

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

AVR 13 2012  
APR

Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

The office of the Prime Minister has forwarded to me a copy of your correspondence of February 5, 2012, concerning wind turbines. I regret the delay in responding.

The installation and siting of wind turbines in Canada falls within the purview of the provincial and territorial governments. Noise is regulated through provincial and territorial legislation, guidelines, and/or municipal by-laws, which may apply broadly or to specific project types or sections. Therefore, you may wish to address your concerns to the Minister of the Environment of Ontario by e-mail at [minister.moe@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.moe@ontario.ca).

From a health perspective, our government is committed to protecting the health of Canadians with respect to renewable energy sources. The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* requires that projects with federal government involvement, including the development of wind turbines, undergo an environmental assessment to determine possible adverse environmental effects.

Health Canada's limited role includes providing advice, upon the request of the provinces or territories, on the mitigation of noise from proposed wind turbine projects. For more information on the Department's role in the environmental assessment process, please consult the document entitled *Useful Information for Environmental Assessments*, available at [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/eval/environ\\_assess-eval/index-eng.php#a7](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/eval/environ_assess-eval/index-eng.php#a7).

Although recent technical working groups have concluded that the scientific evidence does not demonstrate a causal link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects, Health Canada is aware that new studies are under way to evaluate possible health effects associated with wind turbine noise. At this time, there is insufficient scientific evidence demonstrating a link between exposure to wind turbine noise and harm to human health.

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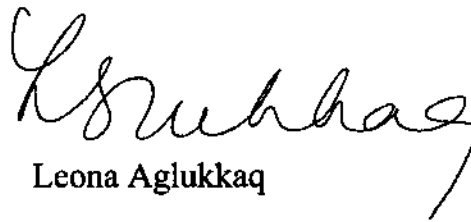
Canada

However, Health Canada continues to review emerging scientific evidence from well-controlled, peer-reviewed research studies. Should new evidence become available that supports a link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects, the Department will review the research and, if necessary, work with the responsible authorities to address these emerging concerns.

The Department also conducts research and provides information and guidelines on the potential health effects of recreational, community, work-related and aircraft noise. For more information, please visit <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/noise-bruit/index-eng.php>.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', written in a cursive style.

Leona Aglukkaq