

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY PREVAILING WIND PARK, LLC FOR A  
PERMIT OF A WIND ENERGY FACILITY IN BON HOMME COUNTY, CHARLES MIX  
COUNTY AND HUTCHINSON COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, FOR THE  
PREVAILING WIND PARK PROJECT

EL18-026

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF JERRY L. PUNCH**

ON BEHALF OF INTERVENORS

1 **Q: Please state your name, title, affiliation, and address.**

2 A: My name is Jerry L. Punch, and I am a Professor Emeritus in the Department of  
3 Communicative Sciences and Disorders (CSD) at Michigan State University (MSU) in East  
4 Lansing, Michigan. As a retired faculty member, I maintain an office in the Department, which  
5 is located in the Oyer Speech and Hearing Building, 126 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing, MI  
6 48824. My home address is 4469 Satinwood Drive, Okemos, MI 48864.

7  
8 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

9 A: I have been asked to provide testimony as an audiologist on behalf of Intervenors in the  
10 matter of the Prevailing Wind Park wind project (“Project”). My testimony as an expert witness  
11 will address the potential health risks posed by noise from the Project, if approved according to  
12 the application and regulations described in Article 17 of Bon Homme County zoning ordinances  
13 and the affidavit of Peter Pawlowski, dated August 9, 2018.

14  
15 **Q: What is audiology?**

16 A: Audiology is the study of hearing and hearing disorders. It is a health-related discipline that  
17 focuses on sound, the anatomy and physiology of the ear, hearing disorders, and the clinical  
18 aspects involved in diagnosing and treating hearing disorders. As an audiologist, I am  
19 knowledgeable of the anatomy and physiology of the ear; sound generation, propagation, and  
20 perception; and the ear and how it processes sound. I also have knowledge of research design  
21 and interpretation of research findings, and I have had a long-standing interest in community  
22 noise issues. This background has led me to understand the relationships between noise and the  
23 impacts it can have on human health.

24  
25 **Q: What is your educational and professional background?**

26 A: My full CV is appended as Exhibit 1. I hold a PhD degree in Audiology from Northwestern  
27 University and have held a number of professional positions in audiology over the past 50 years.  
28 I have had an extensive and eclectic career as a clinical audiologist; clinical supervisor;  
29 researcher; teacher; and administrator in academic, professional association, hospital, and  
30 industrial settings. My academic coursework included the study of the biological sciences  
31 through enrollment in MA and PhD-level courses in anatomy and physiology of hearing and

32 enrollment in a PhD-level course in physiological psychology. My work experiences include  
33 internships and paid employment as an audiologist in multiple otolaryngology clinics as a  
34 graduate student; instruction of ENT residents at Indiana University School of Medicine on the  
35 clinical aspects of audiology; and instruction of undergraduate-level courses in the anatomy and  
36 physiology of hearing. Over the years, I have taught a large variety of undergraduate- and  
37 graduate-level courses in clinical audiology. Those courses include a graduate-level course on  
38 Research Methods, which I taught at MSU for approximately five years prior to my retirement  
39 in 2011. I have also taught a graduate-level seminar on ethics in research and clinical practice.  
40 For seven years in the recent past, I served as a representative of the five departments of the  
41 College of Communication Arts and Sciences on MSU's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The  
42 IRB is charged with reviewing and approving research applications of MSU researchers, with the  
43 aim of protecting human subjects who participate in research studies conducted in various  
44 disciplines.

45

46 **Q: What are your current professional credentials and affiliations?**

47 A: I am a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the  
48 American Academy of Audiology, the American Auditory Society, and the Acoustical Society  
49 of America (ASA). I hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology from ASHA,  
50 which I have maintained since 1968 through various formal programs of continuing education. I  
51 am also an ASHA Fellow. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the Association bestows. To  
52 be awarded Fellowship, nominees must have made outstanding contributions to the discipline of  
53 communication sciences and disorders. ASHA Fellows make up less than one percent of the  
54 membership of that national organization. Although I am officially retired from MSU, I maintain  
55 an office in my academic department and continue to conduct audiological research and to  
56 consult on wind turbine projects as a health expert.

57

58 **Q: What experiences have you had that qualify you as a health expert in cases involving**  
59 **wind turbine noise?**

60 A: I have had a considerable number of such experiences. Since about 2009, I have coauthored a  
61 review article on wind turbine noise in *Audiology Today*, served as Chairperson of the Wind and  
62 Health Technical Work Group, at the invitation of the Michigan Department of Energy, and

63 presented invited comments in public hearings and hearings of zoning boards and commissions  
64 in several states, including Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and New York. I coauthored a three-part,  
65 invited blog on the *HearingHealthMatters.org* website (Punch & James, 2014). I have been  
66 qualified as a health expert in MI by meeting the legal challenge in a Daubert hearing, and served  
67 as a health-expert witness in legal cases at local, state, and federal levels in Ohio, Wisconsin,  
68 Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Oregon, Indiana, and New York. This information is detailed in the  
69 Forensic Activities section of my CV. I have interviewed multiple individuals and families who  
70 have reported adverse health effects, including some who have abandoned homes or are  
71 considering abandonment because of health complaints due to wind turbine noise. I have  
72 conducted ongoing reviews of the scientific literature on the health effects of wind turbine noise,  
73 and in 2016 I coauthored an extensive peer-reviewed article on the HearingHealthMatters.org  
74 website with Richard James. The title of that article is *Wind turbine noise and human health: a*  
75 *four-decade history of evidence that wind turbines pose risks*, which I append as Exhibit 2. That  
76 paper contains all of the literature references in my testimony. The purpose of the 2016 article  
77 was to review the scientific literature that disputes 12 positions commonly taken by the wind  
78 industry. Among those positions are statements suggesting that acoustic energy below audible  
79 threshold cannot harm people (“What you can’t hear can’t hurt you”), the complaints are based  
80 on psychological expectations, and that there is not sufficient scientific evidence to establish a  
81 cause-effect relationship between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects.

82

83 **Q: What materials have you reviewed in this matter?**

84 A: I have reviewed Bon Homme County’s Article 17, drafted on July 27, 2015 to regulate wind  
85 energy systems (WES); the sound study conducted by Burns & McDonnell Engineering  
86 Company, dated May 18, 2018; the 45-dBA Contour maps of the Project; the direct testimony of  
87 Chris Howell, summarizing his noise assessment in the matter of Prevailing Wind Park; the  
88 direct testimony of David M. Hessler, dated May 4, 2018, regarding the Dakota Range Wind  
89 Project; the pre-filed supplemental testimony of Dr. Mark Roberts regarding Prevailing Wind  
90 Park; the direct testimony of David M. Hessler, dated March 28, 2018, regarding the Crocker  
91 Wind Farm; and the affidavit of Peter Pawlowski, signed August 9, 2018.

92

93 **Q: After reviewing those materials, what is your overall impression regarding any potential**  
94 **health risks posed by the proposed Project?**

95 A: In my opinion, those materials paint an overly optimistic picture by indicating or suggesting  
96 that limiting wind turbine noise to an average level of 45 dBA will avoid significant adverse  
97 health impacts and significant community annoyance. Based on my professional background and  
98 experience with people living near existing wind projects, numerous anecdotal reports, the  
99 scientific literature, papers presented at scientific and professional meetings, and governmental  
100 and agency reports, I believe that a substantial proportion of people living in the vicinity of the  
101 proposed Project can be expected to experience not only annoyance, but also a variety of adverse  
102 health effects. Those effects, which vary widely among affected individuals, are commonly  
103 observed worldwide. They include sleep disturbance, annoyance, headaches, dizziness, vertigo,  
104 nausea, motion sickness, ear and bodily sensations, fatigue, stress, depression, memory deficits,  
105 inability to concentrate, and reduced quality of life. In a given individual, these effects can  
106 occur alone or in combination with other effects. In short, a design goal of a 45 dB average  
107 level will not adequately protect the health of residents who live in the boundaries of the  
108 proposed Project.

109

110 **Q: You seem to imply that not all residents will be affected adversely. In what percentage**  
111 **of residents would you expect these adverse reactions to occur?**

112 A: Certainly, not everyone will experience or report negative consequences. Landowners who  
113 lease their farmland to host wind turbines (“participants”) are less likely than others to  
114 complain, partially because they earn an income from their leasing agreements with the wind  
115 company, but also because they are often constrained by lease agreements that restrict them  
116 from complaining or speaking negatively about their experiences. Likewise, not all non-  
117 participants will experience negative impacts, or they may not overtly complain if they do.  
118 Some of these individuals have signed waiver agreements with the wind company,  
119 occasionally accompanied by a financial payment, which virtually ensures that they will be  
120 less likely to complain. One factor that makes the noise tolerable for many people is that the  
121 noise is intermittent because the wind is often not sufficiently strong to run the turbines. For  
122 almost all exposed residents, though, the turbines inevitably generate relatively a loud  
123 thumping, or whooshing, noise, and some residents experience ill effects from the low-

124 frequency noise and infrasound. The result, for what I would estimate at being around 15%-  
125 25% of exposed residents, is extreme annoyance and sleep disturbance. In the longer term,  
126 some of the other symptoms I've mentioned begin to emerge. In some cases, a few residents  
127 may suffer serious cardiovascular problems such as high blood pressure.

128

129 **Q: Some of the symptoms you describe seem naturally to occur with aging. How can wind**  
130 **turbine noise be distinguished from aging and pre-existing conditions as the cause of such**  
131 **complaints?**

132 A: One line of evidence comes from the World Health Organization (WHO, 2009), which  
133 focuses primarily on low-frequency community noise. That organization states that, based on  
134 multiple research studies, such noises can lead to stress, and subsequently to health problems.  
135 The pathways from noise to adverse health effects may be direct or indirect. It indicates that  
136 several studies have established a closer relationship between subjective responses to  
137 community noise and cardiovascular outcomes when the annoyance is sleep-related than when  
138 it is non-sleep-related (p. 78). In addition, there are many anecdotal and scientific reports of  
139 residents who have experienced sleep disturbance, as well as headaches, dizziness, ear pain or  
140 pressure, and inability to concentrate, when near the turbines. When they leave the project area  
141 temporarily or for a few days or more, their symptoms subside, and when they return, those  
142 symptoms, including sleep disturbance, reappear. Similar observations can be made regarding  
143 pre-existing conditions, which are sometimes reported to worsen after turbines become  
144 operational. If it can be determined that the additional stresses experienced when near the  
145 turbines can be relieved by leaving the area, and that they reoccur when the individual returns to  
146 the area, that is a good indication that the turbines are responsible for their deteriorating state of  
147 health. The scenario in which symptoms subside and recur with changes in location with  
148 respect to the turbines, which many have experienced repeatedly, is similar to the research  
149 design known the case-crossover design. Case-crossover studies are described in the 2016  
150 Punch and James paper (Exhibit 2). The types of evidence I've described indicate that there is  
151 a strong association between exposure to wind turbines and the health complaints, and they  
152 strongly suggest that the link is causative. The main point is that all possible precautionary  
153 steps need to be taken to ensure the Project will not substantially impair the health of those  
154 living in and around the Project.

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**Q: How do you view your role in this matter, as it relates to an ability to establish a causative link between wind turbine noise and adverse health impacts?**

A: I distinguish between general causation and specific causation, as they differ based on the targets of interest: the general population versus targeted individuals, respectively. Physicians, including those with epidemiological backgrounds, have the medical expertise to diagnose and treat the health symptoms of their individual patients who have been exposed to wind turbine noise. The chief recommendation of physicians who have become involved with patients who suffer adverse health effects from wind turbine noise is to move away from the source of the problem. On the other hand, acousticians, audiologists, occupational health and safety experts, and environmental experts have the expertise to analyze the available research and other evidence needed to conclude that wind turbine noise causes adverse health impacts in the general population. These individuals are often called upon as experts in legal proceedings such as this one. That is the role in which I see myself in this matter.

**Q: Dr. Mark Roberts, in his supplemental direct testimony, has testified on the role of epidemiological research in establishing a causative link between wind turbine noise and AHEs. What is your reaction to that testimony?**

A: My reaction is essentially the same as that already described in Exhibit 2. Dr. Roberts' testimony rests primarily on his credentials in epidemiology and apparently not on his first-hand experience with people who have been exposed to wind turbine noise over long periods of time. Also, he appears to be acquainted with only that body of literature on the subject that is favorable to the wind industry, and to his testimony in its behalf. He points to peer-reviewed epidemiological research as the only basis for proof of cause-effect relationships. Although he espouses the Bradford Hill criteria as relevant, he essentially dismisses most of the nine criteria by naming them, without discussing their implications. Those criteria, with descriptions from Punch & James, 2016, were: (1) strength (strength of observed relationships), (2) consistency (consistency, or repeatability, of relationships, based on observations by different persons, in different places, under different circumstances, and at different times), (3) specificity (causation is indicated if the association is limited to specific individuals and to particular sites

186 and types of disease and there are no associations with other factors), (4) temporality (there is a  
187 clear temporal relationship between outcomes and periods of exposure and non-exposure), (5)  
188 biological gradient (a dose-response relationship exists), (6) plausibility (causation is more  
189 likely when certain outcomes are biologically plausible, or possible, a caveat being that  
190 plausibility depends on the biologic knowledge of the day; this element is best expressed in the  
191 statement: “When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable,  
192 must be the truth” (p. 10), (7) coherence (the cause-and-effect interpretation of data should not  
193 seriously conflict with generally known facts of the natural history and biology of the disease),  
194 (8) experiment (experimentation or semi-experimental evidence, even if only occasional, can  
195 reveal the strongest kind of evidence for causation), and (9) analogy (the recognition that  
196 similar cause-effect relationships have occurred under similar conditions). Hill states:

197 What I do not believe (is) ...that we can usefully lay down some hard-and-fast rules of  
198 evidence that must be obeyed before we can accept cause and effect. None of my nine  
199 viewpoints can bring indisputable evidence for or against the cause-and-effect hypothesis and  
200 none can be required as a sine qua non. What they can do, with greater or less strength, is to  
201 help us to make up our minds on the fundamental question – is there any other way of  
202 explaining the set of facts before us, is there any other answer equally, or more, likely than  
203 cause and effect?... No formal tests of significance can answer those questions. Such tests can,  
204 and should, remind us of the effects that the play of chance can create, and they will instruct us  
205 in the likely magnitude of those effects. Beyond that they contribute nothing to the ‘proof’ of  
206 our hypothesis (p. 299).

207  
208 Hill makes this final observation in his essay:

209 All scientific work is incomplete – whether it be observational or experimental. All scientific  
210 work is liable to be upset or modified by advancing knowledge. That does not confer upon us a  
211 freedom to ignore the knowledge we already have, or to postpone the action that it appears to  
212 demand at a given time (p. 300).

213  
214 In summary, my reaction to that portion of Dr. Roberts’ testimony is that, like many of his  
215 epidemiological colleagues who testify on behalf of wind energy projects, he chooses to  
216 disregard Hill’s intent to emphasize that experimentation (Hill’s eighth of nine criteria) is only  
217 one of many criteria that are useful in establishing causation between external agents and  
218 disease processes.

219  
220 **Q: Can you give specific examples of how the Bradford Hill criteria apply to wind turbine**  
221 **noise and adverse effects on health?**



222

223 A: Yes, I believe that the available evidence, which includes both research and common-sense  
224 observations, meets all nine of the Bradford Hill criteria, and that, in their totality, that  
225 evidence supports a causative relationship between wind turbine noise and adverse health  
226 effects. This evidence includes, respectively: (1) widespread reports of complaints, (2)  
227 consistency of reported symptoms, (3) and (4) concurrence of symptoms with wind turbine  
228 operation, (5) an observable dose-response relationship between exposure levels (or distance)  
229 and symptoms, (6) the role of disturbances of the hearing and balance mechanisms of the inner  
230 ear in causing identified symptoms, (7) coherence with WHO (2009) and other relevant  
231 guidelines, (8) in addition to cross-sectional studies, experimentation is established by the fact  
232 that symptoms decline or disappear when receptors leave the area and recur when they return  
233 to the area, and (9) Sick Building Syndrome as the analogy. Based on these observations, Dr.  
234 Roberts' efforts to raise epidemiology as the only cause-and-effect threshold sets the standard  
235 so high that we may never expect to reach resolution on this and many similar matters. Dr. Carl  
236 Phillips, also an epidemiologist, states in a paper prepared for the Wisconsin Public Service  
237 Commission (dated July 3, 2010):

238 Some recent commentators (Colby et al. 2009; Roberts and Roberts 2009) have attempted to  
239 dismiss this evidence because none of it is based on the epidemiologic study types that they  
240 understand. It is true that other study designs would have told us more, and still could. But  
241 dismissing the evidence we have makes little sense given that a huge portion of all knowledge,  
242 including formal scientific inference, is based on data that is not from studies designed  
243 according to certain preferred approaches. It should be obvious that "does not tell us  
244 everything we want to know" does not mean "has no information content". Those making this  
245 argument either do not understand scientific inference or are pretending they do not. Claiming  
246 that there is no evidence even though there are reports of individuals suffering is akin to  
247 claiming that there is no evidence that people get injured as a result of text-messaging while  
248 engaged in other activities because, even though the pathway is obvious and there are  
249 numerous accidents occurring from some activities, there is often not a "real study" that allows  
250 us to make various quantitative estimates. (p. 7).

251

252 **Q: Do you have additional reactions to Dr. Roberts's supplemental direct testimony in this**  
253 **case?**

254 A: Yes, I would like to make one other point. Dr. Roberts raises the nocebo argument. He is  
255 arguing that the complaints people make regarding adverse effects of wind turbine noise are  
256 psychologically motivated by expectations resulting from negative messages surrounding

257 turbines. That argument continues to persist as one of the wind industry’s primary explanations  
258 for adverse health impacts. In our 2016 paper, James and I, after evaluating these claims,  
259 concluded that none of these explanations is as plausible as the notion that a variety of adverse  
260 reactions are *physiological* effects caused directly or indirectly from exposure to low-frequency  
261 noise and infrasound from wind turbines. While psychological expectations and the power of  
262 suggestion can influence perceptions of the effects of wind turbine noise on health status, no  
263 scientifically valid studies have yet convincingly shown that psychological forces are the major  
264 driver of such perceptions. We describe in some detail in our article the scientific  
265 shortcomings of the several studies that have been done, all of which conclude that the nocebo  
266 effect is the culprit. I encourage interested individuals to read those details.

267

268 **Q: How does your background qualify you to testify on the general causal mechanism that**  
269 **explains these adverse health effects?**

270 A: First, I would note that two of the seven panelists commissioned by the American Wind  
271 Energy Association to conduct the 2009 review of literature by Colby and colleagues on the  
272 noise and health effects of wind turbines were audiologists. Audiologists have the educational  
273 background to understand the functioning of the inner ear, and it is that knowledge that led me to  
274 become interested, over the last decade, in the relationship between ear physiology and the  
275 health impacts of infrasound and low-frequency noise from wind turbines on people. Like many  
276 others who have studied this relationship, I believe that most of these adverse reactions are  
277 mediated by disturbances of the hearing and balance mechanisms of the inner ear resulting from  
278 the low-frequency noise emitted by industrial wind turbines. The inner-ear components affected  
279 include the cochlea, which is the organ of hearing, and the vestibular system, which includes the  
280 semicircular canals, utricle, and saccule. These organs are responsible for balance, or  
281 equilibrium. While the cochlea is responsible for the perception of audible sounds, the  
282 vestibular system is sensitive to movement and changes in head position, and can be stimulated  
283 by infrasound to induce perceptions of unsteadiness, dizziness, vertigo, and motion sickness in  
284 some people.

