

Malone Telegram  
4-27-05, p. 4

Wind power  
issues

**To the editor:**

I write in response to an article written by Denise Raymo which appeared 4/23/05 in the Press Republican, wherein my husband (Calvin Luther Martin) and I were interviewed about wind power. Since many folks read both the PR and the Telegram, and since the issues raised by Ms. Raymo's article impact our area significantly, I am submitting this letter to the Telegram.

A few quick clarifications: I am a pediatrician, not a psychologist. Second, the noise made by wind turbines is not constant; neighbors say it may be constant for days on end, and then the noise disappears for awhile.

With regard to mad cow disease: neither my husband nor I say that sound of any sort or turbines of any variety "cause" mad cow disease or any other prion disease. What we have said, and continue to say, is that there is a speculative paper in the medical literature laying out a hypothesis by which infrasound might be connected to prion disease (see Dr. Mark Purdey, *Medical Hypotheses*, 2003, vol. 60, no. 6, pp. 797-820). If we had not been widely misquoted by Noble Environmental in the first place (who were not even at the meeting where we brought this up) there would be no need to continue beating this dead horse (or cow).

With regard to low-frequency sound, I reviewed with Ms. Raymo a paper by the sound engineer G.P. van den Berg, a Dutch scientist ("Do wind turbines produce significant low frequency sound levels?" Eleventh International Meeting on Low Frequency Noise and Vibration and its Control, Maastricht, The Netherlands, 30 August to 1 September 2004, 8 pp.; contact g.p.van.den.berg@phys.rug.nl). Prof.

van den Berg's paper unequivocally documents the low-frequency sound produced by wind turbines.

Moreover, most of the sound energy produced by wind turbines is in the lower frequencies. What I told Ms. Raymo was perhaps too complicated to include in a newspaper article, but it is my answer to repeated Noble assertions that wind turbines "do not" create low-frequency sound. They do, and the low-frequency sound has an important role in creating the pulsating quality of wind turbine noise at night, which is one of its most troubling features (see van den Berg, "Effects of the wind profile at night on wind turbine sound," *Journal of Sound and Vibration*, 2004, vol. 277, pp. 955-970; go to <http://www.nowap.co.uk/docs/wind-noise.pdf> for a pre-publication copy).

Finally, I raised the issue of the Lincoln Township (Wisconsin) Wind Turbine Moratorium Survey not to provide evidence about low-frequency sound, but because Noble representatives are circulating the Survey's summary statistics here in Malone (and perhaps elsewhere) to refute data I used from the Survey's tables in my Telegram article of 3/2/05. The Survey asked people whether they were bothered by noise, flicker, lights and other issues during the first two years of wind turbine operation in 1999-2001. The summary statistics (which Noble is circulating) include all people who answered within two miles of the turbines. The data I quote break down these totals by distance from the turbines, so that we hear, for example, what people within half a mile are saying. Needless to say, the percentages complaining are higher closer to the turbines (e-mail me at [rushton2@west-elcom.com](mailto:rushton2@west-elcom.com) for a copy of the entire survey, or go to <http://www.glebemountaingroup.org/Articles/Lincoln120403.doc> for excerpts and comments).

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