

From: [Ruby Mekker](#)
To: [Julie Hamilton](#)
Subject: MMWTWG Agenda Item
Date: November 3, 2022 8:55:10 PM
Attachments: [EOHU Board of Health 18 August 2022.pdf](#)
[Sept 15 to Nov 3 2022 Robert Lerch correspondence.pdf](#)
[Aug 19 to Oct 22 2022 Jane Wilson WCO President correspondence.pdf](#)

MMWTWG, Agenda Item from Ruby Mekker

To have MMWTWG seek clarification/confirmation from the Government of Ontario about whether industrial wind turbines are (or should be considered) a “health hazard” as defined by the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario, something "that has or that is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person."

Three examples of Ruby Mekker's efforts to clarify whether industrial wind turbines are recognized as a “health hazard”:

1. Ruby Mekker and another local resident presented to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit Board of Health on August 18, 2022. In the presentation, evidence was provided that supports the conclusion that the noise from industrial wind turbines should be considered a health hazard. (a PDF copy of the Powerpoint is attached).

After the meeting the presentation was recorded, and made available at this youtube link:

https://youtu.be/E_a5xMH9RF0

2. Robert Lerch, Director, Health Protection and Surveillance Policy and Programs Branch, Ministry of Health, was contacted and asked whether the Government of Ontario considers that industrial wind turbine projects are "health hazards" or not, or has the Government neglected to see that this determination has been made? The series of emails is attached, and is ongoing.

3. Ruby Mekker contacted Jane Wilson, President of Wind Concerns Ontario and asked her to work collaboratively to have industrial wind turbine projects recognized as health hazards. See attached the series of emails.

**Presentation
to
Eastern Ontario Health Unit, Board of Health
Eastern Ontario Health Unit**

Chairperson: Syd Gardiner

Directors: Paula Assaly, Gary Barton, Gerry Boyce, Gilles Fournier, Kirsten Gardner, Glen Grant, Stéphane Sarrazin, Carma Williams

Chief Executive Officer and Medical Officer of Health: Dr. Paul Roumeliotis

August 18, 2022

Ruby Mekker

Finch, ON

Email: rjmekker@gmail.com

Cell phone: 613 360-0000

Tammy McRae

Crysler, ON

Email: tammcrae@gmail.com

Cell phone: 613 662-6684

On behalf of the people effected by industrial wind turbines, we thank you for your attention.

We ask that you review this information and the information provided in your packages.

This presentation is public and can be shared.

HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION ACT OF ONTARIO

Purpose

2 The purpose of this Act is to provide for the organization and delivery of public health programs and services, the prevention of the spread of disease and the promotion and protection of the health of the people of Ontario. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, s. 2.

“Health Hazard” is defined in the HPPA as:

- (a) A condition of a premises,
 - (b) substance, thing, plant or animal other than man, or
 - (c) A solid, liquid, gas or combination of any of them,
- that has or that is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person

“Wind Turbines Can Harm Humans”

“This case has successfully shown that the debate should not be simplified to one about whether wind turbines can cause harm to humans. The evidence presented to the Tribunal demonstrates that they can, if facilities are placed too close to residents. The debate has now evolved to one of degree.”

Case Nos.: 10-121/10-122 Erickson v. Director, Ministry of the Environment Environmental Review Tribunal, Decision, p 20, 2011

Environmental Review Tribunal Decision, 2011

“... The Tribunal has found above that “serious harm to human health” includes both direct impacts (e.g., a passer-by being injured by a falling turbine blade or a person losing hearing) or indirect impacts (e.g., a person being exposed to noise and then exhibiting stress and developing other related symptoms). This approach is consistent with both the WHO definition of health and Canadian jurisprudence on the topic.”