285

286 **Q: Earlier, you emphasized sleep as being critical to health. How does wind turbine noise**  
287 **lead to sleep disturbance, in your opinion?**

288 A: Wind turbine noise is a significant disruptor of sleep because our ears, unlike our eyes, are  
289 always open, especially to unusual or novel stimuli, including “bumps in the night” that might  
290 threaten our safety. During operation, the turbines produce audible noise, mostly in the  
291 infrasonic and low-to-mid-frequency range. That audible noise results in the perception of both  
292 a relatively constant whirling sound and a periodic whooshing sound, caused by a combination  
293 of the blade movement against the air and the blades passing in front of the tower. When the  
294 three blades are rotating at a typical 20 revolutions per minute, that sound occurs once per  
295 second. Those audible sounds can annoy people and disrupt their sleep patterns. The turbines  
296 also generate a pulsating sound at infrasonic rates that are based on blade rotational speed,  
297 meaning that the sound spikes, or peaks intermittently. These noises, and the unpredictability of  
298 the prevailing winds, are responsible for sleep disturbance in a substantial number of people.  
299 The peakiness of the noise is especially annoying and disturbing, and is the reason sleep  
300 disruption is not adequately predicted from, or correlated with, long-term average decibel  
301 levels, designated as LAeq.

302

303 **Q: If dB LAeq is not used to quantify noise levels of wind turbines, what metric might**  
304 **better predict sleep disturbance?**

305 A: LAm<sub>ax</sub>, or the maximum noise level produced during a given nighttime period, appears to  
306 be the optimal measurement metric to protect sleep. The WHO (2009) Night Guidelines suggest  
307 that a 40 dB LAm<sub>ax</sub> level should be the maximum allowable level during nighttime hours. That  
308 document uses the term “LAm<sub>ax</sub>” a total of 93 times, which is an indication that the WHO  
309 considers the concept highly important as a metric for quantifying nighttime noise. If used, any  
310 compliance-monitoring procedures should allow some degree of repetition to occur, and to  
311 eliminate other noise sources as the origin of the emissions, before noncompliance is declared.  
312 Because there are sufficient audible differences among wind turbine noise and other sources of  
313 noise—including traffic noise, thunder, wind, and wildlife—the various sources are easily  
314 distinguishable.

315

316 **Q: Are there other noise measurement metrics that could effectively protect sleep?**

317 A: Yes, possibly. Dr. Paul Schomer currently recommends that wind turbine noise should be  
318 limited to an average level of 36-38 dBA, based on a 24-hour measurement period. Although he

319 offers that recommendation for the purpose of avoiding substantial annoyance at all hours of the  
320 day and night, it is a potential alternative to 40 dB L<sub>Amax</sub> in an effort to minimize or avoid  
321 sleep disturbance. Dr. Schomer's credentials as the former Director of the Standards Division of  
322 the Acoustical Society of America, and his use of four independent sources in deriving his  
323 recommendation, give considerable weight to his recommendation. The major concern I have  
324 with that approach is that verification is required to show that a 24-hour metric can sufficiently  
325 protect sleep during nighttime hours. Wind companies typically prefer to use the Leq metric  
326 because it is more easily compared to available data, and generally resist accepting levels lower  
327 than 45 or 40 dBA as a design goal for its wind projects.

328

329 **Q: The Charles Mix County zoning commission seemingly has joined Bon Homme County**  
330 **in establishing minimum setback distances. Rather than establishing the highest**  
331 **permissible noise level to protect the health of residents, would it not be simpler to establish**  
332 **the minimum permissible distance?**

333 A: Undoubtedly, distance is the most effective means of avoiding negative health impacts from  
334 wind turbine noise. The short distances from the property line, such as the 500 feet or 1.1 times  
335 the system height, whichever is greater, and from residences, such as the 2,000 feet or 3.5 times  
336 the system height, whichever is greater, that have been agreed to in this Project are entirely  
337 inadequate. Such short distances are intended to reduce risks from physical failures such as  
338 blade throw, ice throw, or falling towers. They do almost nothing to protect residents from  
339 exposure to low-frequency noise and infrasound. Researchers who have offered distance as an  
340 index to obviate health effects have typically recommended 2 kilometers, or 1.25 miles, as a  
341 minimally safe distance from the nearest turbine. Although that distance will not prevent  
342 annoyance and health effects for everyone, I think it is a reasonable compromise aimed at  
343 protecting health and well-being. We have to recognize, though, that studies have shown that  
344 some residents within several miles of an industrial wind project complain that the noise is  
345 disturbing, presumably because infrasound travels great distances and is not easily attenuated.  
346 The problem with distance as a predictor is that different residences at the same distance from  
347 the turbines will experience different noise emissions, depending on the turbine array,  
348 topography, variable wind speeds, and other factors. In the end, the actual level of noise

349 emissions is the critical variable that needs to be controlled, as distance in itself cannot assure  
350 that the noise will not be invasive for residents in the footprint of the wind project.

351

352 **Q: In your opinion, is there any important information omitted from, neglected, or**  
353 **erroneously stated in the documents you reviewed for the Prevailing Wind Park project?**

354 A: Yes. Similar to Mr. Hessler’s observation in his Dakota Range report, I noticed that an  
355 important component missing from the Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company’s sound  
356 study for this Project is a discussion of the annoyance and adverse health impacts of the Project.  
357 Like almost all reports commissioned by wind companies, it does not discuss the fact that  
358 annoyance can lead to adverse health effects, as established by Berglund et al. (1999); the WHO  
359 (2009); Shepherd, Hanning, and Thorne (2012); and Fast et al. (2016). The WHO (2009) has  
360 described annoyance as a critical health effect, in that in some people it is associated with stress,  
361 sleep disturbance, and interference with daily living. In fact, the Burns & McDonnell report  
362 ignores much of the information in the WHO 2009 guidelines, which were revised downward  
363 from the 1999 guidelines as a result of new medical research into adverse health symptoms due  
364 to noise. Burns & McDonnell describe wind noise as a masker that can “drown out” the sounds  
365 created by the turbines. Although this may be true in rare cases, it is typically not true at night  
366 when wind speeds are high at the turbine heights and low at ground level. Also, the design goal  
367 of 45 dBA (Bon Homme County ordinance), or 43 dBA (Charles Mix County— Pawlowski  
368 affidavit) is higher than what most independent researchers consider protective of health.

369

370 **Q: Did you find any shortcomings in Mr. Howell’s study of background sounds?**

371 A: Yes, in several respects. To me, the most surprising point Mr. Howell made is that he reports  
372 measured L90 background sound levels as high as 45 dBA, which is unusually high for a rural  
373 area. A table showing all measured levels would have revealed the frequency of such  
374 occurrences. Instead, he reports only a range of 21.5-45 dBA. He also understates the sound  
375 impact of wind turbine noise by comparing it to levels of normal conversational speech.  
376 Comparing the noise from wind turbines to speech using an A-weighted scale is misleading  
377 because the levels of low-frequency noise and infrasound from turbines is substantially greater  
378 than for speech, as speech energy begins to drop off precipitously at about 150 Hz and below,  
379 and the levels of turbine noise continue to rise below that frequency. Using A-weighting

380 attenuates low frequencies below 1000 Hz, and effectively filters out infrasound, leading to a  
381 gross underestimate of infrasonic energy. Also, related to the fact that Bon Homme County does  
382 not specify how sound measurements should be performed, Mr. Howell does not indicate  
383 whether the design goal is met by measurements over a specified time period. They could be  
384 taken over hours, minutes, or days, and could cover the daytime hours, nighttime hours, or a full  
385 24-hour day. Again, it is essential to limit sound levels to those that fully protect residents' sleep,  
386 as sleep is a major determinant of good health.

387

388 **Q: Based on your professional experience and expertise, what restrictions should be**  
389 **placed on the Project to ensure that it will not substantially impair the health of those**  
390 **living around it?**

391

392 A: As a general rule, no wind turbine should be located closer than 1.25 miles from the property  
393 line of any residence. This distance should preferably be applied to all residences, both  
394 participating and non-participating. If placed closer to participating residences than 1.25 miles,  
395 those residents should be adequately informed, in writing, of the potential for high annoyance  
396 and health risks. With regard to permissible noise levels, the WHO recommendation of 40 dBA  
397 Leq(night,outside) should not be exceeded at any residence, particularly at non-participating  
398 households. To provide adequate protection from sleep disturbance, nighttime noise levels  
399 should be limited to 40 dB LAmax. A metric of dB LA10(night, outside), the noise level  
400 exceeded 10% during nighttime hours and measured at the façade of the residence, may be a  
401 reasonable substitute for LAmax if considered by acoustical experts to be easier to apply for the  
402 purpose of compliance.

403

404 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

405 A: Yes.

406

407

408 The foregoing written testimony is to be presented to the South Dakota Public Utilities  
409 Commission for SD PUC Docket EL 18-026.

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411 Dated this 6th day of September 2018.



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414 Jerry L. Punch

**Curriculum Vitae  
Jerry L. Punch, Ph.D.  
August 2018**

Professor Emeritus, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders  
Oyer Speech and Hearing Center  
1026 Red Cedar Road  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
517-353-8780 (department)  
517-881-0852 (mobile)  
jpunch@msu.edu

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

- A.A. – 1963 Gardner-Webb College (now Gardner-Webb University)  
Boiling Springs, NC USA
- B.A. – 1965 Wake Forest College (now Wake Forest University)  
Winston-Salem, NC USA  
Major: Psychology
- M.S. – 1967 Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN USA  
Major: Audiology and Speech Pathology  
Master's Thesis: An investigation of the speech  
discrimination ability of elderly adults  
Thesis Advisor: Freeman McConnell, Ph.D.
- Ph.D. – 1972 Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL USA  
Major: Audiology  
Doctoral Dissertation: Forward masking under  
homophasic, antiphase and other listening conditions  
Advisor: Raymond Carhart, Ph.D.

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

**TRAINEE AND STUDENT POSITIONS**

Audiology Trainee, Veterans Administration, Winston-Salem, NC, June-August 1965  
Clinical Audiologist and Supervisor, Bill Wilkerson Hearing and Speech Center, Nashville, TN,  
February 1967-June 1968

Experience in salaried, part-time positions as ASHA-certified audiologist while a doctoral  
student/candidate; work settings included Chicago Hearing Society, Veterans



Administration Research Hospital, Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, and ENT practice of Dr. George Sisson, Chicago, IL, Fall 1968-Summer 1971

## **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

Assistant Professor of Audiology, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, September 1971-July 1973

Assistant Professor, Memphis State University (now University of Memphis), Memphis, TN, August 1973-April 1975

Research Associate, Biocommunications Laboratory, Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, May 1975-June 1980

Project Director, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Rockville, MD, July 1980-June 1981

Director, Research Division, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Rockville, MD, July 1980-July 1984

Associate Professor and Chief, Audiology Section, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN, July 1984-October 1987

Senior Research Audiologist, Audio-Diagnostics Division, Nicolet Instrument Corporation, Madison, WI, October 1987-December 1989

Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Audiology and Speech Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, January 1990-August 1994

Professor, Chair, and Clinic Director, Department of Audiology and Speech Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, August 1994-May 2000

Professor, Department of Audiology and Speech Sciences (renamed Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders), Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, June 2000-May 2011

Professor Emeritus, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders), Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, May 2011-present

## **ACADEMIC COURSES TAUGHT (in alphabetical order)**

Anatomy and Physiology of Hearing

Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing Mechanisms

Audiological Assessment and Intervention/Rehabilitation

Aural Rehabilitation

Clinical Audiometry/Hearing Assessment/Evaluation Procedures in Audiology (course and lab instruction)

Differential Diagnostic Audiology

Evaluation Procedures in Audiology (also with associated lab)

Hearing Aids/Hearing Amplification and Rehabilitation/Hearing Amplification I & II

Hearing Disorders

Industrial Audiology/Hearing Conservation

Introduction to Audiology

Introduction to Speech and Hearing

Medical Aspects of Audiology  
Microcomputer Applications in Audiology and Speech Sciences  
Pediatric Audiology/Special Populations in Audiology  
Professional Ethics in Communicative Sciences and Disorders  
Psychoacoustics  
Research Design and Analysis/Research Methods/Research Methods in Communicative Sciences  
and Disorders  
Seminar for Honors Undergraduates: Investigating Hearing Health Risks in the MP3 Generation

## PUBLICATIONS

### REFEREED ARTICLES

- Allen, J. et al. (Vanderbilt Hereditary Deafness Study Group) (1968). Dominantly inherited low-frequency hearing loss. *Archives of Otolaryngology*, 88, 242-250.
- Punch, J.L., & McConnell, F. (1969). The speech discrimination function of elderly adults. *Journal of Auditory Research*, 9, 159-166.
- Wilson, R.H., & Punch, J.L. (1971). Masked spondee thresholds: Variable duty cycle and mask intensity. *Journal of Auditory Research*, 11, 270-275.
- Punch, J., & Carhart, R. (1973). Influence of interaural phase on forward masking. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 54, 897-904.
- Punch, J.L., & Lawrence, W.F. (1977). Decibel notation with correlated and uncorrelated signals. *Journal of the American Audiology Society*, 3, 71-79.
- Punch, J.L. (1978). Quality judgments of hearing aid-processed speech and music by normal and otopathologic listeners. *Journal of the American Audiology Society*, 3, 179-188.
- Punch, J.L., Lawrence, W.F., & Causey, G.D. (1978). Measurement of attack-release times in compression hearing aids. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*, 21, 338-349.
- Punch, J.L. (1978). Masking of spondees by interrupted noise in hearing-impaired listeners. *Journal of the American Audiology Society*, 3, 245-252.
- Punch, J.L., & Howard, M.T. (1978). Listener-assessed intelligibility of hearing aid-processed speech. *Journal of the American Audiology Society*, 4, 69-76.
- Punch, J.L., & Beck, E.L. (1980). Low-frequency response of hearing aids and judgments of aided speech quality. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, 45, 325-335.
- Punch, J.L., Montgomery, A.A., Schwartz, D.M., Walden, B.E., Prosek, R.A., & Howard, M.T. (1980). Multidimensional scaling of quality judgments of speech signals processed by hearing aids. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 68, 458-466.
- Punch, J.L., & Parker, C.A. (1981). Pairwise listener preferences in hearing aid evaluation. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*, 24, 366-374.
- Montgomery, A.A., Schwartz, D.M., & Punch, J.L. (1982). Tournament strategies in hearing aid selection. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, 47, 363-372.
- Punch, J.L., & Howard, M.T. (1985). Spondee recognition threshold as a function of set size. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, 50, 120-125.
- Punch, J.L., & Beck, L.B. (1986). Relative effects of low-frequency amplification on syllable recognition and speech quality. *Ear and Hearing*, 7, 57-62.

- Miyamoto, R.T., McConkey, A.J., Myres, W., Pope, M., & Punch, J.L. (1986). Long-term intracochlear implantation in man. *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*, 95, 63-70.
- Pope, M.L., Miyamoto, R.T., Myres, W.A., McConkey, A.J., & Punch, J.L. (1986). Cochlear implant candidate selection. *Ear and Hearing*, 7, 71-73.
- Punch, J.L., Robbins, A.M., Myres, W., Pope, M.L., & Miyamoto, R.T. (1987). Relationships among selected measures of single-channel cochlear implant performance. *Ear and Hearing*, 8, 37-43.
- Punch, J.L. (1987). Matching commercial hearing aids to prescriptive gain and maximum output requirements. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, 52, 76-83.
- Miyamoto, R.T., Myres, W.A., Wagner, M.L., & Punch, J.L. (1987). Vibrotactile devices as sensory aids for the deaf. *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*, 97, 57-63.
- Hecox, K.E., & Punch, J.L. (1988). The impact of digital technology on the selection and fitting of hearing aids. *American Journal of Otology* (Supplement), 9, 77-85.
- Punch, J.L. (1988). CROS revisited. *Asha*, 35-37.
- Punch, J., Chi, C., & Allan, J. (1990). Signal averaging in real ear probe tube measurements. *Ear and Hearing*, 11, 327-331.
- Punch, J.L., Jenison, R.L., Allan, J., & Durrant, J.D. (1991). Evaluation of three strategies for fitting hearing aids binaurally. *Ear and Hearing*, 12, 205-215.
- Punch, J.L., & Robb, R. (1992). Prescriptive hearing aid fitting by parameter adjustment and selection. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 3, 94-100.
- Punch, J., & Rakerd, B. (1993). Loudness matching of signals spectrally shaped by a simulated hearing aid. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*, 36, 357-364.
- Punch, J.L., & Jarrett, A.M. (1994). Hearing aid licensing statutes and the audiologist. *American Journal of Audiology*, 3, 43-54.
- Punch, J.L., Robb, R., & Shovels, A.H. (1994). Aided listener preferences in laboratory versus real-world environments. *Ear and Hearing*, 15, 50-61.
- Punch, J.L., Shovels, A.H., Dickinson, W.W., Butcher, J., & Snead, C. (1995). Target-matched insertion gain derived from three different hearing aid selection procedures. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 6, 425-432.
- Punch, J.L., Robinson, D.O., & Katt, D.F. (1996). Development of a hearing performance standard for law enforcement officers. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 7, 113-119.
- Arsenault, M.D., & Punch, J.L. (1999). Nonsense-syllable recognition in noise using monaural and binaural listening strategies. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 105, 1821-1830.
- Rakerd, B., Punch, J., Hooks, W., Amlani, A., & VandeVelde, T.J. (1999). Loudness discrimination of speech signals spectrally shaped by a simulated hearing aid. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 42, 1285-1294.
- Punch, J.L., Rakerd, B., & Amlani, A. (2001). Paired-comparison hearing aid preferences: Evaluation of an unforced-choice paradigm. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 12, 190-201.
- Punch, J.L. (2001). Contemporary issues in hearing aid selection and fitting. *Speech and Hearing Review*, 2, 21-50 (Chinese version); 166-191 (English version) (by invitation).
- Punch, J. (2003). A universal hearing aid: Recommended technologic and functional features. *Iranian Audiology*, 2(1), 24-31. (Invited paper).

- Punch, J., Joseph, A., & Rakerd, B. (2004). Most comfortable and uncomfortable loudness levels: Six decades of research. *American Journal of Audiology*, *13*, 144-157.
- Punch, J., Rakerd, B., & Joseph, A. (2004). Effects of test order on most comfortable and uncomfortable loudness levels for speech. *American Journal of Audiology*, *13*, 158-163.
- Holcomb, S.S., & Punch, J. L. (2006). Multimedia Hearing Handicap Inventory: Test-retest reliability and clinical utility. *American Journal of Audiology*, *15*, 3-13.
- Amlani, A., Rakerd, B., & Punch, J. (2006). Speech-clarity judgments of hearing-aid-processed speech in noise: Differing polar patterns and acoustic environments, *International Journal of Audiology*, *45*, 319-330.
- Joseph, A., Punch, J., Stephenson, M., Paneth, N., Wolfe, E., & Murphy, W. (2007). The effects of training format on earplug performance. *International Journal of Audiology*, *46*, 609-618.
- Callaway, S.L., & Punch, J.L. (2008). An electroacoustic analysis of over-the-counter hearing aids, *American Journal of Audiology*, *17*, 14-24.
- Punch, J., Elfenbein, J., & James, R. (2011). Targeting hearing health messages for users of personal listening devices. *American Journal of Audiology*, *20*, 69-82.
- Punch, J. & James, R. R. (2016). Wind turbine noise and human health: a four-decade history of evidence that wind turbines pose risks. *Hearing Health & Technology Matters*, <http://hearinghealthmatters.org/journalresearchposters/files/2016/09/16-10-21-Wind-Turbine-Noise-Post-Publication-Manuscript-HHTML-Punch-James.pdf>.

