

## Submission to **The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms Inquiry**

### **When the wind doesn't blow – Political Greenwash**

I live in a rural community in the North East of England. There are around 200 dwellings in our village. A wind farm developer has selected a farm in our village as a potential site for a 9 2Megwatt turbine wind farm. The developers have managed to find a narrow corridor between our village and two other villages to site the 9 turbines such that they meet what is the current UK setback of 450 metres. Our home is 630 metres from the nearest proposed turbines. A setback of only 800 metres would mean that none of the 9 turbines could be built.

As a result of this proposal I, and many of the residents of the villages, have done a great deal of research into how this might affect us. This is a world wide problem – a responsible country somewhere in the world must take the lead in carrying out appropriate research.

1 My first conclusion is that there is **NO RECENT RESEARCH** into the affects on health of living very close to modern huge turbines. In England the guidelines, ETSU-R-97, are based on research carried out in 1996 when turbines were only 20 – 30 metres tall and produced about 0.6 megawatts. Recent onshore wind farm developments in rural areas are proposing 120 – 140 metres tall.

2 There are many people who have had to leave there homes because of wind turbine noise and vibration who live much further away than 450 metres. There are definitely negative effects on the health of people living close to turbines. One of the worst effects is sleep deprivation. This in itself can lead to many other medical symptoms.

3 The full effects of noise, both audible and nonaudible, on health are not known or understood.

4 The effects of wind sheer on turbines and noise is not fully understood.

5 The effects of very tall turbines with huge blade diameters are not fully understood. The tips of the blades pass through a number of layers of air traveling at different speeds with associated different air pressures. This represents a totally different set of physical effects than a smaller 20 metre turbine.

6 The effects of the bedrock on turbine noise are not fully understood.

7 For these reasons it is impossible for a developer to predict noise at any particular site.

8 In the UK in the middle of winter and the middle of summer when we have high pressure systems, we experience periods of no wind across the whole country. While the situation in Australia is obviously different it does show what can happen over large areas. As a result, it is necessary to be able to produce the whole UK electricity requirement by other means. Therefore reliance on wind power can never be an efficient or cost effective energy policy for the future.

9 Governments all over the world have rushed to sign up to wind power without researching either the effects on people or the effectiveness of this policy. They have done it because they want to be seen as being green. This is all **GREENWASH**.

10 Common sense and appropriate research will show that placing turbines close to dwellings and a policy of over reliance on onshore wind power are not a good policy for the future.

I urge you to proceed with this inquiry and to undertake truly independent research into all these issues as soon as possible.

Kathy Williams