Case Nos.: 10-121/10-122 Erickson v. Director, Ministry of the Environment Environmental Review Tribunal, Decision, p190, 2011

Annoyance is an adverse health effect that occurs via the “indirect causal pathway”:

2009	World Health Organization, Night Noise Guidelines	Noise can harm humans via the direct and indirect pathways
------	---	--

62 EFFECTS ON HEALTH

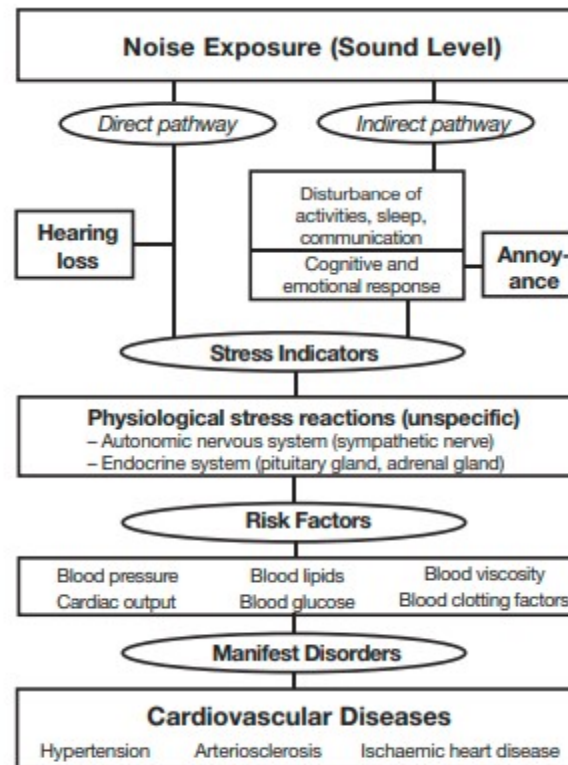


Fig. 4.3
Noise effects
reaction scheme

Source:
Babisch, 2002.

Annoyance


Health Canada describes noise annoyance as an adverse health effect.

5.4 INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL HUMAN HEALTH EFFECTS Health Canada holds the view that certain community reactions to project-related noise represent potential indicators of adverse health; that is, if the noise is experienced over a long period of time, it could potentially increase one's risk of developing health effects. In the context of noise exposure, two of the most common community reactions are **complaints and annoyance**.


[Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: NOISE](#)

Annoyance is acknowledged to be an adverse health effect.

“The most common effect of community noise is annoyance, which is considered an adverse health effect by the World Health Organization”

 Health Canada Santé Canada

It's Your Health



COMMUNITY NOISE ANNOYANCE

The Issue

There is concern about excessive community noise because people can find it highly annoying. Over a period of time, such high annoyance can affect one's quality of life.

Background

As communities become more crowded, environmental noise levels increase. Health Canada commissioned two recent cross-country telephone surveys to find out how annoyed people were by different types of community noise. Randomly selected Canadians, who were at least 15 years old, answered the survey questions. Eight percent indicated that they were highly annoyed by noise outside their homes. Two main types of noise were clearly identified as being highly annoying:

- Road traffic noise
- Noises from other people and animals outside or in another dwelling

Other reports indicate that the following noise sources may also make Canadians highly annoyed:

- Aircraft and trains
- Construction equipment
- Power landscaping equipment

Scientists measure the levels of different sounds with a unit called the A-weighted decibel (dBA). The A-weighting reflects how people respond to sound. In a typical community, noise starts to make people highly annoyed when the sound level outside their home is around 55dBA. In comparison, the sound level on the shoulder of a major highway is between 80 and 90dBA.


Health Risks of Community Noise

The most common effect of community noise is annoyance, which is considered an adverse health effect by the World Health Organization. But noise may also affect your ability to have an ordinary conversation, enjoy some leisurely activities, get a good night's sleep, or do work that needs thought and concentration.

Minimizing Your Risk

Everyone has a responsibility to minimize noise in the community. Most municipalities have noise by-laws. Check with your municipality to find out what might apply in your neighborhood.

- Check your own noise sources. Your TV, radio or stereo could be a source of annoyance for your neighbor if you have to shout to be understood above your usual volume setting.
- Mowing your lawn when most people are normally trying to sleep could be a source of annoyance for your neighbor.
- When noise interferes with sleep, wearing ear plugs can help reduce noise levels, provided they do not cause discomfort.



 Health Canada Santé Canada

It's Your Health

Government of Canada's Role

Health Canada conducts research to assess the potential health risks of community noise. This research is used to assess the need for regulations under the Radiation Emitting Devices Act for noisy outdoor machinery and equipment. It is also used to help advise Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal authorities on community noise. As well, the research is used to inform the public and, where needed, recommend protective measures.

Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, Health Canada provides advice to other Federal departments, public review panels and mediators on the potential health impacts of noise from a number of different projects. These have included expansions of airport runways, highways and railways as well as the building of wind turbines. To help with this work, the Department is developing Health Canada's Noise Impact Assessment Guidance for Environmental Assessments. In addition, Health Canada contributes to the development of U.S., Canadian and international standards on the description, measurement and assessment of environmental noise.

Need More Info?

For more information on noise issues, please go to:

Aircraft noise
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fyh-vsv/viron/noise-bruit_e.html

Hearing Loss and Leisure noise
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fyh-vsv/viron/leisure-loisirs_e.html

D.S. Michaud et al. (2005) Noise Annoyance in Canada. Noise & Health at:
www.ingentaconnect.com/search?title=Noise+annoyance+in+Canada&database=1

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety noise fact sheet at:
www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/phys_agents/noise_basics.html

The World Health Organization, Occupational and Community Noise fact sheet at:
www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs258/en/

If you are noticing problems with your hearing please contact your family doctor or audiologist.

For more information on audiologists go to the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists at:
www.caspa.ca/

For information on preventing noise induced hearing loss go to the Wise Ears Web site at:
www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/wise/index.asp



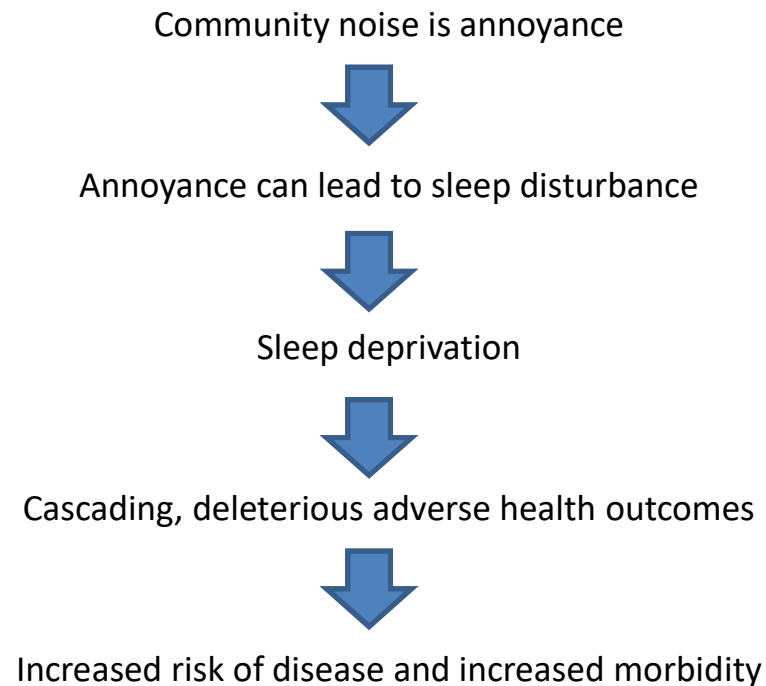
ISBN # H50-3/192-2095E-POF
Catalogue # 0-662-41546-6

Original: September 2005

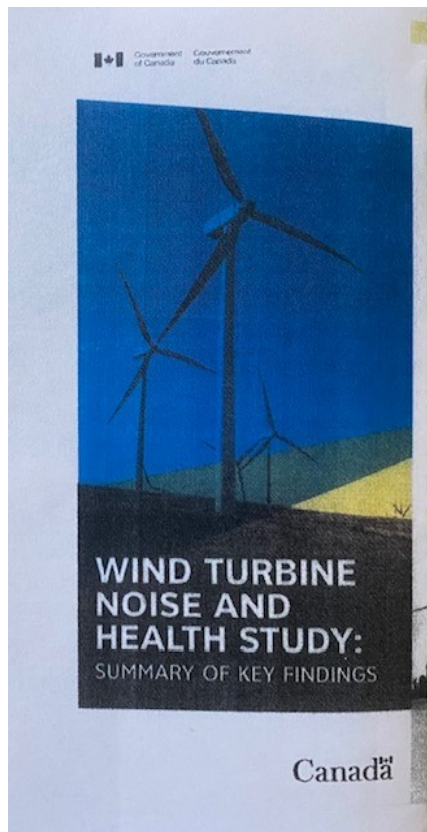
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Health, 2005

“The result confirms the thesis that for chronically strong annoyance a causal chain exists between the three steps: health – strong annoyance – increased morbidity.”