## NON-REFEREED ARTICLES

- Causey, G.D., Punch, J.L., Schweitzer, H.C., & Beck, L.B. (Spring 1978). The clinical and acoustic parameters of hearing aid effectiveness. *Bulletin of Prosthetics Research*.
- Causey, G.D., Punch, J.L., Schweitzer, H.C., & Beck, L.B. (Spring 1979). The clinical and acoustic parameters of hearing aid effectiveness. *Bulletin of Prosthetics Research*.
- Causey, G.D., Punch, J.L., & Schweitzer, H.C. (Fall 1979). The development of improved techniques for the analysis of hearing aid performance. *Bulletin of Prosthetics Research*.
- Causey, G.D., & Punch, J.L. (Spring 1980). The clinical and acoustic parameters of hearing aid effectiveness. *Bulletin of Prosthetics Research*.
- Punch, J.L. (1980). Self-study of profession's service and training needs in the 1980's. *Asha*, *22*, 849-850.
- Punch, J.L. (1981). Subjective approaches to hearing aid evaluation. *Hearing Instruments*, *32*, 12-14, 65 (Invited paper).
- Rees, N.S., Punch, J.L., & Snope, T.L. (1981). Report of Advisory Committee for the self-study project. *Asha*, *23*, 899-902.
- Punch, J.L., & Gelatt, J.P. (1982). Federal funding agencies and speech-language-hearing. *Asha*, *24*, 325-331.
- Punch, J. (1983). Characteristics of ASHA members. *Asha*, *25*, 31.
- Punch, J. (1983). The prevalence of hearing impairment. *Asha*, *25*, 27.
- Punch, J. (1983). The geographic distribution of speech-language-hearing personnel. *Asha*, *25*, 31.
- Punch, J. (1983). Sociodemographic and health characteristics of the hearing-impaired population. *Asha*, *25*, 15.

- Punch, J. (1983). Occupational mobility of speech-language pathologists and audiologists: Part I. *Asha*, 25, 31.
- Punch, J.L., & Fein, D.J. (1984). Profile of educational programs in speech-language pathology and audiology. *Asha*, 26, 43-48.
- Karr, S., & Punch, J. (1984). PL 94-142 state child counts. *Asha*, 26, 33.
- Punch, J. (1984). Occupational mobility of speech-language pathologists and audiologists: Part II. *Asha*, 26, 29.
- Punch, J.L. (1984). Salaries in the speech-language pathology and audiology profession. *Asha*, 26, 41-46.
- Mansour, S., & Punch, J. (1984). Research activity among ASHA members. *Asha*, 26, 41.
- Miyamoto, R.T., Myres, W.A., & Punch, J.L. (1987). Tactile aids in the evaluation procedure for cochlear implant candidacy. *Hearing Instruments*, 38, 33, 36-37.
- Miyamoto, R.T., Myres, W.A., Carotta, C.C., Robbins, A.M., Pope, M.L., Punch, J.L., & Steck, J. (November 1987). Cochlear implants in children. *Insights in Otolaryngology*, 2.
- Williamson, M., & Punch, J. (1990). Speech enhancement in digital hearing aids. *Seminars in Hearing*, 11, 68-78.
- Punch, J., Chi, C., & Patterson, J. (1990). A recommended protocol for prescriptive use of target gain rules. *Hearing Instruments*, 41, 12, 14, 16, 18-19.
- Punch, J., Birman, M., & Balmer, W. (1990). Comparative evaluation of substitution and equivalent substitution methods of hearing aid analysis. *The Hearing Journal*, 43, 28-29, 32-33.
- Punch, J.L., & Weinstein, B.E. (1996). The Hearing Handicap Inventory: Introducing a multimedia version. *The Hearing Journal*, 49(10), 35-36, 38-40, 44-45.
- Punch, J.L. (2001). Technologic and functional features of hearing aids: What are their relative costs? *The Hearing Journal*, 54(6), 32, 34, 36-38, 42, 44.
- Punch, J. (2001). Committee Report: A low-cost hearing aid for developing countries. *Hearing International*, 10(3), 4-5.
- Punch, J. (2002). The differences between analog and digital hearing aids. *Hearing International*, 10(4), 4-5 (Part I); *Hearing International*, 11(1), 8 (Part II).
- Punch, J. (2002). Technology Note: Linear vs nonlinear hearing aids. *Hearing International*, 11(2), 8.
- Punch, J. (2002). Technology Note: Output-limiting vs wide dynamic range compression. *Hearing International*, 11(3), 8.
- Punch, J. (2002). Technology Note: Acoustic modifications in hearing aids. *Hearing International*, 11(4), 7.
- Punch, J. (2002). Viewpoint: The virtues of virtual learning. *Audiology Today*, 14(5), 18.
- Punch, J. (2003). Survey of hearing aid manufacturers. *Hearing International*, 12(1), 7-8.
- Punch, J. (2003). Technology Note: Hearing aids and the audibility index. *Hearing International*, 12(2), 8-9.
- Punch, J. (2003). Technology Note: Assistive listening devices. *Hearing International*, 12(3), 7-8.
- Punch, J. (2004). Technology Note: Understanding hearing aid standards organizations. *Audiology Today*, 16(4), 15.
- Punch, J. (2005). Providing high-quality, low-cost hearing aids for developing countries. *Hearing International*, 14(3), 5.

- Punch, J. (2006). Providing high-quality, low-cost hearing aids for developing countries: A status report 2. *Hearing International*, 14(4), 4-5.
- Punch, J., James, R., & Pabst, D. (2010). Wind-turbine noise: What audiologists should know. *Audiology Today*, 22(4), 20-31.
- Punch, J., & James, R. (2014). Adverse health effects of noise from industrial wind turbines. HearingHealthMatters.org, Three-part series in Hearing Health & Technology Matters. Part 1: <http://hearinghealthmatters.org/hearingviews/2014/wind-turbine-health-problems-noise/>, Part 2: <http://hearinghealthmatters.org/hearingviews/2014/wind-turbine-noise-evidence-health-problems/>, Part 3: <http://hearinghealthmatters.org/hearingviews/2014/infrasound-wind-turbine-hearing-health-effects/>.

## **MONOGRAPHS**

- Amlani, A.M., Punch, J.L., & Ching, Y.C. (2002). Methods and applications of the audibility index in hearing aid selection and fitting. *Trends in Amplification*, 6, 81-129.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

- Punch, J. (2004). High-quality, low-cost hearing aids. In *Hearing Impairment: An Invisible Disability*. Suzuki, J, Kobayashi, T, & Koga, K. (Eds). New York: Springer-Verlag.
- Punch, J. (2004). Hearing International project on high-quality, low-cost hearing aids. In *Hearing Impairment: An Invisible Disability*. Suzuki, J, Kobayashi, T, & Koga, K. (Eds). New York: Springer-Verlag.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

#### **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

- Punch, J.L. (March 31, 2001). An analysis of hearing aid costs. Invited presentation at conference of Committee on Management and Rehabilitation of Hearing Loss, Hearing International, Singapore.
- Punch, J (January 31, 2002). Challenges of developing and distributing a low-cost hearing aid. Invited paper, written by J. Punch and presented by Jun-Ichi Suzuki (J.I. Suzuki & J. Punch: View from the HI Rehabilitation Committee), Hearing International, Pattaya, Thailand.

#### **NATIONAL LEVEL**

- Punch, J. (December 1-2, 1976). Elements of hearing aid performance and aural rehabilitation. Invited workshop participant, Little Rock, AR.

- Punch, J. (March 17-19, 1983). Hearing aid selection: Listener judgments of speech quality and intelligibility. Invited participant at Three Rivers Conference on Communicative Disorders, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Punch, J. (April 15-16, 1988). Introduction to digital signal processing concepts and terminology, and Summary: Project Phoenix approach in developing and evaluating the performance of a digital hearing aid. Invited speaker at meeting of Iowa Hearing Aid Society, Des Moines, IA.
- Punch, J. (October 1, 1988). Recent advances in digital hearing aids. Invited speaker at program sponsored by George Washington University Medical Center and George Washington University, Washington, DC.
- Punch, J. (May 20, 1989). Comparing and contrasting digital hearing aid systems. Invited participant in panel discussion at meeting of Academy of Dispensing Audiologists, Phoenix, AZ.
- Punch, J. (June 16, 1989). Digital hearing aids. Invited speaker at Amplification '89 Conference, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI.
- Punch, J. (October 26-27, 1990). How can digital hearing aids benefit the hearing impaired? Invited presentation, Iowa Hearing Aid Society, Des Moines, IA.
- Punch, J. (March 12-13, 1993). DSP-based hearing aid fitting procedures. Invited presentation at Technology Summit: Sound Advice on Amplification, Starkey Laboratories, Brookland Park, MN.
- Bentler, R.A., Fortune, T., Humes, L.E., McCarthy, P, Punch, J., & Van Vliet, D. (November 1994). Hearing aid fittings: A time for change. Invited miniseminar presentation to meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Punch, J. (March 22-25, 1995). A hearing performance standard for police officers. Invited panel presentation at Hearing Conservation Conference III/XX, as part of Forum "The Americans with Disabilities Act: Recruiting, Retaining, and Protecting Workers with Hearing Impairment," Cincinnati, OH.
- Punch, J. (December 7, 2002). Contemporary issues in hearing aid fittings. Invited presentation to Palm Springs Hearing Seminars, Palm Springs, CA.

#### **REGIONAL/STATE/LOCAL LEVEL**

- Punch, J. (April 26, 1980). Hearing aid evaluation: Development of alternative strategies. Invited participant at meeting of Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Annapolis, MD.
- Punch, J. (January 22, 1987). Cochlear implants: Case studies. Invited speaker at Indiana University Faculty Colloquium, Bloomington, IN.
- Punch, J. (April 14, 1988). Digital hearing aids. Invited speaker at meeting of Indiana Speech and Hearing Association, Ft. Wayne, IN.
- Punch, J. (April 29, 1988). Development and evaluation of a digital hearing aid. Invited speaker at meeting of Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama, Orange Beach.
- Punch, J. (July 21, 1988). Signal processing and digital programmable hearing aids. Invited speaker at meeting of Texas Speech and Hearing Association, Vail, CO.
- Punch, J. (September 7, 1988). Digital hearing aids. Invited speaker at meeting of audiology staff of Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO.

- Punch, J. (September 23, 1988). Digital signal processing. Invited speaker at Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Punch, J. (November 14, 1988). Use of real ear data in hearing aid fitting. Invited speaker at Real Ear Workshop for Aurora Users, Madison, WI.
- Punch, J. (March 10, 1989). Integrating digital hearing aids into clinical practice. Invited speaker at meeting of Kentucky Speech and Hearing Association, Lexington, KY.
- Punch, J. (March 31, 1989). Digital hearing aids. Invited speaker at meeting of Texas Speech and Hearing Association, El Paso, TX.
- Punch, J. (October 26-27, 1990). Software approaches to prescriptive hearing aid fitting. Invited presentation, Iowa Hearing Aid Society, Des Moines, IA.
- Punch, J.L. (June 10-12, 1991). Sound, psychophysics, and audition, and federal and state regulations. Two CAOHC training presentations, Buick-Oldsmobile-Cadillac Plant, Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (September 1991). CCC examination review lectures (2), Sponsored by Michigan Speech-Language Hearing Association, Michigan State University.
- Punch, J. (March 12, 1992). Characteristics of well-fitted hearing aids, recent developments in hearing aids, and hearing aid troubleshooting. Invited presentation to Jackson, MI, chapter of Self-Help for the Hard-of-Hearing (SHHH).
- Punch, J.L. (May 2, 1993). Hearing loss and hearing aids. Invited presentation to Michigan Department of Social Services, Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J.L. (July 24, 1993). Roundtable facilitator at Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) Conference, Michigan State University.
- Punch, J. (September 18, 1993). CCC examination review lecture, Sponsored by Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Michigan State University.
- Punch, J. (August 8, 1994). Current audiological research in the U.S. Invited presentation to international visitors (London) to Michigan State University.
- Punch, J. (September 16, 1995). CCC examination review lecture, Sponsored by Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Michigan State University.
- Punch, J. (March 19, 1999). Student forum. Presented at meeting of Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Troy, MI.
- Punch, J. (June 13, 2000). What about my hearing? Invited presentation at meeting of University Club members, Lunch and Learn Series, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (October 23-24, 2000). Current practices in hearing aid selection and fitting, Invited presentation at meeting of Hearing International, East Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (October 24, 2001). Hearing loss and hearing aids. Invited presentation at Valley Court Community Center, East Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (September 17, 2002). Making the most of your hearing aids. Invited presentation at Foster Community Center. Sponsored by Self Help for the Hard of Hearing, Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (September 9, 2003). What did you say? Invited presentation at meeting of University Club members, Lunch and Learn Series, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (March 13, 2004). Advances in hearing aids. Invited presentation at meeting of Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Columbus, OH.
- Punch, J. (July 1, 2004). Hearing loss and hearing aids. Invited presentation at Hanna Community Center, East Lansing, MI.



- Punch, J. (October 10, 2006). Hearing conservation. Invited presentation at Department of Music, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (June 8, 2007). Technological features of modern hearing aids. Invited presentation at 2007 Golden Grads Alumni Breakfast, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (August 22, 2008). Hearing, hearing loss, and the audiogram. Invited presentation at Michigan Association of Disability Examiners, Lansing Community College West Campus, Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (October 21, 2008). Hearing Loss and Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids. Invited presentation at Michigan State University Colloquy, University Club, East Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (November 10, 2008). Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids. Invited presentation at Foster Community Center, Sponsored by Lansing-Area Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (March 15, 2010). Invited presentation on variety of personal and professional topics, Sponsored by American Sign Language (ASL) class, Lansing Community College, Arts and Sciences Building, Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (October 21, 2010). Hearing protection issues. Invited presentation at meeting of Michigan Agricultural Aviation Association, Lansing, MI.
- Punch, J. (March 10, 2011). Wind Turbine Information and Issues Forum. Invited presentation at West Shore Community College, Ludington, MI (Mason County), hosted by Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA), A Few Friends for the Environment of the World (AFFEW), and West Shore Community College.
- Punch, J. L. (June 14, 2011). Does wind turbine noise cause adverse health effects? Invited presentation to Zoning Commission, Riga Township, Palmyra, MI (Lenawee County).
- Punch, J. L. (April 25, 2017). Wind Turbines: What's the Noise All About? Invited lecture to Michigan State University class, ECE 491: Special Topics.

## **SUBMITTED PRESENTATIONS**

### **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

- Punch, J.L. (November 1982). Computer-based information services for ASHA members. The computer and speech and hearing services: Administrative applications. Miniseminar presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Punch, J.L. (June 24-27, 1993). Aided listener preferences in laboratory vs. real-world environments. Paper presented at International Hearing Aid Conference II: Signal Processing, Fitting, and Efficacy, University of Iowa, IA.

### **NATIONAL LEVEL**

- Stream, R.W., et al. (1968). Hereditary low frequency hearing loss. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, Denver, CO.
- Punch, J.L., & D'Agostino, A. (1972). Influence of word number on spondee threshold in normal listeners. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, San Francisco, CA.

- Punch, J.L., & Rushing, C. (November 1974). Effect of poor-ear occlusion on sound field speech discrimination scores. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- Punch, J.L., & Page, J. (November 1974). Evaluation of the efficiency of three hearing screening measures. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- Punch, J.L., & Studebaker, G.A. (November 1975). Comparison of hearing aid and hearing aid-processed frequency response in ear canals. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, Washington, DC.
- Punch, J.L. (1976). Evaluation of the Zwislocki coupler and KEMAR for use in hearing aid processing. Paper presented at 91st meeting of Acoustical Society of America, Washington, DC.
- Punch, J.L., & Lawrence, W.F. (November 1976). Procedural considerations in the measurement of attack-release times. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, Houston, TX.
- Punch, J.L., & Ciechanowski, J.M. (November 1977). Reliability of paired-comparison quality judgments in hearing aid evaluation. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, Chicago, IL.
- Punch, J.L., & Howard, M.T. (1977). Listener-assessed intelligibility of hearing aid-processed speech. Paper presented at 94th meeting of Acoustical Society of America, Miami Beach, FL.
- Punch, J.L., Montgomery, A.A., & Howard, M.T. (November 1978). Relationships between hearing aid electroacoustic characteristics and speech quality judgments. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Punch, J.L., Talkin, D.T., & Lawrence, W.F. (November 1978). Measurement and analysis of hearing aid impulse response. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech and Hearing Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Punch, J.L., & Parker, C.A. (November 1979). Validity of paired-comparison listener preferences in hearing aid evaluation. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Punch, J.L., & Beck, E.L. (November 1979). Aided speech quality judgments: Effect of varying low-cutoff frequency. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Howard, M.T., & Punch, J.L. (November 1980). Spondee threshold as a function of word number. Poster presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Detroit, MI.
- Beck, L.B., Leatherwood, R.W., & Punch, J.L. (November 1980). Aided low-frequency response: Speech quality and speech intelligibility. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Detroit, MI.
- Punch, J.L., Levitt, H., Mahaffey, R.B., & Wilson, M.S. (November 1983). Computer technology: The revolution has started without us. Miniseminar presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Cincinnati, OH.
- Miyamoto, R.T., McConkey, A.J., Myres, W., Pope, M., & Punch, J.L. (May 1985). Long-term intracochlear implantation in man. Paper presented at meeting of American Neurotologic Society, Miami, FL.

- Punch, J.L., & Miyamoto, R.T. (November 1985). Supplementary use of hearing aids by cochlear implantees. Poster presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Washington, DC.
- Punch, J.L., McConkey, A., Myres, W., Pope, M.A., & Miyamoto, R.T. (November 1985). Relationships among selected pre- and post-implant measures. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Washington, DC.
- Punch, J.L. (November 1985). Matching commercial hearing aids to prescriptive gain and SSPL requirements. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Washington, DC.
- Miyamoto, R.T., & Punch, J. (October 1986). Current issues in cochlear implantation of adults and children. Miniseminar presented at Crossroads Conference on Communicative Disorders. National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- Punch, J.L., Miyamoto, R.T., & Myres, W.A. (November 1986). Lipreading ability vs. auditory advantage with cochlear implants. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Detroit, MI.
- Brown, D.B., Miyamoto, R.T., & Punch, J.L. (November 1986). Intraoperative ABR monitoring during vestibular nerve sections. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Detroit, MI.
- Punch, J.L., Stone, R.E., Jr., Horii, Y., & Miyamoto, R.T. (November 1987). Oral-nasal coupling in the speech of cochlear implantees. Poster presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Myres, W.A., Miyamoto, R.T., & Punch, J.L. (November 1987). Auditory performance of a binaural cochlear implant recipient. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Punch, J., Chi, C., & Patterson, J. (November 1988). Factors affecting individualized target-gain based prescription of hearing aids. Miniseminar presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA.
- Punch, J., Allan, J., Sammeth, C., Palmer, R., Williamson, M., & Hecox, K. (November 1988). High-frequency limiting: Effects on laboratory and real-world performance. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA.
- Birman, M., Punch, J., & Balmer, W. (November 1988). Equivalent substitution method vs. a commonly used electroacoustic method. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA.
- Allan, J., Punch, J., & Chi, C. (November 1988). Signal averaging in real-ear measurements. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA.
- Chi, C., Balmer, W., Punch, J., & Williamson, M. (November 1988). Analysis of hearing aids: Complex signal vs. pure tone. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA.
- Allan, J., Punch, J., Lasky, R., & Chertoff, K. (November 1989). Effects of stimulus condition on preferred signal-processing characteristics. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, St. Louis, MO.

