



August 15, 2011

Kenneth L. Kimmell  
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108

John Auerbach  
Commissioner, Department of Public Health  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

**RE: Wind Science Panel**

Dear Commissioners Kimmell and Auerbach:

***Wind Wise ~ Massachusetts* calls into question the validity of any work product produced by a panel working in secret composed of seven doctors and scientists, and its facilitator who is a risk communications specialist.**

**The timing of convening the panel is also brought into question because a bill pending in the Massachusetts legislature to establish a more comprehensive and open Commission to study the health effects of wind turbines has been filed and is slated to have a hearing in October.**

On June 2, 2010, a group of concerned citizens, who are members of a statewide advocacy organization recently named *Wind Wise ~ Massachusetts* wrote a letter to Commissioner Auerbach calling for a study of the adverse health impacts of wind turbines on human health.

On July 30, 2010, representatives of the statewide coalition, working with two state representatives, met with Commissioner Auerbach to discuss increasing concerns and to reassert the need for an independent study regarding adverse health impacts from wind turbines.

On May 3, 2011, members of the advocacy group met with officials from DPH. At that meeting sincere appreciation was expressed to DEP and DPH for sponsoring a wind science panel. It was stated that the citizens of MA need to hear the truth about the adverse impact of wind turbines on human health.

The importance that the membership of the panel be composed of experts who have no ties or connections to the wind energy industry, proponents of wind energy or to government pushing the agenda of wind development was emphasized at the meeting. Further, the importance of an open and transparent process of the wind science panel where members of the public (both proponents as well as opponents) could observe the deliberations of the panel and, at appropriate times, be enabled to directly present information to the panel was stressed. The importance that the panel's scope of work include a broad definition of the many potential human health impacts was also emphasized and



examples were given. The World Health Organization in its formation defined health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Additionally over 400 people representing 106 MA cities and towns are listed on the July 19<sup>th</sup> letter to you that called for:

- A totally unbiased panel of experts
- All meetings of the panel to be held in public
- The state to post online all submitted materials and comments emailed and mailed to DEP/DPH during the open comment period ended July 22<sup>nd</sup> so that any citizen may view all submissions
  - The link to such site to be prominently advertised
  - All submissions to be reviewed by the wind science panel
- Members of the public to be able to provide testimony to the panel, including those experiencing adverse health problems living near wind turbines
- The information and research that the panel review for the final report and recommendations to come from independent experts, engineers, and health care professionals and not produced by individuals or organizations that have a financial interest in the wind energy industry
- At least one seat at the table of this expert panel to be from the unfortunate group of over fifty families who are physically ill in the town of Falmouth, MA who are living with wind turbines that are sited too close to their homes
- The DEP set up a citizens' advisory committee
- A moratorium on all wind turbine construction in MA until more research is completed

The first we learned that the panel had been selected and had actually met was in a July 29<sup>th</sup> Boston Herald article. We subsequently obtained a list of the people chosen for the wind science panel and the stated scope of work.

Members of *Wind Wise ~ Massachusetts* during the meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with officials at DPH were told that we could not advance names and that there would not be a process to apply to be a member of the panel. All panel members would be recommended by DPH and would be completely unbiased and indeed have no prior opinion on wind turbines. We also understood based upon the May meeting that we would be informed and have the ability to comment about the list of names recommended by DPH and the scope of work. We were also told that meetings of the wind science panel would be held in public and public hearings would be held.

**The citizens of MA know that your agencies should be committed to protecting the safety and health of the citizens of the Commonwealth and not to support any political agenda. We do not approve of utilizing secrecy and a panel of people of whom at least some do not appear to be 'independent' and 'unbiased'. The narrow scope of work that the panel is charged with does not encompass the many varied potential adverse health impacts that people in MA and around the globe are already experiencing.**

**This leads us to have grave concerns regarding the objectivity of the panel and if the report will indeed cover the many varied adverse health impacts of wind turbines. The citizens of Massachusetts deserve better.**



Furthermore, the specifics of any site visit should include a visit to the Falmouth Wind 1 and Webb turbine sites on a windy night. The panel is formally invited to visit any number of the fifty families who are adversely impacted from a health standpoint. All panel members can meet directly with the adversely impacted residents of this area so they can freely and openly discuss the adverse health impacts.

Also, it is very important that the final report provide an opportunity for a 'minority' statement if one or more members of the panel disagree with the conclusions of the 'majority' of panel members.

**We are completely committed to a comprehensive and independent study by a panel of objective experts. We are equally committed to opposing a flawed study that jeopardizes the health and safety of the citizens of Massachusetts.**

Attached please find the email of 8/11/11 from Sue Hobart to the Falmouth, MA Board of Selectmen. Sue is so physically ill that she will become an industrial refugee, leaving her home so she can regain her health.

We await your response.

Respectfully submitted,

*Wind Wise ~ Massachusetts*