Reference: Niemann Dr Hildegard, Maschke Dr Christian, LARES Final Report Noise Effects and Morbidity, World Health Organization, (2004)



Health Canada Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study, 2014



“Visual and auditory perception of wind turbines as reported by respondents increased significantly with increasing WTN levels as did high annoyance toward several wind turbine features, including the following: noise, blinking lights, shadow flicker, visual impacts, and vibrations.”

Peer Reviewed: Michaud DS, Feder K, Keith, SE and Voicescu SA. Exposure to wind turbine noise: The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America 139, 1443 (2016);
<https://doi.org/10.1121/1.4942391>

Chief Medical Officer of Health, Arlene King

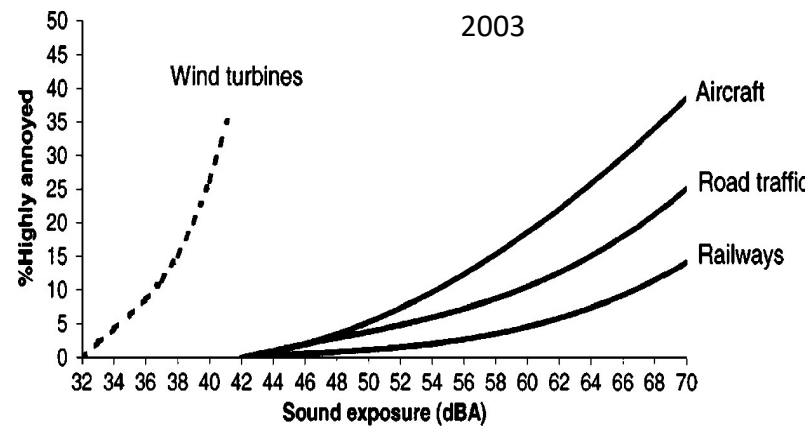
2010 - “The sound level from wind turbines at common residential setbacks is not sufficient to cause hearing impairment or other direct adverse health effects, but it may annoy some people”

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/wind_turbine/wind_turbine.aspx

to:

2015 – “Some people might find sound of WT annoying; it has been suggested that annoyance may be a reaction to the characteristic “swishing” or fluctuating nature of WT sound (2010 CMOH Report) For a given sound pressure level, wind turbines do produce more annoyance than other community noise sources.”

<https://slideplayer.com/slide/6356973/>



Sound exposure is for wind turbines calculated A-weighted L_{eq} for a hypothetical time period and for transportation DNL.

Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario

Duty of board of health

61 Every board of health shall superintend and ensure the carrying out of Parts II, III and IV and the regulations relating to those Parts in the health unit served by the board of health. R.S.O. 1990, c.H.7, s. 61.

In Part III Community Health Protection *of the HPPA is Section 11:*

Complaint re health hazard related to occupational or environmental health

11 (1) Where a complaint is made to a board of health or a medical officer of health that a health hazard related to occupational or environmental health exists in the health unit served by the board of health or the medical officer of health, the medical officer of health shall notify the ministry of the Government of Ontario that has primary responsibility in the matter and, in consultation with the ministry, the medical officer of health shall investigate the complaint to determine whether the health hazard exists or does not exist. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, s. 11(1)

“Health Hazard” is defined in the HPPA as:

- (a) A condition of a premises,
 - (b) A substance, thing, plant or animal other than man, or
 - (c) A solid, liquid, gas or combination of any of them,
- that has or that is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person

Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario

Medical Officer of Health

67 (1) The medical officer of health of a board of health reports directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act. 1997, c. 30, Sched. D, s. 7(1).