- Durrant, J., Punch, J., & Allan, J. (November 1989). Comparison of digital noise reduction algorithm vs. binaural processing. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Punch, J., Allan, J., & Jenison, R. (November 1989). Comparative evaluation of three binaural hearing aid fitting strategies. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Punch, J., Levitt, H., & Studebaker, G. (November 1989). Paired-comparison judgments in hearing aid evaluation: A status report. Miniseminar presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Benedict, E., Punch, J., Lasky, R., & Chi, C. (November 1989). The sliding scale: A preference based hearing aid fitting procedure. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, St. Louis, MO.
- Codd, M.B., Sammeth, C.A., Ochs, M.T., & Punch, J.L. (April 25-28, 1991). Effects of reduced low-frequency amplification on speech recognition thresholds and perceived sound quality in noise. Poster presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Denver, CO.
- Punch, J.L. (June 21-23, 1991). Prescriptive hearing aid fitting by parameter adjustment and selection. Paper presented at International Hearing Aid Conference: Signal Processing, Fitting, and Efficacy, University of Iowa, IA.
- Punch, J., & Rakerd, B. (November 1991). Loudness matching of signals in a simulated multimemory hearing aid. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Punch, J.L., Robinson, D. O., & Katt, D.F. (November 1992). Hearing performance standard for law enforcement officers: Aided and unaided. Poster presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Punch, J.L., & Robb, R. (November 1992). A DSP-based approach to clinical hearing aid research. Poster presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Punch, J.L., & Hooth, A.J. (November 1992). Hearing aid fitting: A validation study. Poster presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Punch, J., Congdon, S., Nelson-Wade, E., & O'Connor, T. (November 1992). Comparison of three clinical hearing aid fitting procedures. Poster presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Hamill, T., & Punch, J. (1994). Toward valid hearing aid evaluation procedures. Instructional course presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Richmond, VA.
- Patterson, J.P., & Punch, J. (November 1994). Launching multimedia applications: Issues in design and development. Miniseminar presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Punch, J., & Weinstein, B. (November 1994). Hearing handicap inventory for the elderly: A multimedia version. Miniseminar presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Arsenault, M., & Punch, J. (September 11-13, 1995). Speech recognition performance in noise under monaural and binaural listening conditions. Poster presented at First Biennial

- Conference, Hearing Aid Research and Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD.
- Rakerd, B., Punch, J., Hooks, W., & Vander Velde, T. (November 1996). Speech loudness changes associated with a programmable hearing aid. Presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Seattle, WA.
- Weinstein, B., & Punch, J. (April 2-5, 1998). [www.phd.msu.edu/hearing](http://www.phd.msu.edu/hearing). Presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Los Angeles, CA.
- Amlani, A., Punch, J., & Rakerd, B. (March 16-19, 2000). Reliability and transitivity of forced- and unforced-choice paired-comparison preferences. Student Research Forum. Presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Chicago, IL.
- Shogren, S., & Punch, J. (March 16-19, 2000). Test-retest reliability of the Multimedia Hearing Handicap Inventory. Student Research Forum. Presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Chicago, IL.
- Jarrett, A., & Punch, J. (March 16-19, 2000). Development of a Hearing Risk Inventory for Infants. Student Research Forum. Presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Chicago, IL.
- Amlani, A., & Punch, J. (April 4, 2003). A web-based Audibility-Index (AI) calculator. Poster presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, San Antonio, TX.
- Amlani, A., Punch, J., & Rakerd, B. (April 5, 2003). Polar-pattern preferences in real-world environments. Presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, San Antonio, TX.
- Joseph, A., Punch, J., & Rakerd, B. (April 5, 2003). Effects of test order & instructions on MCL-S & UCL-S. Poster presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, San Antonio, TX.
- Punch, J. (April 5, 2003). Hearing standards for hearing-critical occupations. Roundtable presentation at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, San Antonio, TX.
- Joseph, A.R., Punch, J.L., Stephenson, M.R., Paneth, N., Murphy, W.J., & Wolfe, E. (November 1, 2005). The effect of training modality on earplug attenuation and fit. Poster presented at meeting of Association of Medical Service Corps Officers of the Navy (AMSCON) and Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS), Nashville, TN.
- Joseph, A., Stephenson, M., Punch, J., & Murphy, W. (February 17, 2006). The effect of training modality on earplug attenuation. Paper presented at meeting of National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA), Tampa, FL.
- Joseph, A.R., Punch, J.L., Stephenson, M.R., & Murphy, W.J. (February 16-18, 2006). The Sound Attenuation Fit Estimator (SAFE<sub>500</sub>). Poster presented at meeting of National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA), Tampa, FL.
- Atienza, H., Bhagwan, S., Kramer, A., Morris, A., Pabst, D., Warren, A., Williams, N., Punch, J.L., & Elfenbein, J.L. (April 2-5, 2008). Preferred MP3 listening levels: Earphones and environments. Poster presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Charlotte, NC.
- Callaway, S.L. & Punch, J.L. (April 2-5, 2008). Prescriptive fitting of over-the-counter hearing aids. Poster presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Charlotte, NC.
- Punch, J.L., James, R., & Pabst, D. (November 19-21, 2009). Wind turbines: What you can't hear can hurt you. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA.

- Alkhamra, R.A., Rakerd, B., Punch, J., Zwolan, T., & Elfenbein, J. (July 24 - 29, 2011). Cognitive effort and the perception of speech by adult cochlear implant users: A survey. Poster presented at Conference on Implantable Auditory Prostheses 2011, Pacific Grove, CA.
- Rakerd, B., Alkhamra, R., Zwolan, T., Punch, J., & Elfenbein, J. (November 17-19, 2011). Cognitive effort and perception of speech by cochlear implant users. Paper presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Diego, CA.
- Schutte, D., Rivard, J., Dykstra Goris, E., Schmidt, S., Punch, J., & Schutte, B. (March 7-10, 2013). Examining hearing as a potential predictor of agitation in persons with dementia: feasibility of a comprehensive hearing assessment in persons with cognitive impairment, Paper presented at meeting of Midwest Nursing Research Society, Chicago, IL.
- Hitt, R., Punch, J., & Smith, S.W. (March 28-30, 2013). Effects of hearing impairment on quality of life. Poster presented at D.C. Health Communication Conference, Fairfax, VA.
- Rakerd, B., & Punch, J.L. (November 9-11, 2017). Toward a simplified protocol for speech audiometry. Poster presented at meeting of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- Punch, J., & Rakerd, B. (April 18-21, 2018). Simplifying speech audiometry. Poster presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology, Nashville, TN.

## **REGIONAL/STATE/LOCAL LEVEL**

- Miyamoto, R.T., and other members of the Cochlear Implant Team (April 17, 1986). Cochlear implants as sensory aids for deaf children. Session presented at meeting of Indiana Speech and Hearing Association, Nashville, TN.
- Robinson, D.O., Punch, J.L., & Katt, D.F. (March 1992). Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Training Council's hearing performance standard: Aided and unaided. Poster presented at meeting of Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Punch, J.L., & Jarrett, A.M. (March 25-27, 1993). State hearing aid licensing statutes and the audiologist. Poster presented at Meeting of Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, MI.
- Weinstein, B., & Punch, J. (May 2-5, 1996). A multimedia approach to marketing hearing health care services for older adults. Presented at meeting of New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Albany, NY.
- Punch, J., & Weinstein, B. (March 13-15, 1997). Hearing Handicap Inventory: From milk carton to multimedia. Presented at meeting of Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Artymovich, A., Frost, T, Jeong, M, Lin, F., Patel, N., & Sweet, E. (Mentors: J. L. Elfenbein & J. Punch) (April 13, 2007). Listening to music: University students' device preferences. Poster presented at University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, Michigan State University.
- Artymovich, A., Frost, T, Jeong, M, Lin, F., Patel, N., & Sweet, E. (Mentors: J. L. Elfenbein & J. Punch) (April 13, 2007). University students' patterns of MP3 player use: Is there hearing health risk? Poster presented at University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, Michigan State University.

- Atienza, H., Bhagwan, S., Kramer, A., Morris, A., Pabst, D., Warren, A., & Williams, N. (Mentors: J. Punch & J. L. Elfenbein) (March 9, 2007). Output levels of the Apple iPod® for three types of earphones. Poster presented at meeting of Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Ypsilanti, MI.
- Atienza, H., Bhagwan, S., Kramer, A., Morris, A., Pabst, D., Warren, A., & Williams, N. (Mentors: J. Punch & J. L. Elfenbein) (April 13, 2007). Output levels of the Apple iPod® for three types of earphones. Poster presented at University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, Michigan State University.
- Atienza, H., Bhagwan, S., Kramer, A., Morris, A., Pabst, D., Warren, A., & Williams, N. (Mentors: J. Punch & J. L. Elfenbein) (April 13, 2007). Preferred listening levels of MP3 music with three types of earphones. Poster presented at University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, Michigan State University.
- Atienza, H., Bhagwan, S., Kramer, A., Morris, A., Pabst, D., Warren, A., & Williams, N. (Mentors: J. Punch & J. L. Elfenbein) (April 20, 2007). Output levels of the Apple iPod® for three types of earphones. Poster presented at Pediatric and Human Development Research Day, Michigan State University.
- Atienza, H., Bhagwan, S., Kramer, A., Morris, A., Pabst, D., Warren, A., & Williams, N. (Mentors: J. Punch & J. L. Elfenbein) (April 20, 2007). Preferred listening levels of MP3 music with three types of earphones. Poster presented at Pediatric and Human Development Research Day, Michigan State University.
- Sanders, S., Rajasekhar, R., & Viaches, K. (Mentors: J. Punch & S. Smith) (April 2009). Development of a quality-of-life inventory for the hearing impaired. Poster presented at University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, Michigan State University.
- Punch, J. (February 7, 2014). Wind turbine noise: Can sounds we can't hear hurt us? Lecture presented at Research Colloquium, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Michigan State University.

### **WORKS SUBMITTED AND IN PRESS**

- Punch, J., & Rakerd, B. Evaluation of a simplified protocol for speech audiometry. In press (*American Journal of Audiology*).
- Punch, J.L., Hitt, R., & Smith, S.W. Hearing loss and quality of life. Submitted, under review.

### **MASTER'S THESES DIRECTED**

- D'Agostino, A.D. (1972). Effect of word number on spondee threshold in normal listeners (Master's thesis, University of Mississippi, 1972).
- Guckert, S.A. (1973). The development and evaluation of a filtered speech test for use in hearing screening. (Master's thesis, University of Mississippi, 1973).
- Rushing, C. (1973). The effects of single ear occlusion on sound field speech discrimination scores (Master's thesis, University of Mississippi, 1973).

Shogren, S. (1999). Test-retest reliability and clinical utility of the Multimedia Hearing Handicap Inventory (Master's thesis, Michigan State University, 1999).

Callaway, S.L. (2007). How well do over-the-counter hearing aids benefit the hearing impaired? (Master's thesis, Copenhagen University, Denmark, 2007). Thesis co-adviser, Copenhagen University: Niels Reinholt Petersen, Ph.D.

### **Ph.D. DISSERTATIONS DIRECTED**

Amlani, A. (2003). Paired-comparison preferences for polar directivity patterns in different listening environments (Doctoral dissertation, Michigan State University, 2003).

Joseph, A. (2004). Attenuation of passive hearing protection devices as a function of group versus individual training. (Doctoral dissertation, Michigan State University, 2004).

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Fellow, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Men and Women of Science

Dedicated Service Award, Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Training Council, January 1993

Editor's Award, American Auditory Society, September 1987. Relative effects of low-frequency amplification on syllable recognition and speech quality, *Ear and Hearing*, 7, 57-62 (1986), with Lucille B. Beck

Who's Who in America

The National Distinguished Service Registry: Speech, Language and Hearing

Student Research Forum Award for submission to meeting of American Academy of Audiology. Sara Shogren & Jerry Punch, Test-retest reliability of the Multimedia Hearing Handicap Inventory, March 17, 2000, Chicago, IL.

Merit Recognition Award for poster presented at University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, Michigan State University (Authors: Atienza, H., Bhagwan, S., Kramer, A., Morris, A., Pabst, D., Warren, A., & Williams, N.; Mentors: J. Punch & J. Elfenbein), April 13, 2007. Output levels of the Apple iPod® for three types of earphones.

James Jerger Award for Excellence in Student Research for poster presented at meeting of American Academy of Audiology. Susanna L. Callaway & Jerry L. Punch, Prescriptive fitting of over-the-counter hearing aids, April 2-5, 2008, Charlotte, NC.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/CREDENTIALS/AFFILIATIONS**

#### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Member, Editorial Board, *Iranian Audiology*; October 2003-present.

#### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Member, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)



Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Audiology, ASHA  
Member, American Auditory Society  
Fellow, American Academy of Audiology  
Member, Acoustical Society of America, 1976-1991; 2000-present

### **STATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Member, Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA); early 1990s; currently a non-member  
Hearing Aid Dealers License (#17000751A), State of Indiana, May 16, 1985-June 30, 1988  
Hearing Aid Dealers License (#3501003452), State of Michigan, November 2001-November 2005  
Audiologist License (#1601000461), State of Michigan, May 2007-December 2009

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS, CONSULTANTSHIPS, AND RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

#### **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

Member, Hearing International, September 2000-2007; Member, Committee on Management and Rehabilitation of Hearing Loss, Hearing International, September 2000-2007; Chair, Subcommittee on High-Quality, Low-Cost Hearing Aids  
Invited reviewer of promotional materials of Dr. Wahab Owolawi Owolawi, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia, June 2007

#### **NATIONAL LEVEL**

Congressional Action Contact (CAC) of ASHA, July 1972-June 1973  
ASHA Committee on Audiometric Evaluation, January 1978-June 1980  
Chair, ASHA Task Force on Information Services, 1982-83  
Ex-officio Member: ASHA Committee on Scientific Affairs, ASHA Committee on Personnel and Service Needs in Communication Disorders, ASHA Committee on Educational Technology, July 1982-July 1984  
Consultant to Deafness, Speech and Hearing Publications (DSHP) Board, ASHA, October 1982-July 1984  
Chair, ASHA Task Force on Personnel Supply, Demand and Utilization, 1983-1984  
Chair, Forum on Allied Health Data, Spring 1983-Spring 1984  
Steering Committee, American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation Conference, "The Personal Computer as a Professional Tool," 1983-1984  
Member, ASHA Task Force on Personnel Supply, Demand and Utilization, July 1984-April 1986  
Editorial Consultant, *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 1987-1989, June 2014-present  
Reviewer of NIH-SBIR research grant proposals, Washington, DC, March 14-15, 1995  
Reviewer of House Ear Institute research proposal, March 1997

Editorial Consultant, *Journal of Speech-Language-Hearing Research* (periodic)  
Editorial Consultant, *Ear and Hearing* (periodic)  
Editorial Consultant, *American Journal of Audiology* (periodic)  
Editorial Consultant, *Iranian Audiology* (periodic)  
Editorial Consultant, *International Journal of Audiology* (March 2006-present)  
Editorial Consultant, *Pediatrics*, February 2013  
Editorial Consultant, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, June 2014-present

## **STATE LEVEL**

Member, Clinic, Hospital, and Private Practice Ad Hoc Committee, Indiana Speech and Hearing Association, September 1986-October 1987  
Member, Program Committee, Indiana Speech and Hearing Association, 1986-1987, 1987-1988  
Member, Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 1991-1997  
Member, Audiology Committee, Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 1991  
Vice-President for Membership, Executive Council, Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association, January 1991-December 1992  
Consultant, Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Training Council re hearing standards, 1991-1992; 2003.  
Michigan representative for Membership Recruitment Network, American Academy of Audiology, 1992  
Consultant to Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Audiology Section, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1992  
Consultant to Michigan Department of Social Services, Hearing and Hearing Aid Reimbursement Program, Lansing, Michigan, 1993-1995  
Reviewer, Sertoma Communicative Disorders Scholarship Applications, Michigan Region, Sertoma International, 1994-95, April 1994  
Participant in first MSHA-sponsored Legislative Day, May 4, 1994, contacting offices of Senators Debbie Stabenow and Fred Dillingham and Representative Lynn Jondahl  
Member, Advisory Board for Occupational Noise-Induced Hearing Loss, State of Michigan, 1995-2010  
Member, Audiology Advisory Panel, Michigan Department of Community Services, 1995-1996  
Participant, with Nigel Paneth, M.D., in gaining approval of Michigan Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics to implement resolution that pediatricians refer all children to audiologists for audiological and hearing aid evaluations, 1997  
Consultant to Pyle, Rome, Lichten, & Eurenberg, P.C., Attorneys at Law, Boston, MA, re cases of occupational hearing loss in law enforcement officers and firefighters, January 1999-January 2002.  
Consultant, SHL, Contractor with Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Evaluation of hearing standards for police officers and firefighters, May 28, 2002  
Member and Chair, Wind and Health Technical Work Group, Bureau of Energy Systems, Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth (DELEG), State of Michigan, March 2010-June 2011

## **UNIVERSITY LEVEL**

Participant in CIC Predoctoral Fellows Conference, Michigan State University, November 1993  
Participant in Focus Group meeting of Committee on Improving, Evaluating and Rewarding Teaching (CIERT), Michigan State University, December 1993  
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on University-Wide Performance Indicators, Michigan State University, May-June 1995  
Member, Clinical Services Group, Evaluating Quality Outreach Working Group, Michigan State University, February-May 1999  
Faculty Tenure Committee, Michigan State University, 1993-1995  
University Committee on Research in Human Subjects (UCRIHS, or Institutional Review Board), Fall Semester 2000, January 2011-September 2017  
Member, Ad Hoc Working Group on Institutional Indicators for Evaluating Quality Outreach, Michigan State University, February-May, 1999  
Faculty Participant in Freshman Orientation Program, Michigan State University, June 29, 1999  
Member (interim), Faculty Council, Michigan State University, January-May 2005  
Member (interim proxy), Academic Council, Michigan State University, January-May 2005  
Member, University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP), May 2007-May 2009  
Representative, Academic Council (from University Committee on Academic Policy), August 2007-May 2008

## **COLLEGE/DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL**

Departmental committees (Michigan State University): Audiology Faculty Position Search Committee (1993-94); Clinical Affairs Committee (1990-94); Clinical Specialist Position Search Committee (1993); Curriculum Committee (1991-92); Faculty Advisory Committee (1990-91); Graduate Studies and Admissions Committee (1990-2010, periodically serving as Chair); Neuropathology Faculty Position Search Committee (1990-91)  
College committees (Michigan State University): Intracollegiate Planning Committee (1992-1994); CAS Technology Advisory Committee (2002-2003)  
Revised Departmental Handbook, Fall 2003  
College Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion Committee (2006-2007)  
Member, Admissions Committee, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, 2008  
Member, Committee to Review Health Communication Program, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, September 2008-January 2009  
Member and Chair, Admissions Committee, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, 2009

## **MEDIA EVENTS**

Interview on WJLM-TV, Channel 6, Lansing, Michigan, Better Hearing and Speech Month, May 20, 1997.  
Interview on WLAN-TV, Channel 6, Lansing, Michigan, Segment on Hearing Loss, February 4, 1999.

