

THE SOCIETY FOR WIND VIGILANCE

PROPOSED CASE DEFINITION:

ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS AND INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES

May 2010

Revised June 2010

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People are reporting adverse health effects associated with the onset of industrial wind turbine operations. The symptoms described are consistent globally.

The complexities of adverse health effects and industrial wind turbines and the methodological problems associated with its study indicate the need for a comprehensive, systematic, and integrated study of populations and victims.

Epidemiological and clinical evaluation is required including sleep studies of victims.

The Society for Wind Vigilance proposes this case definition to assist clinicians in the assessment of patients presenting with a complex set of symptoms related to industrial wind turbine operations.

As more knowledge is gained, this case definition will be modified.

The case definition is proposed as

- living within 2.0 km of an industrial wind turbine facility. This is terrain dependant and those living in hilly or mountainous terrain may be affected within 5.0 km. Off shore industrial wind turbines may affect people within 5 km.
- new or exacerbated symptoms and/or signs developing almost immediately to 3 months after the start-up of the industrial wind turbines
- amelioration of symptoms and/or signs when removed from the zone of an industrial wind turbine facility by at least 5.0 km
- recurrence of signs/symptoms when re-exposed to industrial wind turbines at 2.0 km or less. This is terrain dependant and those living in hilly or mountainous terrain may be affected within 5.0 km. Off shore industrial wind turbines may affect people within 5 km.

Commonest Signs and Symptoms are

- sleep disturbance
- loss of quality of life
- stress or psychological distress

- inner ear symptoms
- headaches
- excessive tiredness

Less common are

- palpitations
- high blood pressures
- migraines
- cognitive problems
- gastrointestinal problems

Course: adverse health effects may worsen over time

Treatment: no direct treatment available other than leaving the environs of an industrial wind turbine facility

Other treatment: is supportive or palliative