The EOHU Medical Officer of Health acknowledges he is undertaking his HPPA, Section 11 Duty to “investigate the complaint to determine whether the health hazard exists or does not exist.”:

March 10, 2022	Letter from MOH to Chief Administrative Officer, Township of North Stormont	<i>“...the EOHU initiated a public health hazard investigation in the fall of 2021. The investigation consists of: a review of recent scientific information...; noise level assessments in the field conducted by the MECP which are ongoing”</i>
----------------	---	--

**Ministry of Environment’s noise monitoring activities are
focused only on determining compliance with Ontario’s noise regulations
and not on evaluating human health impacts:**

1	April 12, 2022 MECP to Twnp of North Stormont Resident	“The <u>MECP does not have authority over matters of health</u> and I encourage you to see a professional health practitioner ”
2	June 6, 2022 MECP to Twnp of North Stormont Resident	“Health issues must be addressed through the appropriate ministry or agency. I know that you have shared your observations and concerns with the <u>EOHU</u>. ”
3	June 13, 2022 MECP to Twnp of North Stormont	“To reiterate... <u>the District is responsible for ensuring compliance</u> with issued approvals and/or applicable legislation. The ministry is awaiting noise monitoring audits...”

Compliance with Ontario's wind turbine noise regulations is expected to result in some people suffering adverse health effects.

The Government of Ontario's Ministry of the Environment commissioned engineering experts who advised them in 2010 that:

Dec 10, 2010	Low Frequency Noise and Infrasound Associated With Wind Turbine Generator Systems: A Literature Review, Howe Gastmeier Chapnik Limited for Ontario Ministry of Environment	<u>"The audible sound from wind turbines is nonetheless expected to result in a non-trivial percentage of persons being highly annoyed."</u>
--------------------	--	---

Medical Officer of Health, acknowledges that exposure to wind turbine noise results in nuisance and/or annoyance.

June 10, 2022	Email from Eastern Ontario Health Unit to Twnp of North Stormont resident	"...The articles refer to the noise nuisance/annoyance factor,As part of the EOHU investigation, the Public Health Ontario report /literature review did also find that there was <u>a noise annoyance factor related to wind turbine proximity.</u> "
March 10, 2022	Medical Officer of Health to Chief Administrative Officer, Township of North Stormont	"Based on the PHO report , <u>there is evidence for annoyance</u> associated with exposure to wind turbine noise."
Nov 22, 2021	Public Health Report, 07/26/2020	Key Findings: <u>Annoyance</u> from audible wind turbine noise has been <u>documented consistently</u> in the literature.
Oct 2019	Medical Officer of Health to local physician	"To date, all of the scientifically rigorous, evidence-based studies/position statements, seem to conclude that although wind turbine noise is a "nuisance""

Medical Officer of Health, has been asked to reconcile the knowledge that adverse health effects are expected to result from exposure to wind turbine noise via the indirect causal pathway, with the definition of a “health hazard”:

1	Aug 18, 2021 to Mar 20, 2022	Chain of emails between Twnp of North Stormont resident and Medical Officer of Health	Twnp of North Stormont resident asks for the 7 th time” ...explain to me how the knowledge that exposure to noise emissions from industrial wind turbine projects in the province of Ontario that result in adverse health effects being suffered by some people via the indirect causal pathway, reconciles with your duty under the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario, Section 11 that you purport to be carrying out to investigate “to determine whether a health hazard exists or does not exist?”
2	Nov 6, 2021	Email to Board Director from Twnp of North Stormont resident	Twnp of North Stormont informs, “...he has asked the Medical Officer of Health in writing four (4) times....” and asks, “Is there anything you can do to help us understand what is going on?”
3	Nov 8, 2021	Email to resident from Twnp of North Stormont resident from Board Director	“I’m sorry, I do not have a response.”

The information that is available proves a health hazard exists relating to industrial wind turbines.

We request the EOHU Board of Health acknowledges that the health hazard exists.