Interview with Broadcast/Photo Division of MSU's Office of University Relations, Dennis Krolik, February 5, 1999.

*MSU State News*, Study Finds Hearing Loss in Youth, September 15, 2005.

*Detroit News*, Hearing under Assault, January 3, 2006.

*Wall Street Journal*, Behind the Music, iPods and Hearing Loss, January 10, 2006.

Newstips provided to Melanie Lynne Trusty (via e-mail), MSU Journalism student, February 6, 2006, concerning Apple's iPod lawsuit.

Interview with MSU Focal Point on Listening with iPods, Jamie Lauren Kandel, February 22, 2006.

Not All Hearing Aids Are Created Equal, article appearing in:

*MSU News*, <http://news.msu.edu/story/5621/>, August 13, 2008.

*ScienceDaily*, <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080813164634.htm>, August 14, 2008.

*CHINA ORG.CN*, [http://www.china.org.cn/health/2008-08/14/content\\_16223170.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/health/2008-08/14/content_16223170.htm), August 14, 2008.

*Detroit Free Press*,

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080815/NEWS06/808150346/1008/NEWS06>, August 15, 2008 (appearing under title, Drugstore Hearing Aids May Do Harm).

*Hearing Review Insider*, [http://www.hearingreview.com/insider/2008-08-28\\_08.asp](http://www.hearingreview.com/insider/2008-08-28_08.asp); August 28, 2008.

(This article also appeared on numerous additional Web sites and blogs.)

Interview with Naomi Schalit, Executive Director and Senior Reporter,

Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting, Hallowell, ME on topic of wind-turbine noise, July 27, 2010.

Interview with Bob Allen, Interlochen Public Radio, Interlochen, Michigan, on topic of health effects of wind-turbine noise, January 14, 2011.

Interview with Mark Bashore, Wind Turbines Pose Health Risks, Current State, WKAR, Michigan State University, February 11, 2014.

Interviews on WKAR-AM Radio Call-In Show, Michigan State University:

Topic/Theme

Date

Better Hearing and Speech Month	May 1991
Audiology Topics	September 3, 1992
Audiology Topics	March 31, 1993
Better Hearing and Speech Month	May 17, 1993
Hearing Topics: Children and Adults	July 9, 1993
Hearing Aids	September 27, 1993
Audiology Topics	January 10, 1994
Audiology Topics	March 2, 1994
Better Hearing and Speech Month	May 3, 1994
Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids	July 19, 1994
Auditory Perception Disorders and Hearing Aids	December 29, 1994

Hearing, Hearing Loss, Prevention of Hearing Loss	March 30, 1995
Better Hearing and Speech Month	May 1, 1997
Better Hearing and Speech Month	May 10, 1999
Better Hearing and Speech Month	May 16, 2000

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

*Probe Microphone Measurements: Hearing Aid Selection and Assessment* (1992), by H. Gustav Mueller, David B. Hawkins, & Jerry L. Northern, San Diego, CA: Singular Publishing Group, Inc. In (1992) *Ear and Hearing*, 13, 467-468.

### **RESEARCH PROPOSALS, GRANTS, AND CONTRACTS**

- Faculty Research Grant, "Investigation of Adequacy of Audiometric Calibration in Hearing Conservation Programs," University of Mississippi, 1971-72 (funded).
- Faculty Research Grant, "Development and Evaluation of a Filtered Speech Screening Test," University of Mississippi, 1972-73 (funded).
- Principal Investigator, Veterans Administration Contract, "The Clinical and Acoustic Parameters of Hearing Aid Effectiveness," University of Maryland, October 1976-June 1980 (funded).
- Project Director, "Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology: An Educational Perspective for the Future," American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, July 1980-June 1981 (funded \$222,433).
- Co-author of, and consultant to, project funded by Department of Education, "Leadership Training in Computer Technology: A Tri-Level Multidisciplinary Program for Special Educators and Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists," ASHA National Office, January 1983-June 1984 (funded \$122,875).
- Co-author of, and consultant to, project funded by Department of Education, "Validation of a Model to Evaluate Microcomputer Software for Communicatively Handicapped Students," ASHA National Office, December 1983-June 1984 (funded \$154,489).
- Primary writer of a grant proposal funded by NINCDS-NIH, "Comparison of Sensory Aids in Deaf Children," Indiana University School of Medicine, January 1987 (funded \$348,869).
- Principal Investigator of project funded by NIDCD-NIH, "A DSP-Based Approach to the Study of Hearing Aid Fitting," Michigan State University, January 1991-December 1992 (funded \$63,946).
- Project Director, "Development of a Multimedia-Based Version of the Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly," All-University Outreach Grant, Michigan State University, July 1992-December 1993 (funded \$14,947).
- Project Director, "Accommodation of the Communicative Needs of Hearing-Impaired Students and Faculty at Michigan State University," Project funded (for support of Graduate Assistant) by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, January 1995-August 1995 (funded).

Member, Project Team, Strategic Partnership Grant to Fund Hearing Research Center, Michigan State University, July 1, 1996-June 1997 (funded ~\$210,000).

Lead Investigator (with Brad Rakerd and Aryn Amlani), "Intelligibility Testing of Digitized Sound Files Provided by IC Tech," Contract with IC Tech, Inc., Okemos, MI, February 6-May 31, 2001 (funded).

NIH-NIDCD Proposal, "Real-World Based Fitting of a Multimemory Hearing Aid," 2002 (unfunded).

Sponsor, NIH fellowship (1 F31 DC05429-01) to Michigan State University to support doctoral dissertation project of Aryn Amlani, "Predicting Speech Intelligibility from Directivity Index," February 2002-January 2003 (funded \$25,783).

NIH-STTR Fast-Track Proposal, "High-Quality, Affordable Hearing Aids for World Markets," 2003 (unfunded).

NIH-NINCD Proposal, "Development of a Quality-of-Life (QoL) Inventory for Hearing-Impaired Adults," 2009 (unfunded).

### **PROGRAM SITE VISITS**

Department of Audiology and Speech Sciences, Purdue University, October 19-21, 1994 (Invited by School of Liberal Arts).

Selected Audiology programs in state of Louisiana, commissioned by Louisiana Board of Regents (March 18-23, 2002; January 15, 2003); reviewed programs include Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana State University, and Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS STAFF MEMBER OF ASHA NATIONAL OFFICE (1980-84)**

Served as Project Director during first year of a federally funded three-year study of service and training needs in the profession of speech-language pathology and audiology.

Conducted study of employment and salary trends in the profession, May 1982.

Edited a comprehensive review of literature relative to incidence and prevalence of speech, language and hearing disorders entitled, "The Prevalence of Communicative Disorders: A Review of the Literature."

Co-compiled a comprehensive report on federal and private funding sources in speech, language, and hearing, "Profiles of Funding Sources."

Served as ASHA representative to Forum on Allied Health Data (FAHD), a consortium of federal, professional and private organizations devoted to establishing databases on manpower in medically related health professions; Chair of FAHD, May 1983-May 1984

Coordinated survey of graduate training programs for publication, *Guide to Graduate Education 1983*.

Coordinated development of guidelines for conduct of ASHA surveys by committees, boards, councils, and National Office staff members.

Developed proposal for comprehensive investigation of work force supply and demand in speech-language pathology and audiology profession (approved by ASHA Executive Board).

- Instituted "Data Page" feature in *Asha*, a regular feature devoted to reporting data on ASHA membership, the speech-language pathology and audiology profession, and the communicatively impaired.
- Coordinated development, creation, publication, and distribution of *Research Bulletin*, newsletter for member and nonmember scientists.
- Conducted survey and completed co-authored report on consolidation of ASHA's scholarly publications, "National Office Report of Journals Survey."
- Conducted survey and completed report on *dsh Abstracts*, Report of 1980 *dsh Abstracts* Survey
- Coordinated special issue of *Asha* on science theme (December 1984); participated in interview, "Asha Interviews: Janis Costello, Jerry Punch, Teris Schery, Lawrence Shriberg;" and co-authored "Data Page" feature on that issue.
- Developed proposal for initiating computer-based information services for use of ASHA members, and coordinated ASHA Task Force on Information Services (1982-83).
- Coordinated effort to structure and initiate the Research Information Service (RIS), a computerized database containing information on research career opportunities, research technology resources, and research funding opportunities.

### MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

- Web site (<http://www.msu.edu/~asc/hhi>); originally developed in conjunction with Hearing Research Center, Michigan State University, September 1997; includes Web-based Hearing Handicap Inventory.
- Hearing Handicap Inventory: Multimedia Version, developed in February 1998 by J.L. Punch and B.E. Weinstein. Interactive CD-ROM program designed to screen for hearing handicap, and as an outcomes-assessment measure, in young and elderly adult populations; available through MSU's Instructional Media Center.
- Developed ASC 843C, Hearing Amplification I (<http://vu.msu.edu/preview/asc843c/>), online course offered for credit and non-credit, beginning summer 2002-fall 2006.
- Developed ASC 843I, Hearing Amplification II (<http://vu.msu.edu/preview/asc843i/>), online course offered for credit and non-credit beginning summer 2002-spring 2006.

### FORENSIC ACTIVITIES

- Legal deposition, Dana Rowe v. North Reading Fire Department, Boston, MA, July 29, 1999.
- Legal deposition, Boston Police Department v. Richard Dahill, Boston, MA, July 30, 1999.
- Legal consultant, Montana Advocacy Program, Phil Hohenlohe, Staff Attorney, Helena, MT, 2004-2009 (no testimony given).
- Legal consultant, Stephen J. Vujcevic v. Oglebay Norton Marine Services Company, LLC et al., Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, May 2007-December 2008.
- Legal consultant, Bonfiglio v. Northridge Church, et al., Hohaus Law Firm, Rochester, Michigan, May 2008-December 2009.
- Reviewed and commented on hearing standard proposed by American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), at invitation of Daniel G. Samo, MD, Medical Director, Health Promotion and Corporate Services, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, February-May 2009.

- Legal testimony, Application of Highland Wind Farm, LLC, to construct a 102.5 MW wind electric generation facility and associated electric facilities, to be located in the Towns of Forest and Cylon, St. Croix County, Wisconsin; Hearing by Public Service Commission, Madison, Wisconsin, Docket 2535-CE-100, Towns of Forest and Cylon represented by Glenn Reynolds; Direct testimony, 8/30/12 (PSC Ref# 171133); Surrebuttal testimony, 10/3/12 (PSC Ref# 173730); Testimony re Shirley Wind, 1/15/13 (PSC Ref# 17149), Rebuttal testimony, 1/22/13 (PSC Ref# 179627).
- Legal testimony on behalf of Union Neighbors United, Inc., Robert and Diane McConnell, and Julia F. Johnson, In the Matter of the Application of Champaign Wind LLC to Install Electricity Generating Wind Turbines in Champaign County, Ohio, Hearing by Power Siting Board, Columbus, Ohio, Case No. 12-0160-EL-BGN, Union Neighbors United, Inc. represented by Jack A. Van Kley and Christopher A. Walker; Direct testimony, 10/31/12; Oral deposition, 11/7/12; Cross examination, 11/19/12.
- Legal deposition, Michigan, 7/24/13, Charles and Debby Wiltzer, and Seager Wiltzer (represented by Chester E. Kasiborski, Jr., and Susan Hlywa Topp, vs. Heritage Sustainable Energy and Heritage Stoney Corners Wind Farm LLC (represented by Robert G. Chaklos, Jr., and Kurt M. Bowden).
- Legal testimony, Michigan, 12/5/13, Daubert Hearing, Charles and Debby Wiltzer, and Seager Wiltzer (represented by Chester E. Kasiborski, Jr., and Susan Hlywa Topp) vs. Heritage Sustainable Energy and Heritage Stoney Corners Wind Farm LLC (represented by Robert G. Chaklos, Jr., and Kurt M. Bowden); qualified as expert witness, 12/16/13.
- Legal consultant, Iowa, Reuters v. Osceola Windpower; Abby Walleck, attorney for plaintiff, 6/30/14; Steve Hamilton currently serves as plaintiff's attorney.
- Legal testimony on behalf of United Citizens for Livingston County (represented by Phillip Luetkehans) vs. Pleasant Ridge Wind Farm (Invenergy represented by Michael S. Blazer), Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals, Livingston County, Illinois; Direct testimony, 1/21/15; cross-examination 1/22/15; additional cross-examination, 2/23/15.
- Legal deposition on behalf of Daniel Brian Williams (represented by James McCandlish) vs. Invenergy LLC, Portland, Oregon, 7/2/15.
- Legal testimony on behalf of Town of Somerset, Niagara County, New York, 12/22/15-1/11/16 (represented by Mark Davis) vs. Lighthouse Wind LLC.
- Presentation, Wind Turbines: What's the Noise All About? Henry County, Indiana, October 15, 2016.
- Letter (invited) to Board of Zoning Appeals, Warren County, Indiana, November 4, 2016.
- Retained as expert witness in Falmouth Wind 1 case, Massachusetts, (plaintiffs represented by Christopher Senie), November 2016.
- Expert witness in multiple cases in the state of New York (Gary Abraham, attorney for plaintiffs): (1) Citizens v. Cassadaga Wind LLC, (2) Citizens v. Lighthouse Wind LLC, (3) Citizens v. Baron Winds LLC, and (4) Combined (three-party) case involving Centerville's Concerned Citizens, Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County, Inc., and the Old Amish of Farmersville v. Alle-Catt Wind Energy LLC.
- Expert witness, Twin Forks Wind Farm, LLC, Macon County, Illinois (Richard Porter and Jeffrey Hoskins, attorneys for plaintiffs).
- Presentation and legal testimony, Bright Stalk Wind Farm, McLean County, Illinois (Phillip Luetkehans and Brian Armstrong, attorneys for plaintiffs), February 22, 2018.



### **CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

**(Listed in chronological order, since 1990; does not include attendance at professional meetings or local hearing aid update meetings, at which attendance was regular prior to retirement)**

- ASHA Audio Teleconference, Amplification for Difficult to Fit Clients: A Case Study Exchange, July 20, 1990.
- Van Riper Lectures in Speech Pathology and Audiology, Signal Processing Hearing Aids: Bridging the Clinical-Research Gap, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, October 4-5, 1990.
- Introduction to the IBM Mainframe Computing System, Michigan State University, Fall 1990.
- International Hearing Aid Conference: Signal Processing, Fitting, and Efficacy, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, June 21-23, 1991.
- MSUnet: An Introduction to Communications and Networking, Michigan State University, Summer 1991.
- Using Multimedia for Instruction and Presentation, Michigan State University, Fall 1991
- Au.D. Audio Teleconference, Sponsored by Purdue University, October 30, 1991.
- Middle Ear Disorders in Children: An Update on Treatment and Management, ASHA Teleconference, February 26, 1993.
- Participant, Meet Michigan, guided tour of northeastern Michigan outreach programs receiving support from Michigan State University, May 10-13, 1993.
- International Hearing Aid Conference II: Signal Processing, Fitting, and Efficacy, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, June 24-27, 1993.
- Lilly Faculty Seminar Programs, Sheila Tobias, Conversations about Teaching and Learning: Testing Workshop, Michigan State University, January 21, 1994.
- Lilly Faculty Seminar Programs, Ann Austin, Teaching for Understanding: Building on What Students Bring to the Classroom, Michigan State University, February 11, 1994.
- Telecommunication and Community Health Care for Michigan, conference sponsored by Michigan State University, June 17-18, 1994.
- Student Information System Training Course, Michigan State University, August 16 & 18, 1994.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Directors, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, September 16, 1994.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Directors, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, October 14, 1994.
- Facilitator, Faculty retreat in Department of Audiology and Speech Sciences, October 22, 1994.
- Expanding Educational Opportunities Conference, Sponsored by ASHA, Bethesda, MD, January 28-29, 1995.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Directors, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, February 3, 1995.

- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Deans, Peter Seldin and Linda Annis, Improving Teaching: What Works and What Doesn't, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, February 3, 1995.
- Workshop, Sponsored by National Consortium for Universal Newborn Screening, TEOAE-Based Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC, November 16-18, 1995.
- Visited University College London, London, England, to establish Study Abroad semester program for MSU undergraduate students, June 24-July 6, 1996.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Deans, Lou Anna K. Simon, The Continuing Dialogue on Motivating Change, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, August 29, 1996.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Deans, Jude West, Leadership Skills in a Changing Academic Environment, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, October 2, 1996.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Deans, Robert Church, Enhancing the Teaching Mission with Technology: Issues and Challenges, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, November 12, 1996.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Deans, Terry Curry, Faculty Performance Reviews, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, February 19, 1997.
- Seminar, Internet Tools for Distance Learning, Michigan State University, April 17, 1997
- Conference, Reaching for Cultural and Social Diversity in Speech Pathology and Audiology: Assessing Cultural and Social Values, Ronald Jones, Ph.D., Co-sponsored by Department of Audiology and Speech Sciences, Michigan State University, and Speech Pathology and Audiology Program, Norfolk State University, Michigan State University, April 21, 1997.
- Conference, Preventive Ethics, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, April 23, 1997.
- Graduate Program Director Workshop on Financing Graduate Education, Sponsored by the Graduate School, Michigan State University, April 30, 1997.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Directors, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, September 23, 1997.
- Leadership Videoconference, The Nonprofit Leader of the Future: A Seminar in Social Sector Leadership, Peter Druker, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, September 25, 1997.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Directors, Drug-Free Workplace, ADA, Sexual Harassment Prevention, and EAP Issues, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, October 23, 1997.
- Communication and Aging: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Keep Elders Communicating, Van Riper Lectures in Speech Pathology and Audiology, Western Michigan University, October 24, 1997.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Directors, Technology and Computing at the Unit Level: Issues and Opportunities, Paul Hunt, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, November 11, 1997.

