

Wind Farm Living EDUCATING THE LAWYERS Series

Lesson 10: Without Raw Data the Noise Report is a Lie

The Wind Industry is unregulated.

No authority requires wind farms to disclose the technical data behind their reports.

Wind farm acousticians can lie and cheat and fabricate the results and nobody knows.

A wind farm will always promise you a “noise report”. They do this to pacify you.

A wind farm Noise Report does NOT contain Raw Data.

If a wind company is not prepared to provide you with raw wind and raw noise data, you can assume their reports are false.

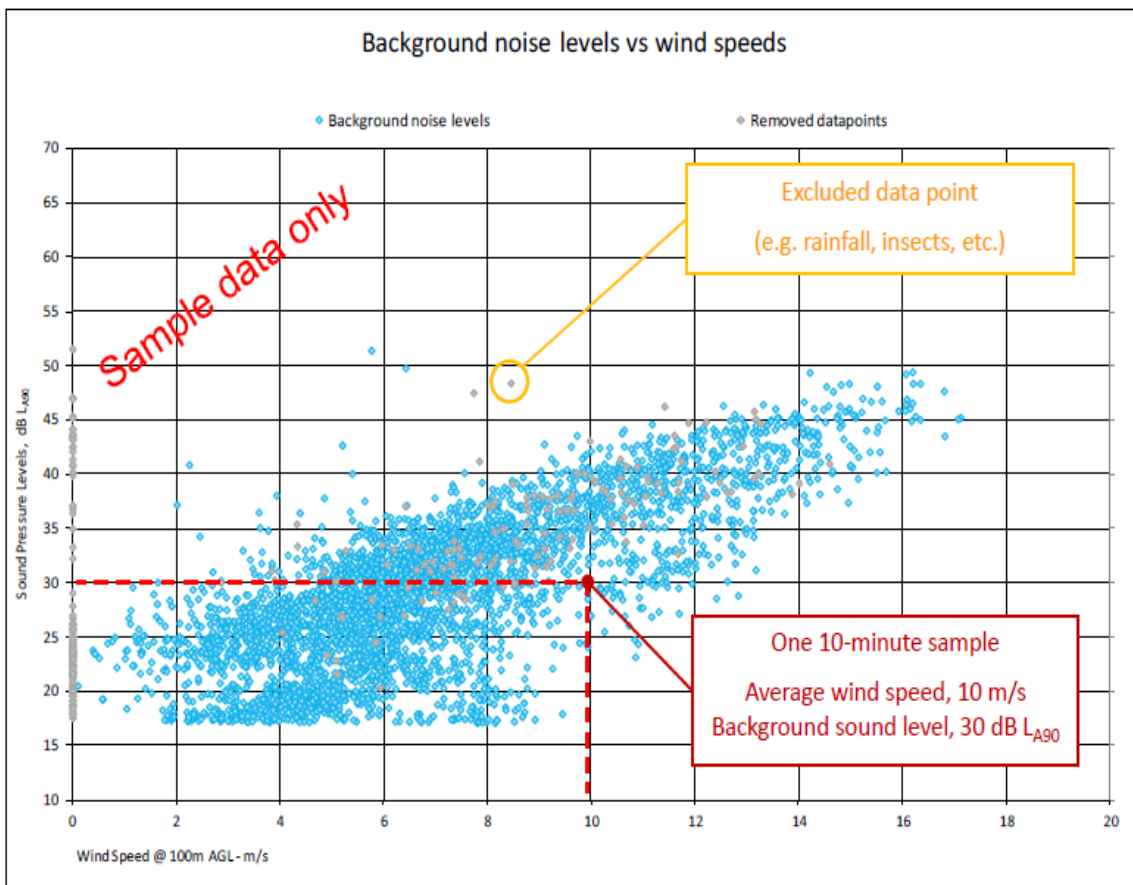
Unless a wind farm can validate their reports by providing you with the raw data for you to undertake your own independent acoustic analysis, then you must assume their reports have been manipulated to falsify compliance.