We request the EOHU Board of Health approves the proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario defines “Health Hazard”:

- (a) a condition of a premises,
 - (b) a substance, thing, plant or animal other than man, or
 - (c) a solid, liquid, gas or combination of any of them,
- that has or that is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person (“risque pour la santé), and

WHEREAS the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario imposes a duty on a local Medical Officer of Health under Section 11 in Part III Community Health Protection:

Complaint re: health hazard related to occupational or environmental health

11(1) Where a complaint is made to a board of health or a medical officer of health that a health hazard related to occupational or environmental health exists in the health unit served by the board of health or the medical officer of health, the medical officer of health shall notify the ministry of the Government of Ontario that has primary responsibility in the matter and, in consultation with the ministry, the medical officer of health shall investigate the complaint to determine whether the health hazard exists or does not exist. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, s. 11 (1)., and

WHEREAS the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario imposes a duty on a local Board of Health under Section 61
Duty of board of health

61 Every board of health shall superintend and ensure the carrying out of Parts II, III and IV and the regulations relating to those Parts in the health unit served by the board of health. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, s. 61, and

WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Health Unit Board of Health believes there is sufficient evidence to determine that industrial wind turbines permitted to operate within our region constitute a health hazard

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Health of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit acknowledges that industrial wind turbines in our region constitute a “health hazard”.

**Emails between Ruby Mekker and Jane Wilson, President, Wind Concerns Ontario
August 19, 2022 to October 22, 2022**

From: Ruby Mekker
To: WCO President
Date: Aug 19, 2022
Subject: Working collaboratively

Hi Jane,

I have read your report, Report to Wind Turbine Noise Complaints, Fourth Report, 2018 April 2021 which I found at:

<https://www.windconcernsontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Report-on-Noise-Complaint-Response-2018-FINAL.pdf>

In the report you state,

"The MECP has responsibility for any adverse health effects caused by wind turbine noise pollution as any responsibility for health/public health was wrested from the Ministry of Health by the Green Energy Act. Local public health units are powerless to do anything, despite receiving calls."

I bring this to your attention in the hopes of cooperation in our efforts to protect the people living in and around industrial wind turbines.

Yesterday, Tammy McRae and myself presented a powerpoint to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit Board of Health with the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Roumeliotis, in attendance.

The main thrust of our presentation is that Ontario has the Health Protection and Promotion Act in which the duties of the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health are listed. These include under Section 11, their duty when complaints are filed to investigate and determine if a health hazard exists or does not exist. This is Ontario law and I believe, is totally separate to the Green Energy Act. It was not impacted by the Green Energy Economy Act or the Green Energy Act.

Our presentation has already been reported in the Standard Freeholder, Cornwall which you can find at: <https://www.standard-freeholder.com/news/local-news/nation-rise-wind-farm-opponents-address-roumeliotis-eohu-board>

It is likely you are aware that the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit and the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, in 2013. Health Hazard Investigation of a Transformer Station. Fergus, ON.

I am writing today to ask that WCO support our efforts collaboratively that we are taking to protect the health of the people from the harm inducing noise and emissions that are emitted from industrial wind turbines and their associated infrastructure.

The Health Protection and Promotion Act states at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90h07>
"health hazard" means,

- (a) a condition of a premises,
- (b) a substance, thing, plant or animal other than man, or

(c) a solid, liquid, gas or combination of any of them,
that has or that is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person; (“risque pour la
santé”)

Complaint re health hazard related to occupational or environmental health

11 (1) Where a complaint is made to a board of health or a medical officer of health that a health hazard related to occupational or environmental health exists in the health unit served by the board of health or the medical officer of health, the medical officer of health shall notify the ministry of the Government of Ontario that has primary responsibility in the matter and, in consultation with the ministry, the medical officer of health shall investigate the complaint to determine whether the health hazard exists or does not exist. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, s. 11 (1).

This letter is not deemed confidential and may be shared or in the public domain. Any errors or omissions are not intentional.

Ruby Mekker
Finch, ON

From: WCO President

To: Ruby Mekker

Date: Aug 21, 2022

Subject: Re: Working collaboratively

Thank you for your email.

As it happens we have already developed our communications strategy for the fall, which is based on two extremely important events:

1. the IESO Request for Proposals (Long Term RFP)
- and
2. the Ontario municipal election.

We are very busy commenting formally to the IESO as a registered stakeholder on an ongoing basis about the need for change to the approvals and contracting process, and to the Ford government about the need for new setbacks and noise regulations, as well as the need to enforce existing regulations.

The municipal election is absolutely critical because with the IESO LT-RFP and the trend toward Distributed Energy Resources or DER, municipal councils will have input to future wind power developments.