- Instructional Videoconference, Putting Your Course Online, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, November 13, 1997
- Workshop, Using Computers in Instruction, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, November 18, 1997.
- Workshop, Technology in the Classroom, Frank Tate, Sponsored by Instructional Media Center, Michigan State University, January 12, 1998.
- Workshop, Effective Teaching, Sandi Smith, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, January 29, 1998.
- Workshop, Writing Faculty Performance Reviews, Terry Curry, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, February 2, 1998.
- Workshop, Getting Things Done: Delegating and Accountability, Michael Polzin and Tina Riley, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, February 18, 1998.
- Workshop, Getting New Faculty Started, Ann E. Austin, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, October 23, 1998.
- Workshop, Faculty Course Portfolios: From Teaching to Learning, Deborah M. Langsam, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, October 26, 1998.
- Workshop, Using Learning Theory to Inform Teaching Practice, Marilla Svinicki, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Lilly Faculty Seminar Programs, Michigan State University, November 6, 1998.
- Workshop, Writing Faculty Performance Review: What We Have Learned in One Year, Terry Curry, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, February 9, 1999.
- Workshop, The Chairs Plague: Dealing with Difficult People, George A. Lopez, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, March 3, 1999.
- Workshop, Survival Skills for Administrators, Kristina Gunsalus, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, April 28, 1999.
- Audiology Curriculum Conference, Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center, University of Iowa, July 9-11, 1999.
- Participant, Parent Panel for Parent Orientation Program (POP), Michigan State University, June 29, 1999.
- Educational Seminar, Directional Microphone Usage in Hearing Aids, Unitron Industries, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI, July 8, 1999.
- Academic Leaders Program, Presented by Faculty of the Wharton School of Business and Institute for Research on Higher Education, University of Pennsylvania, Grand Rapids, MI, August 19-21, 1999.
- Leadership Workshop for Chairs and Deans, Lou Anna K. Simon, The Continuing Dialogue on Motivating Change, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, September 28, 1999.
- Sexual Harassment Workshop, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, October 8, 1999.
- Dreamweaver2, Levels 1 and 2 (Web Publishing Software), Seminars for Faculty on Instructional Technology, Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University, January 6, 2000.

- Virtual Universities: Online and On Target?, Video Teleconference, Sponsored by Dallas County Community College District, February 3, 2000.
- Fulbright Scholar Program, Sponsored by Michigan State University Office of International Studies and Programs, May 9, 2000.
- Blackboard II (Advanced Features), Mary Longcore, Sponsored by Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University, July 2000.
- Creating a High Impact Classroom Climate, James Eison, Lilly Faculty Seminar Programs, Michigan State University, September 15, 2000.
- Copyrights and Wrongs for the Web and the Classroom, Michael Seadle, Explorations in Instructional Technology Series, Michigan State University, September 22, 2000.
- Blackboard I (October 26, 2000) & Blackboard II (November 15, 2000), Ben Goodsell, Sponsored by Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University
- Cerumen-Related Hearing Aid Repairs, Offered by Michael Phillips, Phonak, Inc., East Lansing Marriott, November 10, 2000.
- Teaching Online, One-week seminar offered by William A. Draves, LERN organization (<http://www.lern.org>), February 5-9, 2001.
- Using Video to Enhance Lectures and Courses, WKAR Staff, Michigan State University, March 23, 2001.
- Visited Singapore to attend meeting of *Hearing International*, March 2001
- Unison Digital Systems Training Seminar, Unitron Hearing, August 19, 2002
- Angel A and B, Anne Hunt, Sponsored by Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University, May 6, 2003.
- Web Page Design, Sponsored by Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University, June 3 & 5, 2003.
- Web Accessibility, Sponsored by Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University, June 6, 2003.
- Fireworks MX, Level 1, Sponsored by Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University, June 16, 2003.
- Dreamweaver MX, Level 1, Sponsored by Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University, June 17 & 19, 2003.
- Dreamweaver MX, Level 2, Sponsored by Office of Libraries, Computing and Technology, Michigan State University, July 24, 2003.
- Socrates in Cyberspace, Cecil Mackey, Explorations in Instructional Technology Series, Michigan State University, October 3, 2003.
- Grant-Writing Strategies in the Social Sciences and Education, Sponsored by The University Research Council and The Office of Faculty and Organizational Development, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, March 30, 2004.
- Three Proven Approaches to Web-Supported Teaching, MSU Virtual University Design and Technology (vuDAT) Breakfast Series, February 28, 2005.
- Maintaining, Storing and Using Sensitive Data, Sponsored by MSU Libraries, Computing & Technology, October 25, 2005.
- Human Participant Protections Education for Research Teams, Sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, NIH, Certification awarded December 19, 2005.

- Output Levels of Personal Stereo Systems, and What Audiologists Need to Know, Brian Fligor, Live Online Videoconference Sponsored by Audiology Online eLearning, February 22, 2006.
- Constructing Knowledge through Inquiry: Teaching Students the Art of Asking Questions in the Disciplines, Laura Greene, Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Michigan State University, May 16, 2006.
- Grants.gov Workshop, Sponsored by Office of Contracts and Grants Administration, Michigan State University, August 16, 2006.
- LSE Workshop, Sponsored by Department of Epidemiology, Michigan State University, July 10, 2007.
- Developing and Operating an Online Course for Over 1000 Students per Year, Sponsored by Explorations in Instructional Technology Series, Michigan State University, November 9, 2007.
- LSE Workshop, Sponsored by Department of Epidemiology, Michigan State University, November 29, 2007.
- Hear the Difference: What Audiologists Need to Know about the Baha Implantable Hearing Solution. Workshop sponsored by Cochlear Americas, Lansing, Michigan, May 7, 2008.
- Visited University of Dakar (UCAD), Senegal, Africa, to assist in establishing a special-education program at the graduate level, March 23-June 2, 2008 (with Ida Stockman, Ph.D.).
- Completed continuing-education unit (CEU) requirements for continued certification by ASHA and licensing by state of Michigan as an audiologist (completed 3.5 CEUs; 3.0 CEUs required for certification and licensing), December 2008.
- CITI Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (most recent update), April 1, 2009
- Data Analysis Using SPSS, Sandra Herman, Sponsored by Center for Statistical Training & Consulting, Michigan State University, October 9, 2009.
- Funding and Proposal Writing Resources, Jon Harrison, MSU Libraries, Michigan State University, September 18, 2009.
- Workshop: The Grant Process, Maria Lapinski, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, Michigan State University, October 23, 2009.
- Completed continuing-education unit (CEU) requirements for continued certification by ASHA as an audiologist, December 2011.
- IRB Retreat, Michigan State University, June 8, 2013.
- IRB Administrative Workshops, Kuali Coeus IRB Blueprint Sessions 1 and 2, Michigan State University, October 31 and November 4, 2013.
- Audiology Online, Continuing-education credits completed toward renewal of ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence through 2017, October 2014.
- Hearing Technology: Stream On, Conference sponsored by Department of Otolaryngology, University of Michigan, East Lansing Marriott, East Lansing, Michigan, October 14, 2015.
- Audiology Online, Continuing-education credits completed toward renewal of ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence through 2020, August 2017.

## **Wind Turbine Noise and Human Health: A Four-Decade History of Evidence that Wind Turbines Pose Risks\***

**Jerry L. Punch,<sup>i</sup> Richard R. James<sup>ii</sup>**

### **Abstract**

Many expert-review panels and some individual authors, in the U.S. and internationally, have taken the position that there is little literature to support concerns about adverse health effects (AHEs) from noise emitted by industrial wind turbines (IWTs). In this review, we systematically examine the literature that bears on some of the particular claims that are commonly made in support of the view that a causal link is non-existent. Investigation of the veracity of those claims requires that multiple topics be addressed, and the following specific topics were targeted for this review: (1) emissions of infrasound and low-frequency noise (ILFN) by IWTs, (2) the perception of ILFN by humans, (3) the evidentiary bases for establishing a causative link between IWTs and AHEs, as well as the physiological bases for such a link, (4) recommended setback distances and permissible noise levels, (5) the relationship between annoyance and health, (6) alternative causes of the reported health problems, (7) recommended methods for measuring infrasound, (8) foundations for establishing a medical diagnosis of AHEs due to IWTs, (9) research designs useful in establishing causation, (10) the role of psychological expectations as an explanation for the reported adverse effects, (11) the prevalence of AHEs in individuals exposed to IWTs, and (12) the scope and quality of literature addressing the link between IWT noise and AHEs. The reviewed evidence overwhelmingly supports the notion that acoustic emissions from IWTs is a leading cause of AHEs in a substantial segment of the population.

\*Revised October 21, 2016

<sup>i</sup>Professor Emeritus, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA

<sup>ii</sup>E-Coustic Solutions LLC, and Adjunct Professor, Department of Communication Disorders, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, USA

Key Words: Adverse health effects, human health, industrial wind turbines, infrasound, inner ear, low-frequency noise, wind turbine noise

### **Introduction**

Whether infrasound and low-frequency noise (ILFN) from industrial wind turbines (IWTs) is detrimental to human health is currently a highly controversial topic. Advocates of industrial-

scale wind energy assert that there is no credible scientific evidence of a causal relationship, while many reputable professionals believe that there is sufficient scientific evidence to establish a causal link between IWTs and detrimental health effects *for a non-trivial percentage of individuals who reside in communities hosting IWTs*. The veracity of claims regarding the effects on human health is being debated on a global scale by the wind industry; individuals living near IWTs; attorneys and expert witnesses in courts of law; print and web-based media; documentary films (which currently include *Windfall*, *Wind Rush*, and *Down Wind*); and scientists and other professionals in government reports, on the Internet, and in scientific and professional papers presented at society meetings and published in peer-reviewed journals.

The debate surrounding IWTs extends to many controversial issues, including physical safety, visibility, shadow flicker, and threats to property values and wildlife. Many problems involving wind turbines, including mechanical failures, accidents, and other mishaps, have been discussed on the Internet. At least one website has extensively catalogued these incidents,<sup>[1]</sup> and the large number of incidents reported by that site is described by its webmaster as grossly underestimating the actual number of documented incidents. The most vigorous debate, however, centers on ILFN and its effects on human health.

The overall purpose of this article is to provide a systematic review of legitimate sources that bear directly and indirectly on the question of the extent to which IWT noise leads to the many health complaints that are being attributed to it. The authors accessed most articles and reports referenced in this review by employing Google, Google Scholar, and PubMed as the primary search engines. Our basic aim was to provide a comprehensive and representative—though not exhaustive—review of the literature that is relevant to many of the claims made by wind industry advocates. An exhaustive review is an elusive and impractical goal, given the large volume of directly and indirectly related work done in this area over the past several decades and the current pace of such work.

### **The role of evidentiary facts**

Adverse impacts on people and property are among the most contentious issues that are typically the focus of legal proceedings involving IWT noise. Based on the forensic and research experiences of the authors, we believe that a resolution of the controversial aspects of this debate will require not just relevant scientific research, but rather a series of legal judgments based on the effective evaluation and interpretation of the existing research. In fact, much research and some already-rendered legal decisions show convincingly that some segments of the population suffer damaging effects from exposure to wind turbine noise (WTN). What is needed among the scientific community, local and national governmental agencies, and political leaders, is honest

discourse about methods for reducing carbon emissions in ways that do not turn some rural communities into *sacrifice zones*.<sup>[2, 3]</sup>

Many symptoms and complaints of adverse health effects (AHEs) related to IWTs have been self-reported by individuals living near wind turbines and described in published case reports. There is a group of core symptoms and complaints, however—including sleep disturbance, headache, dizziness, vertigo, and ear pressure or pain—that are remarkably common worldwide. Dr. Nina Pierpont was the first to report these core symptoms in a case series,<sup>[4]</sup> and she termed these core symptoms *Wind Turbine Syndrome*. For the sake of brevity, we will on occasion refer to Wind Turbine Syndrome as a substitute for this group of common symptoms and complaints, even though the phrase itself is currently not utilized as a medical diagnostic entity.

Numerous reviews of the literature have already been published that allege that there is no credible link between WTN emissions and AHEs. Those reviews have typically been sanctioned by state or provincial government agencies that have missions to support the development of wind energy, and which in turn appoint *expert panels* whose members hold views that regularly favor the wind industry and, therefore, may have conflicting interests. Too often, in the opinion of the authors, such reviews are biased in support of political policy decisions that promote the financial interests of wind developers, and perceived financial benefits to local communities, over the common good. None of those reviews has been specifically targeted toward describing or explaining the relationship between exposure to complex, dynamically modulated infra- and low-frequency sound from wind turbines or other industrial sources (e.g., noise-induced Sick Building Syndrome) and AHEs. Our primary objective in this article is to review the existing scientific and professional literature that is frequently overlooked in such reviews conducted by wind energy proponents. Such literature can be useful in legal proceedings in questioning and articulating the available evidence of risks to people who live in the footprint of utility-scale wind energy projects.

Some of the published reviews have been criticized for their failure to meet the standards noted by Horner,<sup>[5]</sup> who reminds us that readers should regard literature reviews with caution, and employ an audit strategy in evaluating their completeness, accuracy, and objectivity. Authors, including ourselves, have an inherent obligation to ensure that such reviews cite all known legitimate sources that serve as the basis for their views of the issues and reflect accurately the contents of all references cited.

Some courts of law in the U.S. and other countries now tend to rely heavily on testimony that adheres to the principle that proof of evidence of causation of AHEs from IWTs be based on the



peer-reviewed literature. Presumably, that practice in the U.S. stems at least partially from advocacy by the Office of Management and Budget<sup>[6]</sup> that internal and external government science documents be peer-reviewed government-wide for the purpose of increasing the quality and credibility of scientific information generated by the federal government. Peer-review standards are considered paramount in that effort.

While the peer-review process has many virtues, it also has its shortcomings, which are well known. For example, not all journals or individual reviews of submitted manuscripts are of equal quality, as specific journals and specific reviewers may have ideological or philosophical biases, which may or may not be surmised from the journals' mission statements. Nonetheless, the peer-review process is one of the most widely acknowledged ways to control the quality of published works. We contend, however, that there are other credible sources of information, even though those sources may not have been subjected to as rigorous a peer-review process as that employed by many scientific journals. Such sources include papers presented at meetings of scientific and professional societies; reports and other documents commissioned by state and local governmental agencies, especially if such documents are authored by independent researchers; legal testimony given under oath by qualified scientists and professionals; and some information available on the Internet, especially if written by professionals who have reputable track records in their disciplines. Although we will emphasize the peer-reviewed literature in this article, we will also cite some of these additional sources as authoritative. Our citing of selected non-peer-reviewed reports, with a few exceptions, is based on our familiarity with the professional reputations of the authors of those reports, normally earned through publication of a solid body of work in the peer-reviewed literature and by acceptance of their work by other professionals and peers. Typically, individuals so referenced enjoy positive national or international recognition in their respective fields of expertise.

We begin this review by calling attention to a quote from geophysicist Marcia McNutt, who once headed the U.S. Geological Survey and is now editor of the prestigious journal *Science*. McNutt has been quoted as stating: "Science is not a body of facts. Science is a method for deciding whether what we choose to believe has a basis in the laws of nature or not."<sup>[7]</sup> In fact, science consists of a variety of overlapping methodological approaches, which must be interwoven to discover answers to complex problems. That conviction has guided our attempt to re-examine the controversial topic at hand.

## **Review of wind industry claims and positions**

Our review is organized by summarizing the past and present literature that addresses each of 12 selected statements, listed below, that encapsulate specific claims, or positions, commonly taken by advocates for the wind industry:

1. Infrasound is not an issue, as infrasound generated by wind turbines is not perceptible to humans.
2. There is nothing unique about wind turbine noise, as infrasound and low-frequency noise are commonly produced by the body and by many environmental sources.
3. There is no evidence that wind turbine noise, audible or inaudible, is the cause of adverse health effects in people, and there are no physiological mechanisms to explain how inaudible acoustic energy can be harmful.
4. Setback distances of 1,000-1,500 ft. (approximately 0.3-0.5 km) are sufficiently safe to protect humans from harm, regardless of height or other physical characteristics of the IWTs.
5. Annoyance is a nuisance, but it is not a health issue.
6. Noise cannot account for all of the complaints of people living in the vicinity of wind turbines; there must be another, unknown reason for the complaints.
7. Infrasound from wind turbines is sufficiently correlated to the A-weighted sound emissions to allow an A-weighted model to be used to predict how much infrasound is present in homes.
8. Wind Turbine Syndrome has not been accepted as a diagnostic entity by the medical profession, so medical professionals cannot diagnose or treat it.
9. Peer-reviewed epidemiological literature is the only acceptable basis for proving a causative relationship between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects.
10. The nocebo effect, a manifestation of psychological expectations, explains why people complain of adverse health effects when living near wind turbines.
11. Only relatively few people, if any, are adversely impacted by wind turbine noise, and the majority have no complaints.
12. There is no evidence in the literature to support a causative link between wind turbine noise and adverse effects.

***Statement 1: Infrasound is not an issue, as infrasound generated by wind turbines is not perceptible to humans.***

The argument that infrasound as a cause of AHEs is not an issue has been advanced in the published literature primarily by Dr. Geoff Leventhall,<sup>[8, 9]</sup> with support from several other researchers. Those researchers have dismissed the influence of infrasound on human health by describing it as not exceeding the thresholds of audibility, and therefore ineffectual, without noting that those thresholds were established using steady pure tones instead of the complex, dynamically modulated tones emitted by wind turbines. Leventhall claims that infrasound from wind turbines is not a problem and that it is misunderstood largely because of mischaracterization by the media and by “those with limited knowledge” (p. 29). He states that there may be noise problems associated with wind turbines, but that such problems are due to *audible* swishing sounds due to interactions of the blades with the tower. Supporters of wind energy have generally followed Leventhall’s lead, although his own research has shown conclusively that exposure to modulated ILFN produced by large industrial equipment, including heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems, leads to mental fatigue, lack of concentration, headaches, reduced performance, and work dissatisfaction. Indeed, there is a long history of noise-induced *Sick Building Syndrome*, stemming from investigations in the 1970s-1990s of the effects of low-frequency noise on knowledge workers (see James<sup>[10]</sup> and Schwartz<sup>[11]</sup> for reviews of that research). Leventhall<sup>[12]</sup> stated:

“Low frequency noise causes extreme distress to a number of people who are sensitive to its effects. Such sensitivity may be a result of heightened sensory response within the whole or part of the auditory range or may be acquired. The noise levels are often low, occurring in the region of the hearing threshold, where there are considerable individual differences” (p. 4).

Later in the same document, he states:

“There is no doubt that some humans exposed to infrasound experience abnormal ear, CNS (central nervous system), and resonance induced symptoms that are real and stressful. If this is not recognised by investigators or their treating physicians, and properly addressed with understanding and sympathy, a psychological reaction will follow and the patient’s problems will be compounded. Most subjects may be reassured that there will be no serious consequences to their health from infrasound exposure and *if further exposure is avoided* (emphasis added) they may expect to become symptom free” (p. 60).

Leventhall has also stated that the ear is designed to protect us from infrasound and that, in essence, *If you can’t hear it, you can’t feel it.*<sup>[13, 14]</sup> The idea that ILFN from wind turbines does

not affect health was further reinforced in a 2009 white paper co-authored by Leventhall and sanctioned by the wind industry,<sup>[15]</sup> to be reviewed later.

The position that infrasound from wind turbines is not harmful to humans because it is not perceptible to the human ear also has support from Møller & Pedersen,<sup>[16]</sup> who investigated noise emissions from 48 wind turbines with electrical output capacities of between 2.3 and 3.6 MW.

They stated:

“The turbines do emit infrasound (sound below 20 Hz), but levels are low when human sensitivity to these frequencies is accounted for. Even close to the turbines, the infrasonic sound pressure level is much below the normal hearing threshold, and infrasound is thus not considered as a problem with turbines of the investigated size and construction” (pp. 3742-3743).

