

From: [Michael Wexler](#)
To: [Lucy Morrison](#)
Subject: Vineyard Wind
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 2:27:45 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I recently watched the televised coverage of the Vineyard Wind application for their undersea cable that will traverse through the Town of Edgartown's waters on its way to connect to the New England power grid in the Town of Barnstable. (DRI #688)

A fair amount of time of the hearing was taken up by a member of the public testifying in opposition to the wind farm, which is not under review by the MVC, on the negative health effects of sound.

Even though the closest turbine to Martha's Vineyard will be over 14 miles to the South Beach and even further to any residences, I wanted to submit and place the following on the record:

[Wind Turbine Health Impact Study: Report of Independent Expert Panel, dated January 2012 and prepared for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)

This expert panel conducted extensive literature searches and reviews to identify studies that specifically evaluate human population responses to turbines, as well as population and individual responses to the three primary characteristics or attributes of wind turbine operation: noise, vibration, and flicker.

An emphasis of the Panel's efforts was to examine the biological plausibility or basis for health effects of turbines (noise, vibration, and flicker). Beyond traditional forms of scientific publications, the Panel also took great care to review other non-peer reviewed materials regarding the potential for health effects including information related to "Wind Turbine Syndrome" and provides a rigorous analysis as to whether there is scientific basis for it.

The panel summarizes that most epidemiologic literature on human response to wind turbines relates to self-reported "annoyance," and this response appears to be a function of some combination of the sound itself, the sight of the turbine, and attitude towards the wind turbine project. There is limited epidemiologic evidence suggesting an association between exposure to wind turbines and annoyance and there is insufficient epidemiologic evidence to determine whether there is an association between noise from wind turbines and annoyance independent from the effects of seeing a wind turbine and vice versa.

It states "Claims that infrasound from wind turbines directly impacts the vestibular system have not been demonstrated scientifically. Available evidence shows that the infrasound levels near wind turbines cannot impact the vestibular system."

In addition, there is no evidence for a set of health effects, from exposure to wind turbines that could be characterized as a "Wind Turbine Syndrome."

Therefore, I believe the weight of the evidence suggests no association between noise from wind turbines and measures of psychological distress or mental health problems. None of the limited epidemiological evidence reviewed suggests an association between noise from wind turbines and pain and stiffness, diabetes, high blood pressure, tinnitus, hearing impairment, cardiovascular disease, and headache/migraine. These concerns are unfounded and it is time to embrace alternative energies like this one, not traffic in fear and innuendo.

Sincerely,

Michael Wexler, Oak Bluffs MA