We feel it is absolutely essential at this time to advocate for substantial change that will affect existing wind power facilities, and the projects that will almost certainly be proposed.

We continue to work toward acknowledgement of and action on the health impacts of wind turbine noise emissions, and have already begun new plans for further communication with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

I note with regret in the news story that the chair of the EOHU felt your delegation was attacking the health unit leadership. We know the limitations of the health units from working closely several years ago with the Huron County Health Unit on an important study of wind turbine noise and health effects. (The results of that study were significant and showed a link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects. Unfortunately, a poorly thought out campaign by people with another agenda meant that too few people participated in that study for the government to recognize its findings.)

To conclude, **we have a comprehensive communications strategy built as a foundation for all our activities this fall**, all of which are aimed at protecting the health of Ontario residents, and ensuring appropriate government actions.

Thank you

Jane Wilson
Ottawa

From: Ruby Mekker
To: WCO President
Date: Sun, Sep 18, 2022 at 9:25 AM
Subject: Re: Working collaboratively

Thank you, Jane. for your August 21, 2022 reply.

I agree with you that we should be advocating for substantial change that will affect existing wind power facilities, and the projects that may be proposed.

This is why we are eager to see the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario carried out, in particular the duties it imposes to determine that a "health hazard" exists.

Your comment, "*We know the limitations of the health units...*" was intriguing. What are the "limitations" of a health unit that you are referring to? Ontario's Health Protection and Promotion Act is clear that a medical officer of health is supposed to investigate complaints with the purpose of determining "whether the health hazard exists or does not exist."

Your comment about the failure of the Huron County Health Unit "study" was disappointing. Based on my conversations with some of the complainants and other people, some felt that the study--which was a spin off of the HPPA Section 11 Duty--was not designed in a way that would most expeditiously answer the question that was the purpose of the whole exercise, "to determine whether the health hazard exists or does not exist." Instead it looked like an exercise in studying the suffering of the victims who were being exposed to a known toxin without their consent.

At our presentation to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit on August 18, 2022 we presented evidence of the known adverse health effects of exposure to wind turbine noise in Ontario, which we conclude confirms the existence of a "health hazard" as defined in the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario. Attached are the slides we relied on in our presentation. As you can see the references that we rely on were available back when the Huron County Health Unit were taking up their HPPA Section 11 duty, including the Ministry's engineers admitting the noise levels permitted by the Government will

result in annoyance, and Health Canada and the World Health Organization acknowledging that annoyance from exposure to industrial noise is considered to be an adverse health effect.

With your background and experience, do you agree this is enough evidence to determine that a health hazard exists with respect to wind turbine noise in Ontario?

Ruby Mekker
Finch, ON

From: Ruby Mekker
To: WCO President
Date: Oct 22, 2022 8:23 AM
Subject: Working collaboratively

Hi Jane,
I haven't received your reply to the September 18, 2022 email I sent to you.

There have been some funny things going on with my emails so I don't know if you received my email or not.

I am just hoping to confirm with you that you agree that there is enough evidence to determine that a health hazard exists with respect to wind turbine noise in Ontario.

I look forward to your reply.

Ruby

From: WCO President
To: Ruby Mekker
Date: Oct 22, 2022 9:59 AM
Subject: Re: Working collaboratively

I did reply to your email sent weeks ago.

In it I explained that we have established our communications program for the rest of the year and it is--and has been---very busy.
The IESO has launched a new procurement initiative in stages that may include wind power proposals, and the municipal election has required us to help our members across Ontario work hard to get wind power into the conversation.

We have been providing comments at every opportunity to the government, sending letters to MPPs and other stakeholders, and working on the noise complaint file without ceasing, as we have done for years.

I saw the news reports on your presentation to the EOHU and was disturbed to see comments that the delegation was perceived as disrespectful to the Board.

Jane Wilson

President
WIND CONCERNS ONTARIO

From: Ruby Mekker
To: WCO President
Date: Oct 22, 2022 10:18 AM
Subject: Re: Working collaboratively

Jane, with all the wind turbine development that may be proposed in the province, it would seem that it is all the more important to hurry up and acknowledge that the siting criteria that the province permits results in a "health hazard" being created for the residents who live under the blades.