Evans et al<sup>[17]</sup> found that levels of infrasound measured at two residential locations near wind projects in South Australia were within the range of infrasound levels experienced in other urban and rural environments. Although Colby et al<sup>[15]</sup> and Bolin et al<sup>[18]</sup> dismiss wind turbines as a cause of AHEs, they acknowledge that turbines emit ILFN. A number of authors indicate that large turbines emit more such noise than smaller turbines (see, for example, Bolin et al<sup>[18]</sup> and Møller & Pedersen.<sup>[16]</sup>) George Kamperman (personal communication, 2009) has concluded that the amount of low-frequency noise generated by IWTs increases by 3–5 dB for every megawatt of electrical power generated.

Evidence that IWTs produce perceptible levels of infrasound, in addition to audible low-frequency noise above 20 Hz, has been available since the 1980s. In their seminal research on large-scale wind turbines, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Kelley et al<sup>[19]</sup> measured noise levels emitted by a DOE/NASA MOD-1 wind turbine operating near Boone, North Carolina, in response to noise complaints. They concluded that:

“...one of the major causal agents responsible for the annoyance of nearby residents by wind turbine noise is the excitation of highly resonant structural and air volume modes by the coherent, low frequency sound radiated by large wind turbines. Further, there is evidence that the strong resonances found in the acoustic pressure field within rooms actually measured indicates a coupling of subaudible energy to human body resonances at 5, 12, and 17-25 Hz, resulting in a sensation of whole-body vibration” (p. 120).

Those conclusions were further strengthened in a subsequent report.<sup>[20]</sup> In a second follow-up report, also funded by the Department of Energy, Kelley<sup>[21]</sup> electronically simulated three interior environments resulting from low-frequency acoustical loads radiated from both single and grouped upwind and downwind turbines. (These terms refer to the placement of the rotor and

blades with respect to the tower. With upwind designs, the more contemporary design, the airflow strikes the blades before striking the tower, and with downwind designs, the airflow strikes the tower before striking the blades.) Relatively low levels of low-frequency acoustic noise from a single, 2-MW MOD-1 wind turbine led to annoyance of residents of the surrounding community, largely through interaction with residential structures. Most importantly, Kelley found that the turbines radiated their peak sound power in the infrasonic range, typically between 1 and 10 Hz. An extensive investigation revealed that the reported annoyance was the result of a coupling of the turbine's impulsive low-frequency acoustic energy into the structures of some of the surrounding homes, and that annoyance was "frequently confined to *within the home itself*" (p. 1). Despite these early findings that IWTs generate infrasonic levels that produce acoustic energy, vibrations, and resonances that affect people in their homes, the wind industry has chosen to regard them as insignificant or only applicable to obsolete, downwind wind turbine designs.

The basis for discounting the research by Kelley and associates is predicated on the assumption that pressure changes of equal levels to wind turbines occur in natural environments and do not cause any similar complaints. The authors find that their own experiences with rapidly changing pressures have caused similar experiences. If these rather short-duration sensations were to continue over days, weeks, and months, as they do for people living near wind projects, they would likely find them to be unacceptable.

The primary argument of people who deny any effects is encapsulated by Leventhall<sup>[9]</sup> in his *Child on a Swing* example:

"A child on a swing experiences infrasound at a level of around 110dB and frequency 0.5Hz, depending on the suspended length and the change in height during the swing" (p. 30).

The inference is that because children often swing on swings, there are no adverse sensations. That fails to acknowledge that the experience of swinging is one that elicits many visceral sensations that are pleasant to the child as long as the sensations stop when the swing stops. The example, however, misses one major point. The duration and motion of the swing provide a smooth, sinusoidal pressure change that has two high pressure points (at the top of each swing) that occur over a period of several seconds or so. This is a completely different experience to that of pressure pulses lasting 100 msec or less. If one considers a swing with a period of 3.5 sec, there is a pressure change at 1.75 sec, resulting in a frequency of 0.57 Hz. The pressure changes are approximately 120 dB peak-to-peak, or 110 dB rms. The overall G-weighted value in this example is -60 dB, with a smooth pressure change, resulting in a net 50 dBG for the child, versus

the 75 dBG experienced as a pulse for a person living near a wind turbine (calculations provided by Malcolm Swinbanks, personal communication, 2010).

The assertion that wind turbine infrasound immissions, especially when received in the bedroom of a quiet home, must be at or above the threshold of hearing to cause adverse effects has been disproved, as noted above in the works of Kelley and colleagues in the 1980s.<sup>[19, 20, 21]</sup> The significant finding of the Kelley studies is that when the intruding infrasound is dynamically modulated short-duration pulses (generally under 100 msec and as short as 4 msec), the thresholds of sound pressure levels (SPLs) for non-auditory perception are in the range of 60 to 70 dB. In the work by one of the authors of this paper (James, with Mr. Wade Bray, INCE, of Head Acoustics, GMBH), infrasound pulsations were measured from a GE 1.5-MW wind turbine with a blade-pass frequency of 1 Hz that reached a level as high as 100 dB.<sup>[22]</sup> The people living in the home ‘felt’ the pulsations when the crests of the pressure waves were as low as 60 dB at 1 Hz. During similar measurements, Swinbanks, who has reported that he is sensitive to infrasound pulsations, was present at the test site. His experience was that he could feel the pulsations outside the home at similar SPLs.

Subsequent to the papers by Kelley and colleagues, several other studies have also reported the thresholds for significant experiences at similar thresholds, all substantially below the threshold for audibility of steady pure tones. In many of those tests, the rms SPL of the dynamically modulated blade-pass tone and its harmonics has been as low as 40 dB when using narrow-band analysis with windows of 40 to 80 sec, providing the crest of the pressure waves are 10 to 15 dB higher than the rms levels. These studies include the works of Robert Rand, INCE, and Stephen Ambrose, Bd. Cert., INCE, in their study of homes of complainants in Falmouth, Massachusetts;<sup>[23]</sup> Walker, Hessler, Hessler, and Schomer, in their work at the Shirley Wind project in Brown County, Wisconsin, for the Wisconsin Public Health Service;<sup>[24]</sup> and most recently, Steven Cooper’s study of the Cape Bridgewater project in Victoria, Australia.<sup>[25]</sup> All of these studies report similar findings, namely that perception, generally non-auditory in character, begins when the rms SPLs of the modulating tones are as low as 40 dB rms, with increasing impacts as the rms levels rise to 50, 60, and to 70 dB and higher levels. In all these studies, the dynamic modulation of the blade-pass tones produce pressure peaks that are often 10 dB or more, sometimes much more, than the rms values.

In the opinion of the authors, a paper prepared by Swinbanks for the 2015 conference on wind energy in Glasgow, Scotland, shows the impact of dynamically modulated infrasound on a sensitive individual—himself—along with high-quality measurements of the environments in which he experienced the sensations.<sup>[26]</sup> That paper shows that a highly respected acoustician and

scientist with expertise in infra- and low-frequency sound also responds to this acoustic energy in a way that is similar to the many complaints from others, both in the location of his tests and at other wind energy projects around the world. In the paper, Swinbanks reports that he was able to differentiate the pulsations in the test data from at least six separate wind turbines in a project consisting of 46 1.5-MW GE models. He also reports that he was able to perceive the effects of the pulsations in his home's basement, approximately 3 km from the nearest operating wind turbine, with the SPLs of the blade-pass frequency and harmonics summing to about 55 dB rms. At closer locations, he measured positive-going pressure peaks of 87 dB with corresponding negative-going peaks of equal level. It is worth noting that at the Glasgow conference, Swinbanks presented the paper as a poster session,<sup>[27]</sup> as he was informed by the conference moderator that time restraints prevented him from presenting his paper to conference attendees.

In the 2012 investigation of infrasound at the Shirley Wind project, where local regulations require that the Nordex 2.5-MW turbines be sited at least 1,250 ft., or 381 m, from residences, Walker et al reported infrasound levels at one of the three test homes.<sup>[24]</sup> WTN was not audible outside the residence where infrasound was greatest, supporting the position that infrasound is at the root of at least some of the complaints. The blade-pass frequency and harmonics were clearly evident from the measurements inside that one home, and the family had moved far away for a solution.

Following the Shirley Wind team study, several members of the community conducted a series of micro barometer measurements inside homes ranging from 1,280 ft. to approximately 6 mi. from the wind turbine towers. Infrasonic tones at blade-pass frequencies and harmonics were found at all test sites, including test sites at distances of several miles or more from towers under downwind conditions. Testimony to Wisconsin's Brown County Board of Health by people with homes more than 4 mi. from the nearest wind turbines reported AHEs during the times the turbines operated. In mid-October 2014, the Brown County Board of Health went on record declaring that wind turbines at the Shirley Wind site "...are a human health hazard."<sup>[28]</sup> That action, which appears to be a precedent in the U.S., meant that Duke Energy's Shirley Wind utility were forced to prove to the Board that the utility was not the cause of the health complaints documented in the study and voiced by community residents. The outcome could result in a shut-down order, but no final decision had been made in that case at the time of this writing. Other examples of legally ordered turbine shutdowns include those in Massachusetts<sup>29, 30</sup> and Portugal.<sup>31</sup>

We will return to the issue of perceptibility of infrasound later in this paper, as we describe the physiological bases for perceptibility.

***Statement 2: There is nothing unique about wind turbine noise, as infrasound and low-frequency noise are commonly produced by the body and by many environmental sources.***

To begin, when the spectral characteristics of IWT noise, as depicted in several papers,<sup>[24, 32, 33]</sup> are compared to the spectra of subsonic jet transport planes,<sup>[34]</sup> five different types of aircraft,<sup>[35]</sup> and road traffic noise,<sup>[36]</sup> it is clear that noise generated by wind turbines has a number of unique acoustical characteristics. These comparisons reveal dissimilarities in spectral and peak levels in both the higher and lower frequency regions, including the low-frequency and infrasonic range.

Leventhall<sup>[37]</sup> was one of the first to describe how low-frequency noise is a special noise problem, particularly to sensitive people in their homes. He indicated that annoyance to low-frequency noise increases rapidly with level, often starting just above the threshold of audibility, and that about 2.5% of the population may be 12 dB more sensitive than the average person to low-frequency noise. He also noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) places a special emphasis on low-frequency noise as an environmental problem and source of sleep disturbance, even at low levels. The WHO<sup>[38]</sup> acknowledges that a noise consisting of a large proportion of low-frequency components may considerably increase AHEs and should be limited to below 40 dBA. Cummings<sup>[39]</sup> notes that sound levels of 40 dBA trigger high levels of community pushback.

Jung et al<sup>[40]</sup> experimentally identified the characteristics of acoustic emissions from large upwind wind turbines, with emphasis on ILFN. The sound spectral density showed that the blade-passage frequency component is clearly dominant, revealing up to 6-7 harmonics that generally occupy the infrasonic frequency region of 1 to 10 Hz. They voiced a concern that the low-frequency noise of the 1.5-MW and 600-kW wind turbines in the frequency range over 30 Hz would very likely lead to psychological complaints from ordinary adults.

In responding to a bylaw to restrict wind turbine infrasound in the town of Plympton-Wyoming, Ontario, Leventhall<sup>[41]</sup> declared that “Infrasound has become the Godzilla of acoustics” (p. 2). He concluded that science does not support the conditions in the bylaw, which was largely aimed at restricting blade-passing tones, because “There is no evidence that the very low level of blade passing tones affects humans, whilst there is evidence that it does not” (p. 7). Based on the kinds of evidence just discussed, we strongly disagree.

WTN has been described as having a character that makes it far more annoying and stressful than other sources of noise at the same A-weighted level, including traffic and industrial noise.<sup>[42, 43, 44, 45]</sup> Harrison<sup>[42]</sup> concluded that IWTs cause annoyance<sup>[42]</sup> in about 20% of residents living within a distance considered acceptable by most regulatory authorities, and that for many of the 20%, the



annoyance and sleep disturbance lead to AHEs. Thorne<sup>[46]</sup> has pointed out that human perception of noise is based primarily on sound character rather than sound level, and that wind turbines are unique sound sources that exhibit special audible and inaudible modulated and tonal characteristics. He states that sound levels of 32 dBA Leq outside a residence and/or above an individual's threshold of hearing inside the home are markers for serious AHEs, especially among susceptible individuals.

Structural and human responses to low-frequency noise, including noise from wind turbines, have been described by Hubbard.<sup>[47]</sup> Hubbard and Shephard<sup>[48]</sup> illustrated the special characteristics of WTN by explaining its sources, pathways, and receptors. Thorne<sup>[46, 49]</sup> described wind turbines and *wind farms* as a unique source of sound and noise, like no other noise source or set of noise sources. The sounds are often of low amplitude and shifting in character, making it difficult for people who have never been exposed to such sounds to understand the problems of those who complain about the sounds. Shepherd et al<sup>[50]</sup> have described WTN as having characteristics sufficiently different from other, more extensively studied, noise sources to justify the application of standards different from pre-existing noise standards.

The preponderance of evidence on this point leads to the conclusion that WTN has special acoustic characteristics that distinguish it from other industrial sounds. A primary feature is that it consists of measureable energy down to below 1 Hz.<sup>[24, 51, 52]</sup> Its sound pressure level decreases rapidly with increasing frequency from about 0.5-5 Hz. It varies in amplitude over time,<sup>[9, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58]</sup> it tends to have an intermittent tonal quality,<sup>[49, 52, 59]</sup> and its characteristics vary with distance and direction.<sup>[52, 53]</sup> It can result in an impulsive sound,<sup>[21, 40, 49, 60]</sup> even at long distances.<sup>[52]</sup> According to Lee et al,<sup>[53]</sup> the swishing sounds of turbines can be perceived from all directions, but at long distances from a turbine, low-frequency amplitude-modulated sounds can be heard only in particular directions and when the SPL is sufficiently high. This effect may make the WTN seem more impulsive at long distances despite an overall SPL that is relatively low.

Furthermore, ILFN from any source, including IWTs, is well known to penetrate walls and other barriers (e.g., Minnesota Department of Health<sup>[55]</sup>); is typically more disruptive indoors than outdoors,<sup>[46, 47, 61, 62, 63]</sup> and is not easily masked by atmospheric sounds, including road traffic and other sources of infrasound.<sup>[63, 64, 65, 66]</sup> The perception of low-frequency noise depends on density level, modulations, bandwidth, purity of blade-pass tones and harmonics, discrete beating tones, or other time-varying properties, and can occur even at near-infrasonic frequencies if any of these factors is present; otherwise, it might pass unnoticed.<sup>[57, 67, 68]</sup> James<sup>[69]</sup> describes the

infrasound occurring when wind turbine blades rotate past the tower as a short pressure pulse that consists of a well-defined array of tonal harmonics below 10 Hz. If the pressure peaks are received at the same time, they sum in a linear manner that significantly raises the overall SPL. Often, however, there are many wind turbines rotating at similar speeds, but not synchronized in time. This can lead to another form of modulation as the wind turbine infrasound is perceived as rising and falling, intermittent, or pulsating with variable intensity.

A common argument of wind industry proponents—one that is sometimes raised in legal proceedings—is that humans themselves generate infrasound by virtue of their own heartbeat and breathing, at levels that can be substantially higher than an external noise source such as wind turbines. In a rebuttal to a formal statement to this effect by the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC), Salt has provided a definitive explanation of why the two sources of infrasound (internal vs. external) cannot be equated. In a letter addressed to the AAAC,<sup>[70]</sup> Salt stated:

“Stimulation of the ear occurs not directly by pressure (which is why deep sea divers can still hear) but by induced motions of the inner ear fluids, which in turn move sensory tissues and motion-sensitive cells....when low frequency and infrasound enters the ear via the stapes, it causes fluid movements throughout the entire ear between the stapes in the vestibule, through scala vestibuli and scala tympani to the compliant round window membrane at the base of scala tympani. It is these fluid movements that drive sensory tissue movements and cause stimulation. In contrast, pressure fluctuations generated by the body, such as by heartbeat and respiration, enter the ear via the cochlear aqueduct, not through the stapes. The cochlear aqueduct enters the ear adjacent to the round window membrane in the very basal part of scala tympani, so the fluid flows are localized in this tiny region of the ear. As the rest of the ear is bounded by a bony shell which is not compliant, fluid flows in the rest of the ear are substantially lower so that displacements of sensory tissues are negligible. Infrasound generated by the body, because it enters through the aqueduct, therefore does not cause stimulation of the ear.”

***Statement 3: There is no evidence that wind turbine noise, audible or inaudible, is the cause of adverse health effects in people, and there are no physiological mechanisms to explain how inaudible acoustic energy can be harmful.***

In fact, there is ample evidence that noise in general, and especially low-frequency noise, has long-term consequences for human health.<sup>[71, 72]</sup> For example, long-term exposure to ordinary traffic noise has been associated in a dose-dependent manner with higher risk of myocardial infarction.<sup>[73]</sup>

Two landmark reports embodying diametrically opposing perspectives with regard to the impact of WTN on health appeared almost concurrently in 2009. One was published as a book by Dr.

Nina Pierpont,<sup>[4]</sup> a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics who holds an MD degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a PhD degree in Population Biology from Princeton University. The other report was written by a panel of seven experts (three physicians, two acousticians, an audiologist, and an audiologist/hearing scientist) commissioned by the American Wind Energy Association and the Canadian Wind Energy Association. The latter report<sup>[15]</sup> is commonly referred to as the AWEA/CanWEA report, or white paper. These respective reports, more than any others, quickly became the rallying cry for so-called anti-wind and pro-wind advocacy groups in the media, in the public discourse, and in court proceedings.

In her book, Pierpont<sup>[4]</sup> coined the term *Wind Turbine Syndrome* to describe a range of symptoms reported for 38 family members (adults and children) of 10 families who lived near wind turbines. Based on telephone interviews, she treated her observations and analyses as a case-series research design. She described the syndrome as consisting of 10 classes of symptoms (enumerated below), many of which she attributed to overstimulation of the vestibular system of the inner ear by ILFN. The wind industry, in its AWEA/CanWEA report and elsewhere, has vigorously criticized her study for being non-scientific and non-peer-reviewed. In fact, Pierpont's book was critically reviewed by far more than the usual number of reviewers for a peer-reviewed journal article. While it is true that case series are prone to selection bias, and can at best suggest hypotheses, many discoveries of new phenomena begin with a case study or case series. Furthermore, an increasing body of scientific evidence supports Pierpont's observations of a relationship between WTN and AHEs. More recent laboratory research, described later in this review, suggests that a variety of health symptoms may be due to ILFN stimulation of both vestibular and cochlear components of the inner ear.

Prior to Pierpont's book,<sup>[4]</sup> Dr. Amanda Harry<sup>[74]</sup> and Dr. Robyn Phipps and colleagues<sup>[75, 76]</sup> had documented the occurrence of ill effects from IWTs by use of questionnaire-based surveys of the health complaints of people living near wind projects in Cornwall, England, and Palmerston North, New Zealand, respectively. These authors concluded that a substantial number of people living near wind turbines suffer from health problems and that the cause of the disturbances was the complexity of the noise and vibration. Harry<sup>[74]</sup> observed that the symptoms were evident for people living within a mile from the wind development and recommended that no wind turbine should be sited closer than 1.5 mi. from the nearest residents. She noted that the guidelines used at the time to site wind turbines were developed when the turbines were 20% the size of the current ones. She concluded that annoyance from noise adversely affects human well-being, and that developers are wrong when they state that WTN is not a problem. Phipps et al<sup>[75]</sup> noted that 45% of households living within 2 km of the wind farm and 20% of households living up to 8

km away reported hearing noise from the turbines. Phipps<sup>[76]</sup> reported on the negative consequences of noise that were evident in her own survey and in the works of others, warning that residents do not readily habituate to the presence of WTN.

