

My submission

In relation to wind farm noise it is an unfortunate fact that these machines provide power only about 35% of the time in any year. However as they are operated here in Ireland and elsewhere they are kept turning sometimes by national grid power for at least 93% of the time. I have closely observed a wind farm and find all turbines stopped about 6% of the time. I understand though I am not certain the reason is to prevent warping of the blades due to heat when stopped, and to prevent build up of ice during frost, and to prevent warping of the heavy internal components.

The result is that the noise is emitted when no useful power is produced and when winds are very light. On these occasions sound carries much stronger than on a windy day. (note how a dog can be heard barking on a calm night). If the noise coincided with strong winds and useful power it would make some sense and cause less annoyance and if turbine manufacturers are serious about people's wellbeing in the neighbourhood they should be designed to shutdown in low winds when not producing electricity. I believe it is this feature that causes the low frequency noise that causes so much distress.

Signed

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