



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Governor

Karen E. Timberlake  
Secretary

**State of Wisconsin**

Department of Health Services

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May 6, 2010

Liv L. Moyer  
N5600 Pine Road  
Eden, Wisconsin 53019

Dear Ms Moyer:

Thank you for your April 23, 2010, letter to Secretary Karen E. Timberlake regarding your concerns relating to noise from wind turbines near your home. Secretary Timberlake has asked me to respond to your letter on her behalf and I welcome the opportunity to do so.

As you know, there is a great deal of interest in the expansion of wind energy projects throughout the state. As the state's public health agency, my staff has followed the development of the wind energy conversion industry in Wisconsin over the past decade. In a number of cases, our agency has been asked to respond to concerns raised in inquiries from local public health agencies and other stakeholders seeking information about health issues relating to wind energy projects in Wisconsin. As such, I appreciate your willingness to share your concerns with us.

We have reviewed the available scientific literature on wind energy projects and public health, as well as reports issued by the National Academy of Sciences and other state health departments. Based on this review, the Division of Public Health finds no clear scientific evidence to support the conclusion that wind turbine development using existing setback criteria would result in specific adverse health impacts to the public.

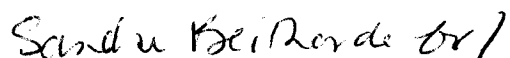
In discussing this topic with local health officials in Fond du Lac County and other counties where wind energy projects have been undertaken, the majority of complaints received regarding current wind energy projects have been related to nuisance issues that have not generally been amenable to local health agency action. In your letter, you included a series of e-mails in which you recorded your concerns about the impact that noise related to wind turbines was having on your health. We have previously received a few reports of individuals who reported sleep disruption they attributed to wind turbine noise. While we cannot rule out the possibility that noise related to wind turbines may be a factor in the sleep disruption you describe, we also realize that there are often many factors associated with sleep disruption. It is our position that individuals with sleep disruption from any cause, whether attributed to wind turbines or other factors, should first seek evaluation by a medical provider.

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It is clear that gaps remain in our collective knowledge of how wind energy conversion projects may affect the communities in which they are implemented. As affected individuals are evaluated by medical providers, this will allow for complaints to be linked with objective clinical data, and help improve our understanding of the relationship between wind energy and health. Because the development of wind energy projects is an area of significant growth in Wisconsin, it is important that we continue to look for ways to minimize potential impacts to neighbors. To the extent that this impact falls into the public health realm, our agency will continue to seek data and information to guide public policy on this matter.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Chuck Warzecha, Director, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at 608.264.9880.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Foldy" followed by a stylized flourish.

Seth Foldy, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
State Health Officer and Administrator  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Division of Public Health