

Subject. Adverse Health Effects from Industrial Wind Turbines.

Dear Mr. Bourne,

The BMA stated position appears to have reached an unnecessary and surprising impasse regarding their inability to comment upon the subject above. A local doctor who is a BMA member has been personally involved already at a wind farm pre-determination Hearing for which she constructed a simple health survey on stress levels prior to the wind farm even being erected. This showed an overwhelming result on raised stress levels. A letter has been sent about this to your journal the BMJ.

For a report funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, who are well aware of all the complaints about adverse health effects, see <http://www.cfp.ca/content/59/5/473.full>

In the links below are references for the Canadian information re children and human rights, and a letter from Eric Gillespie pointing out all the breaches or possible breaches to Canadian heads of government and attorneys general. Both are below:

<http://waubrafoundation.org.au/resources/un-convention-rights-child-and-canadas-role/>

<http://waubrafoundation.org.au/resources/gillespie-e-letter-canadian-prime-minister-premiers-attorneys-general-re-human-rights-wind-facilities/>

There is a clear need to disseminate updated information now available relating to earlier articles on published on this subject, (e.g. <http://www.bmj.com/content/344/bmj.e1527>) which is entirely within the remit of your organisation. Without publishing the latest record and resource details, members are denied the opportunity to see and comment upon them and more importantly *support the need for independent monitoring programmes* to be instigated. It will be clear that the BMA must rise above any political sensitivities or bias in order to fulfil those commitments listed in their constitution. Especially those involving Human Rights.

Perhaps it will help if I point out that information given outlines and demonstrates why this is actually a *human rights* issue. In this respect it would also be informative to examine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Canada's Role Part 1 of 6 Competence, Safety, Health. Also: <http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/library/reports/leave-no-marks-report-2007.html> which very clearly describes the effects of sleep deprivation, a common effect experienced reported upon and measured, by those forced to live in proximity to wind farms.

Extracts. ¹⁸⁹ It causes significant cognitive impairments including deficits in memory, learning, logical reasoning, complex verbal processing, and decision-making; sleep appears to play an important role in processes such as memory and insight formation.¹⁹⁰ Sleep deprivation may also result in decreases in psychomotor performance as well as alterations in mood.¹⁹¹ In recent years, a growing body of research has emerged that points to the complex and bidirectional relationships between sleep disturbance and psychiatric disorders. For example, evidence suggests that sleep disturbance is not only a symptom of major depression¹⁹² but it also independently affects the clinical outcome and the course of the disorder.¹⁹³ Moreover, sleep disturbance seems to be associated with an independent increase in the risk of suicidal ideation and actions.

Physical Pain or Suffering

Even sleep restriction of four hours per night for less than a week can result in physical harm, including hypertension, cardiovascular disease, altered glucose tolerance

and insulin resistance.¹⁹⁵ Sleep deprivation can impair immune function and result in increased risk of infectious diseases. ¹⁹⁶ Further, chronic pain syndromes are associated with alterations in sleep continuity and sleep patterns. ¹⁹⁷

Legal Analysis

The psychological impact of sleep deprivation supports the conclusion that it would constitute torture cruel or inhuman treatment for the purposes of criminal prosecution.

Sleep deprivation is known to cause mental harm — such as the deleterious psychological and neurological effects of depression and anxiety disorders — that is both prolonged and non-transitory. Sleep deprivation also is calculated to “disrupt the senses or personality” because it is designed to break down the subject’s resistance, affect mood, and disrupt memory. Moreover, known physical effects of sleep deprivation suggest that even its limited use may cause “severe” or “serious” physical harm and therefore may amount to “torture” or “cruel or inhuman treatment.” Indeed, during the floor debate of the MCA, Senator Durbin stated that the Act’s amendments to the WCA would criminalize prolonged sleep deprivation.¹⁹⁸ U.S. federal courts have also recognized sleep deprivation by other countries as torture.²⁰² Subsequently, U.S. federal courts have held that sleep deprivation constitutes a violation of the Eighth Amendment’s protection from cruel and inhuman punishment because sleep is “considered a basic life necessity.”

The BMA Constitution proves that there is no hesitation in commenting about other human rights issues. Any refusal to address this as a potential for a risk to health and harm, denies members being similarly informed, which is a serious matter. Especially as there is now a clear and urgent need to support the need for wind turbine adverse effects health monitoring. Please may I have answers to these questions?

1. As has been previously requested, what is your complaints procedure - presuming that I am not barred from this by virtue of being a non member?
2. Has the BMA ever received any money or gifts, either directly or indirectly from the wind industry?

I hope that will be possible to move on from the previous view that the BMA is unable to comment as holding to that position is against the best interests of not only your members, but the public reliant upon the medical profession to serve and protect them.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. V.C.K. Metcalfe. Community Councillor.