

Wind energy 'propaganda'

To the editor:

WOW, the Mad Cow is loose again.

Last winter an anti-wind energy crusader who lives in Malone stood up at a meeting in Ellenburg and declared that wind energy turbines might cause Mad Cow disease. Why would anyone say such a silly thing? Simple: to scare people into thinking that wind turbines will hurt them. Now, in a continuing tradition of frightening and bizarre propaganda, on Wednesday a paid ad ran in the Telegram showing an oversized cartoon windmill, titled "Wind Farm Illness", "Israelis Unleash Scream at Protest." Huh?

Some anti-wind energy people don't like the way wind turbines look; but instead of admitting that's their concern, they try to control the debate by claiming wind turbines cause health problems. The Mad Cow story is so ridiculous that most people can see right through it. But the same person who made up the Mad Cow story has also spread the rumor that wind turbines cause health problems from low frequency noise, a claim she probably thought people would just accept at face value without questioning it. People are not so stupid, though.

Loud levels of low frequency noise have been linked to health problems. But this has nothing to do with modern wind turbines. How do I know this? Because I asked an expert - the same expert the wind energy critic quoted in her article, Dr. Geoff Leventhall. Dr. Leventhall literally wrote the book on the health effects of low frequency noise. So Noble Environmental Power hired him to make sure that the wind turbines we

use in our windfarms won't cause low frequency noise problems. He is an internationally acknowledged expert on this subject, has MSc and PhD degrees in acoustics, and a long list of academic and professional credentials that you can review on our website at [www.noblepower.com_Issues & Answers_Dispelling Myths_Dr. Leventhall's Review of 3/1/05 advertisement](http://www.noblepower.com_Issues_Answers_Dispelling_Myths_Dr_Leventhall's_Review_of_3/1/05_advertisement).

Dr. Leventhall says: "I can state quite categorically that there is no significant infrasound from current designs of wind turbines. To say that there is an infrasound problem is one of the hares which objectors to wind farms like to run. There will not be any effects from infrasound from the turbines."

The "Mad Cow Anti-Wind" crowd can talk about low frequency noise problems, Nazi torture techniques and Israeli military tactics all they want, but it doesn't change the fact that modern wind turbines don't generate loud low frequency noise. They also don't cause "stray electric voltage" or "rumble the ground." In over 25 years and with more than 68,000 machines installed around the world, no member of the public has ever been harmed by the normal operation of wind turbines.

Supporters of wind power include: Physicians for Social Responsibility, Environmental Defense Fund, World Wildlife Fund, Union of Concerned Scientists, the Sierra Club, the American Corn Growers Association, and many other well known organizations. Wind power is also supported by the U.S. Department of Energy and the State of New York.

Interestingly, wind power has the strongest community support in the areas that have the most U.S. wind power experience such as California,

Texas, Minnesota, and Washington. This includes Fenner and Madison, New York where new additions are planned near existing projects. A 2003 British government survey found that 94 percent of respondents who lived within 5 kilometers of an existing wind farm approved of developing a new one in their area.

Some people may not like the way wind turbines look, or want them "in their back yard"- that's up to them. Lots of people do happen to think wind turbines are an interesting feature of the landscape. But making up scary stories to get your way is irresponsible and it cheats others of the right to make an informed decision of their own.

Mark Lyons
Noble Environmental Power
Malone