Beware of the con

- The wind company will promise you the data – then hand you a glossy report. (no data).
- Dots on a graph are not raw data.
- The wind company may provide you with a pdf file – that cannot be analysed.
- Data MUST be provided on a memory stick and formatted so that it can be read on a Windows or Mac computer in a verifiable format (e.g. rpt txt format).
- Without the raw data behind the graphs you must assume the reports provided to you are falsified.

In order to validate and verify their graphs –

you need access to the raw data for your own independent analysis



Every data point (dot) contains 600 noise samples. (1 sample per sec x 60 seconds x 10 min = 600).

Every wind speed is the average of hundreds wind samples from each 10 minute period of noise monitoring.

The wind company MUST provide you with a USB stick containing

1. Every noise sample making up the thousands of data points, PLUS
2. Every wind speed measured in each 10 minute period of noise monitoring.

If they're not prepared to hand over the raw data, then you can assume they're crooks

Background testing

Background noise is the ambient noise before the presence of a wind farm.

A wind farm does NOT need background testing for a permit.

A wind farm needs background testing to prove they are compliant for noise

The Bald Hills precedent has determined that noise compliance cannot be proven at a house without a background assessment being first undertaken.

A background test is used to compare the ambient noise before the wind farm is built to noise at the home after the wind farm is built.

Any increase in noise can be claimed to be attributed to the wind farm noise.

If the background test is found to be high – then the wind farm can make a higher noise and still be compliant.

BEWARE of Noise Monitoring Locations

A wind farm will want the background noise to be as high as possible.

The higher the background noise – the higher the noise their turbines can make.

BEWARE OF

- Seasonal differences - Background testing in the noisier months of the year (windy months).
- Bushes and Trees – placing loggers next to bushes and trees picks up the rustle of the leaves - increasing the background noise.
- Roads – placing loggers close to roads picks up road traffic – increasing the background noise.
- Construction works or unusually high road traffic artificially increases background noise.
- John Zakula of Bald Hills commented on a high number of construction trucks on the road during his background testing. This was noted by the Judge.

Proxy Loggers (Paddock Loggers)

Although the Govt has allowed proxy/paddock loggers to be used for noise compliance measurements, the Bald Hills precedent has determined that proxy loggers cannot be used for noise nuisance.

NEVER allow a wind farm to use a proxy (paddock) logger on your property.

Paddock loggers are a scam – The Bald Hills Judge was a wake up to paddock loggers.

ALWAYS take Photos of the Loggers

- Take photos of every monitor – Always include the Time and Date of the photo.
- Note in your diary about the photograph – and any peculiar circumstance that seems odd to you.
- Capture any bushes or trees or location of a road in the photo.
- Note location - preferably the GPS location.
- Photograph a familiar marker to prove in court the owner and location of the logger.
- Chris Turnbull of Sonus did not own up to the photographs of his loggers when presented with them in court.

Raw Data – is Your Protection.

The wind company needs to protect themselves against you if you submit noise complaints.

They will use your own background noise test against you.

In order to protect yourself against a crooked wind farm, you need to ensure the wind farm provides you with all the noise and wind data used in their tests. It needs to be provided in a format that can be independently analysed.

Raw data is NOT a glossy report containing dot graphs. Raw data is a USB stick full of thousands of noise and wind measurements.

Before allowing any acoustician onto your property, you must have a legally binding agreement signed and witnessed to ensure the wind farm hands over the raw data. This is your protection. (See Lesson 12. Sample Background Testing Agreement).

Always take photos of the Noise Loggers. Note the Date and Time of their use.

Make comment in your diary of the photographs you take.



Beware of Loggers and microphones located in bushes next to a road.

Road traffic noise can increase the background noise level.

Make note of any unusually high road traffic during the period of background testing.

Where is the home in this photograph ?



Beware of Microphones next to bushes.

Rustling leaves can artificially increase the background noise level.

This is an example of a crooked wind farm's logger



Beware of Paddock Loggers.

The NZS requires a logger to be placed in a specific location within 20m of a home.

A paddock (proxy logger) is NOT the background noise at your home.

A crooked wind farm will use paddock loggers against you in court.