



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Dennis G. Smith, Secretary

April 30, 2012

Fred Johnson
Director, St. Croix County Health and Human Services
1445 N. Fourth St.
New Richmond, WI 54017-1063

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Fred

Thank you for your April 5, 2012 letter expressing concerns about proposed wind turbines in the Town of Forest in St. Croix County. Your letter conveys your board's request that an outside party conduct studies of the health impact of existing wind energy projects in Wisconsin and your board's endorsement of a Brown County resolution requesting emergency state aid for persons impacted by wind turbines.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has reviewed the scientific literature on the issue of wind turbines and health, and we will continue to do so as new studies are published. Our review of current scientific knowledge indicates that levels of noise, flicker and infrasound measured from wind turbines at current setback distances do not reach those that have been associated with objective physical health effects. The Department has considered previous requests to conduct formal epidemiologic studies in Wisconsin, and Division of Public Health staff have discussed this issue with colleagues at UW School of Medicine and Public Health, other state health departments, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, we have been unable to identify a study design or methodology that could provide a constructive conclusion to the individual concerns that have been raised. If such a study were performed, we would review its methodology and findings.

Given the current state of scientific knowledge, it does not appear that the allocation of financial resources for emergency relocation of persons from areas surrounding wind turbines is warranted.

The Department recommends that communities work closely with prospective developers to address community concerns during the initial planning in order to maximize positive impacts and minimize any negative impacts to citizens who reside in proximity to wind turbines.

Sincerely,

Kitty Rhoades
Kitty Rhoades
Deputy Secretary

Attachment: Itr k rhoades wind turbine (1224 : Industrial Wind Turbine Follow Up)