

I wish to comment on the noise issue with respect to windfarms. I hold a Ph.D. degree in psychology from Columbia University and am a Professor Emerita of the City University of New York. I have conducted research and written on the impacts of noise on health and well-being for the past thirty-five years. My research on the effects of elevated train noise on children's learning is viewed as landmark research. I have written chapters on noise for eight books and have articles on noise in academic journals as well as writings in the more popular press. The media frequently call on me for statements on the adverse impacts of noise on health. Many of my articles can be accessed by typing Arline Bronzaft into google.com, or by going to GrowNYC (www.grownyc.org) and clicking into noise. GrowNYC.org (formerly called Council on the Environment of New York City) is a New York City Mayoral committee, to which I have been named by four New York mayors. This is a non-paid position and I chair the noise committee. I assisted the Department of Environmental Protection in New York City in revising its noise code nearly four years ago. Additionally, I am now serving on a National Academy of Sciences committee in the United States which is overseeing research on the effects of aircraft noise on children's learning.

In 1986, the Queensland Division of Noise Abatement and Air Pollution and the Australian Acoustical Society invited me to a conference as a Keynote speaker. Similarly, I have been invited to speak at conferences internationally. I have served as a Consultant to the New York City Transit Authority and have served as an Expert Witness in cases involving noise, usually in the United States but as far away as New Zealand.

With respect to wind turbines, I have not personally conducted research on the impacts of wind turbine noise but have read materials that have demonstrated the adverse impacts of low-frequency sounds (measured on the C scale) and believe we can generalize from this research to the sounds experienced by people living near wind turbines. Furthermore, we have to be conscious of the impacts of sounds on the A scale as well. Looking at the writings promoting wind turbine energy, I find these writings largely ignore measurements of sound on the C scale (low frequency) and tend to believe the A scale readings are not loud enough to have adverse effects. Too often, these writings speak to the fact that only a few people have complained about the uncomfortable sounds of the wind turbines but a more careful perusal of the complaints will indicate that the "few" have grown in numbers.

Whenever we pursue a new energy source, we must conduct adequate research on the potential harmful effects. I do not believe this is being done as we expand our interest in this apparently attractive alternative source of energy - wind power. I would gladly work with the Australian government as it seeks to undertake appropriate research on potential noise impacts of windfarms.

Should you wish to discuss further, please feel free to call on me. Arline L. Bronzaft, Ph.D.