I was asking you simply to confirm whether you personally agree that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that wind turbine noise levels permitted by the Government constitute a "health hazard."

Your reply does not address this question. Am I missing something??

Ruby

September 15, 2022 to November 3, 2022 Email Chain:

Ruby Mekker and Robert Lerch, Director, Health Protection and Surveillance Policy and Programs
Branch, Ministry of Health

Statement by MPP Sylvia Jones, Ontario Legislature, April 18, 2013

From: Lerch, Robert

To: Ruby Mekker

CC: Asha Riyaz

Date: Sep 15, 2022

Subject: RE: 4th Letter - New information and ongoing harm

Dear Ruby Mekker,

Thank you for taking the time to contact us, we have received your emails dated May 2nd, 24th and 27th 2022, May 12th and September 2nd 2022 regarding wind turbines in your community.

There have been a growing number of reviews and consultations on the human and environmental health impacts of wind farms in the literature. Most recently, our partners at Public Health Ontario have conducted a further review of the scientific data to date. There is still no evidence, from any of the examined studies to propose a direct causal link between the placement of wind turbine farms and any subsequent adverse human health effects to neighbouring populations.

The Ministry of Health will continue to regularly review all new scientific evidence to ensure that the measures in place are protective of the environment and of human health, including sharing the concerns raised in your correspondence to our Public Health Ontario partners.

We will also continue to liaise with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The MECP has authority on this project and are responsible for policies, protocols, laws and regulation pertaining to wind farms and wind turbines. We will review all information presented in the upcoming MECP report and, in partnership, will continue our engagement in this issue. Again, it will be with the primary focus of safeguarding public health.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns with the Ministry.

With regards,

Robert Lerch

A. Director

From: Ruby Mekker

To: Robert Lerch

Date: Oct 8, 2022

Subject: Response to Fwd: 4th Letter - New information and ongoing harm

Mr. Lerch,

I received your letter of September 15, 2022.

I had written to you on September 2, 2022 and had enquired about the fact it appears that the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario, Section 11 Duty that is imposed on local Medical Officers of Health to investigate complaints to determine whether a health hazard exists or does not exist, has not been carried out in any health unit in the Province with respect to complaints about the adverse health effects of industrial wind turbines that have been built in residential communities.

In your reply letter you failed to acknowledge or address this concern.

Mr. Lerch, please will you confirm whether the Province of Ontario considers that health hazards exist pertaining to these industrial wind turbine projects that have been built in our residential communities? Please ensure your response includes the term "health hazard" as it is defined in the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario.

I await your reply.

Ruby Mekker
Finch, ON

From: Ruby Mekker **Date:** Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 8:57 AM
Subject: Re: Response to Fwd: 4th Letter - New information and ongoing harm
To: Lerch, Robert (MOH) <Robert.Lerch@ontario.ca>
Cc: Asha Riyaz

I wrote to you on October 8, 2022 and noted that in your letter of September 15, 2022 you did not address my concern that I had written to you about so I asked you to "confirm whether the Province of Ontario considers that health hazards exist pertaining to these industrial wind turbine projects that have been built in our residential communities? Please ensure your response includes the term "health hazard" as it is defined in the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario."

I have not received your reply. When may I expect your reply?

Ruby Mekker
Finch, ON

From: Ruby Mekker
To: Robert Lerch
CC: Asha Riyaz
Date: Nov 3, 2022
Subject: Robert Lerch: Health hazards and wind turbines

Robert Lerch
Director, Health Protection and Surveillance Policy and Programs Branch
Ontario Ministry of Health

Mr. Lerch,
I wrote to you on October 8, 2022 and October 19, 2022 noting that in your reply letter of September 15, 2022 you did not address my question about whether the Ministry of Health considers the industrial wind turbine projects in Ontario that are the subject of numerous complaints about noise and adverse

health effects to be "health hazards". As you are aware, "health hazard" is a term that is defined in the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario.

I have not received your reply. Please confirm, does the Province of Ontario consider that these industrial wind turbine projects are "health hazards" or not, or is the Province neglecting to make this determination?

I await your reply.

Ruby Mekker
Finch, ON