to move home when they want to or need to?

This article has just been published and re-enforces the need for a re-think on the part of the government and planning bodies.


This is a link to the Jane and Julian Davis case recently heard in the High Court in London where the wind developer settled out of court and where the judge said he firmly believed the family's health had been adversely affected by the close proximity of the turbines to their home.

http://aeinews.org/archives/1661?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+aeinews+%28aeinews.org%29
Evidence is mounting that more needs to be done to protect people's enjoyment of their own homes and the time has come for action to be taken by what should be a responsible government.

Kim Terry
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