The AWEA/CanWEA report<sup>[15]</sup> has been widely used by the wind industry as a basis for its denial of AHEs from IWTs. However, the report is the product of a hand-picked group of experts, at least some of whom were known to hold positions favorable to the report's sponsors, it was never peer-reviewed, and it shows signs of bias, such as conclusions not supported by the research referenced in the report. That white paper concluded that sound from wind turbines, including sub-audible low-frequency sound, does not pose a risk of hearing loss or any other AHE in humans, whether those health effects are described as Wind Turbine Syndrome or otherwise. It also concluded that some people may be annoyed at the presence of sound from wind turbines, including its fluctuating nature, but described annoyance as unrelated to health. Although there is indeed no evidence that IWTs causes hearing loss, the report's conclusion that ILFN does not cause AHEs, and its dismissal of annoyance as a serious entity, have been heavily criticized as erroneous. Horner et al<sup>[77]</sup> cite many specific examples of the AWEA/CanWEA report's failure to use proper documentation, concluding that it lacks scientific merit and that it is neither authoritative nor convincing. They criticized the report's conclusion that the issue of AHEs stemming from IWTs is settled and that no more research is required, a conclusion that is rarely voiced by scientists. Horner<sup>[78]</sup> has characterized the report as offering nothing new in its treatment of annoyance, as annoyance has long been known to result from the stress effects of exposure to noise, and he criticized the report for downplaying the relationship between annoyance and health. Phillips<sup>[79]</sup> has indicated that the report mischaracterized the research designs used by epidemiologists. Despite widespread denial by wind industry advocates of a causal relationship between IWTs and AHEs, the vast majority of peer-reviewed papers have shown that IWTs significantly disturb sleep in at least some residents at distances and noise levels that are typical where IWTs are installed. Furthermore, not a single well-designed scientific study has found WTN to be harmless.<sup>[80, 81]</sup>

A panel of seven independent experts was commissioned by the Massachusetts Departments of Environmental Protection and Public Health to identify any documented or potential health impacts of risks that may be associated with exposure to IWTs and to facilitate a discussion of IWTs and public health based on scientific findings. The panel generated a report<sup>[82]</sup> concluding that scientific evidence is lacking to show that WTN leads to AHEs and that a more comprehensive assessment of WTN in populated areas is needed for establishing and refining siting guidelines and for developing best practices. Closer investigation was recommended near

homes where outdoor A- and C-weighted levels differ by more than 15 dB, a strategy for detecting the presence of ILFN (e.g., Kamperman & James<sup>[83]</sup>). The Massachusetts report has been criticized as misrepresenting the evidence it cites, as well as underestimating evidence indicative of AHEs from IWTs.<sup>[84, 85]</sup> Schomer and Pamidighantam<sup>[86]</sup> have described the report as a critique of the literature relating to wind turbine acoustic emissions and health effects, and one with problems similar to those it criticizes.

Some laypersons have remarked disparagingly in the media on the factual evidence—including observations and scientific reports—that shows a relationship between IWTs and AHEs. Shahan,<sup>[87]</sup> for example, confidently states: “To date, there is no scientific evidence that anything such as ‘Wind Turbine Syndrome’ actually exists.” A common argument of wind energy advocates is that studies show that wind turbines do not lead to AHEs, or that studies that draw such a conclusion are not sufficiently scientific to establish causation. Efforts to discredit those who take a skeptical view toward the wind industry commonly use terms such as *opponents*, *detractors*, *anti-wind activists*, or in the case of Shahan,<sup>[87]</sup> “paid anti-wind ‘experts’ who have a long history of directly testifying against wind energy in various court cases.” Such critics casually ignore the fact that many of the industry experts, including consulting acousticians and physicians, routinely testify on behalf of the industry in such cases, sometimes for substantial fees, and those individuals are rarely described as paid pro-wind experts or activists.

Numerous researchers have reported the existence of a constellation of health symptoms, either directly mirroring or closely related to those described as Wind Turbine Syndrome by Pierpont,<sup>[4]</sup> in persons living near IWTs. Significantly, the WHO<sup>[38]</sup> states that there is sufficient evidence that nighttime noise, irrespective of its source, is related to self-reported sleep disturbance and other health problems, and that these effects can lead to a considerable burden of disease in the population.

Sleep disturbance has been identified as a major adverse impact of IWTs.<sup>[4, 18, 45, 47, 54, 57, 58, 72, 74, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107]</sup> Nighttime exposure to 40-dBA low-frequency noise has been shown to affect cortisol levels, a physiological indicator of stress. Those levels, following awakening, have been found to be associated with subjective reports of lower sleep quality and mood changes.<sup>[108]</sup> Sleep is a biological necessity, and disturbed sleep is associated with a number of adverse health conditions. The WHO<sup>[71]</sup> has concluded that there is available, good-quality evidence supporting a causal association between noise and sleep disruption. Sleep disturbance has important implications for public health and may be a particular problem in children.<sup>[84, 94, 109]</sup>

Even if no other adverse effects were associated with WTN, sleep disturbance alone is a sufficient reason to site turbines at distances that do not disrupt sleep. Many rural communities have background, nighttime sound levels that do not exceed 25 dBA, and observable effects of nighttime, outdoor noise do not occur at levels of 30 dBA or lower.<sup>[71]</sup> As outdoor sound levels increase, the risk of AHIEs increases, the most vulnerable populations being the first to show their effects. Vulnerable populations include elderly persons; children, especially those younger than age six; and people with pre-existing medical conditions, especially if sleep is affected.<sup>[38, 71]</sup> According to the WHO, there is ample evidence to link AHEs with prolonged exposure to outdoor sound levels of 40 dBA or higher. It is important to note that the WHO guidelines are based largely on industrial and transportation noise research, and not on wind turbine research. Because multiple studies (covered in this review) have indicated that WTN is significantly more annoying, has higher infra- and low-frequency sound energy, and is modulating, pulsatile, and sometimes tonal, it may impact health to a greater degree than other noises. This means that noise limits in the WHO guidelines may need to be adjusted downward when applied to WTN.

Additional factors increase the probability of sleep disruption due to WTN. The noise can be heard especially well in areas with low background noise levels, which usually occur at night. Also, lower nighttime wind speeds at ground level increase the nighttime contrast between WTN and background sound levels. Using test data taken during daytime wind conditions will result in a large underestimate of nighttime WTN levels, and thus underestimate the potential for sleep disruption.<sup>[38, 58]</sup>

Researchers who have studied the impacts of ILFN in general and WTN specifically on health, including some who have reviewed and assessed the findings of other researchers, have attributed a variety of symptoms to ILFN exposure. Those symptoms have been variously described by different researchers, with varying degrees of overlap and detail. They are shown, in no particular order, in Table 1.

Clearly, in addition to annoyance, the most commonly experienced and least-contested health symptom suffered by people living near IWTs is sleep disturbance.<sup>[110]</sup> Both the United Nations Committee against Torture (CAT) and the Physicians for Human Rights<sup>[111]</sup> describe sleep deprivation as critical to human functioning. According to Physicians for Human Rights:

“Sleep deprivation ... 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” (p. 22).

Table 1. Health symptoms described by different researchers as linked to exposure to infrasound and low-frequency noise, including exposure to industrial wind turbines.

Author (Year)	Reference	Symptomatology
Pierpont (2009)	4	Sleep disturbance; headache; Visceral Vibratory Vestibular Disturbance (VVVD); dizziness, vertigo, unsteadiness; tinnitus; ear pressure or pain; external auditory canal sensation; memory and concentration deficits; irritability and anger; and fatigue and loss of motivation
Leventhall (2003) Kasprzak (2014)	12 112	Vibration of bodily structures (chest vibration), annoyance (especially in homes), perceptions of unpleasantness (pressure on the eardrum, unpleasant perception within the chest area, and a general feeling of vibration), sleep disturbance (reduced wakefulness), stress, reduced performance on demanding verbal tasks, and negative biological effects that include quantitative measurements of EEG activity, blood pressure, respiration, hormone production, and heart rate
Havas & Colling (2011)	91	Difficulty sleeping, fatigue, depression, irritability, aggressiveness, cognitive dysfunction, chest pain/pressure, headaches, joint pain, skin irritations, nausea, dizziness, tinnitus, and stress
Horner (2013) Paller et al (2013)	78 113	Headaches, nausea, tinnitus, vertigo, and worsened sleep
Jeffery et al (2013)	92	Sleep disturbance; subjective complaints such as headaches, fatigue, temporary feelings of dizziness, and nausea; objective complaints such as vomiting, insomnia, and palpitations; annoyance; and reduced quality of life (QoL)
Jeffery et al (2014)	93	Negative impacts on the physical, mental and social well-being of people
Krogh et al (2012)	96	Annoyance (regarded as an adverse health effect associated with stress), sleep disturbance, headaches, difficulty concentrating, irritability, fatigue, and a variety of more-serious ailments
Minnesota Department of Health (2009)	55	Annoyance, reduced quality of life, sleeplessness, and headache
Howe Gastmeier Chapnik Limited (2010)	114	High levels of annoyance in a non-trivial percentage of persons, with annoyance associated with sound from wind turbines expected to contribute to stress-related health impacts in some persons

Author (Year)	Reference	Symptomatology
Nissenbaum (2013)	81	Sleep disturbances/sleep deprivation and the multiple illnesses that cascade from chronic sleep disturbance, which include cardiovascular diseases mediated by chronically increased levels of stress hormones, weight changes, and metabolic disturbances (including the continuum of impaired glucose tolerance through diabetes); psychological stresses that can result in cardiovascular disease, chronic depression, anger, and other psychiatric symptomatology; headaches, auditory and vestibular system disturbances; an increased requirement for and use of prescription medication; tinnitus; and vertigo
Nissenbaum et al (2012)	97	Increased sleep disruption, reduced mental health
Thorne (2013)	49	Sleep disturbance, headache, tinnitus, ear pressure, dizziness, vertigo, nausea, visual blurring, tachycardia, irritability, problems with concentration and memory, and panic attack episodes
Pawlaczyk-Luszczyńska et al (2005)	115	Problems with vision, concentration, and continuous and selective attention (especially in persons who are highly sensitive to low-frequency noise)
Pedersen (2011)	99	Annoyance (both outdoors and indoors), statistically related to SPLs; sleep interruption, diabetes, and tinnitus (at one of three test sites); annoyance outdoors, significantly related to sleep interruption, tension, stress, irritability (at all three sites), headache (at two sites), and undue fatigue (at one site); annoyance indoors, significantly related to sleep interruption (at all three sites), and to diabetes, headache, undue fatigue, tension, stress, and irritability (at one of three sites)
Roberts & Roberts (2013)	102	Vibration or fatigue, annoyance or unpleasantness
Shepherd & Billington (2011)	103	Annoyance, which has been linked to increased levels of psychological distress, stress, difficulty falling asleep, and sleep interruption
Taylor (2013)	58	Annoyance, stress, sleep disturbance, interference with daily living, headache, irritability, difficulty concentrating, fatigue, dizziness, anxiety, and reduced QoL
Ambrose et al (2012)	61	Dizziness, irritability, headache, loss of appetite, fatigue, inability to concentrate, a need to leave the home, and a preference for being outdoors (during investigations of WTN by seasoned researchers, including acousticians)
Rand et al (2011)	116	
Thorne (2011)	46	Sleep disturbance, anxiety, stress, and headaches



Author (Year)	Reference	Symptomatology
Palmer (2013)	117	Negative impacts on sleep, job stability, social relationships, care giving, pursuit of hobbies, leisure, learning, and overall health (based on interviews of residents four years after living near operational wind turbines)
Castelo Branco & Alves-Pereira (2004)	118	Vibroacoustic disease, described as occurring only after extensive exposure to high levels of infrasound
Castelo Branco (1999)	119	

Other sources quoted by the Physicians for Human Rights<sup>[111]</sup> note that:

“A review of the medical literature reveals numerous adverse cognitive effects of sleep deprivation including impaired language skills-communication, lack of innovation, inflexibility of thought processes, inappropriate attention to peripheral concerns or distractions, over-reliance on previous strategies, unwillingness to try out novel strategies, unreliable memory for when events occurred, change in mood including loss of empathy for colleagues, and inability to deal with surprise and the unexpected” (pp. 22-23).

Another line of reasoning is that there is a cause-effect relationship between AHEs and ILFN from wind turbines that mirrors that in motion sickness. Kennedy et al<sup>[120]</sup> made acceleration recordings during 193 standard training mission scenarios for two moving-base flight trainers. The pilots, who were of comparable age and experience in both groups, were interviewed for motion sickness symptomatology and tested for ataxia after leaving the simulators. Motion sickness incidence was high for one of the simulators, but not for the second. Ataxia scores departed slightly from expected improvements following exposure in both simulators. Spectral analyses of the motion recordings showed significant amounts of energy in the *nauseogenic range* of 0.2 Hz. The authors concluded that simulator sickness in moving-base simulations may be, at least in part, a function of exposure to infrasonic frequencies that make people seasick. Later, von Gierke and Parker<sup>[121]</sup> advanced the notion that motion sickness may involve an intermodal sensory conflict between visceral graviceptor signals and vestibular stimulation. Schomer and colleagues<sup>[52, 86]</sup> have argued that similarities with motion sickness may explain some of the health symptoms suffered by individuals living near IWTs, given that the inner ear is capable of responding to accelerations of the kind that lead to seasickness. These accelerations correspond to frequencies in the infrasonic range, around and under 1 Hz. Schomer<sup>[66]</sup> states that

some persons affected by WTN may be responding directly to acoustic factors, rather than to non-acoustic factors, as argued by Leventhall.<sup>[14]</sup>

In a rare show of cooperation between the wind industry and independent acousticians, Pacific Hydro agreed to allow acoustician Steven Cooper, a consultant for The Acoustic Group,<sup>[25]</sup> unlimited access to its Cape Bridgewater wind project in SW Victoria, which had been in operation for about six years. The company allowed Cooper to make noise measurements and independently investigate the noise complaints of six affected residents at three residences located 650-1,600 m from the nearest turbines while the company controlled the on-off cycling of turbine operation. Given Cooper's credentials as an acoustician, the study was described as an acoustical study, as opposed to a medical study. Noise levels were based on A-, G-, and Z-weighted measurements, as well as 1/3-octave band and narrow-band measurements. Participants vacated their homes at night when necessary for Cooper to perform his acoustic studies, and they provided detailed diary accounts of their observations during on-off cycles. Those accounts included severity ratings of perceptions of noise impacts, vibration impacts, and other disturbances, which were collectively labelled as *sensations*. The sensations included headache; pressure in the head, ears, or chest; ringing in the ears; heart racing; or a sensation of heaviness. Synchronization of the timing of the residents' experiences with turbine operational data revealed heightened sensations inside their dwellings during turbine operation. Sensations were not dependent on the ability to hear or see the turbines, as residents were not aware of any of the turbines' operational characteristics. Cooper found that *sensation*, and not *noise disturbance*, was the major disturbance identified. Furthermore, sensations were most related to several different operating conditions of the turbines: at start-up, when there was an increase or decrease in power output of about 20%, and when the turbines were operating at maximum power and the wind speed increased above 12 m/sec.

Based on narrow-band data, Cooper identified a unique *wind turbine signature* (WTS) in which there was an energy peak at the blade-pass frequency and first five harmonics. Shutdown testing confirmed that the WTS, which included an amplitude-modulated signal, was present when the turbines were operating, but not in a natural environment during a turbine shutdown. Participants rated sensations as proportionally more severe as increases occurred in the magnitude of the low-frequency amplitude-modulated signature. The identification of infrasound components was consistent with earlier observations of Kelley et al.<sup>[19]</sup> Based on his findings, Cooper recommended that further studies be conducted to determine a threshold level of the WTS that protects against adverse impacts, and that the signature concept be used in medical studies by

identifying energy from the operation of wind turbines, as the A-weighted scale inside homes is of no assistance in such studies.

In consideration of the above findings and observations, it is reasonable to conclude that IWTs cause AHEs and other unwanted disturbances. We next examine the physiological mechanisms that may explain how inaudible infrasound can be harmful.

In a recent paper, Berger et al<sup>[122]</sup> concluded that ILFN levels are insufficient to induce AHEs, given the levels of ILFN typically produced by wind turbines, and that guidelines for audible noise are sufficient to protect human health. Their conclusions were based on measurements of indoor infrasound levels and low-frequency noise levels at distances >500 m that were similar to background levels. While we believe the design and major conclusions of their study to be faulty, their conclusions are consistent with the position taken by Leventhall and other wind energy advocates over the past decade.

In her original description of Wind Turbine Syndrome, Pierpont<sup>[4]</sup> described a distinctive constellation of symptoms that she believed to be due to stimulation, or overstimulation, of the vestibular organs of balance as a consequence of ILFN from wind turbines. She termed these symptoms Visceral Vibratory Vestibular Disturbance (VVVD). In a follow-up report, Pierpont<sup>[100]</sup> suggested that the observed symptoms of Wind Turbine Syndrome are due to airborne or body-borne low-frequency sounds that directly stimulate the inner ear, both the cochlea, or hearing organ, and the vestibular organs of balance and motion detection. As discussed below, research by Salt and associates shows that responses in the cochlea suppress the perception of low-frequency sound but still send signals to the brain, signals whose function is, at present, mostly unknown. The physiologic response of the cochlea to WTN is also a trigger for tinnitus and the brain-cell-level reorganization that tinnitus represents. Although cochlear and vestibular organs are housed within the same bony (otic) capsule, evolutionary adaptations have led to selective activation of auditory or vestibular hair cells. In the presence of certain disorders of the inner ear, however, anatomical defects in the otic capsule can alter the functional separation of auditory and vestibular stimuli, resulting in pathological activation of vestibular reflexes in response to sound.<sup>[123]</sup> The possibility that high-level ILFN can stimulate the vestibular organs lends credibility to Pierpont's suggestion and may explain the basis for symptoms that mimic other vestibular disorders. Physiologic responses from the otolith organs generate a wide range of brain responses, including dizziness and nausea, seasickness (even without bodily movement), fear and alerting responses such as startle and wakefulness, and difficulties with visually based problem-solving.<sup>[100]</sup> One candidate for the other destination of cochlear input from the outer hair cells may be the interface between the insula and the medial surface of the transverse (Heschl's)

gyrus, where primary hearing is experienced but not recognized as sound; the latter involves adjacent secondary areas.<sup>[124]</sup>

WTN can increase alerting responses that disturb sleep, even when people do not recall being awakened. This effect is one that clearly disturbs sleep and mental well-being out to 1,400 m (4,600 ft.) from turbines, with diminishing effects out to 3 km (3 mi.), as shown in a cross-sectional study by Nissenbaum et al.<sup>[97]</sup>

Laboratory studies conducted by Salt and colleagues have provided evidence that clearly establishes the biological plausibility that infrasound can adversely affect health. That work shows that there are mechanisms in the inner ear that are capable of transducing infrasonic energy into a neural signal that can be transmitted to the brain, where the signals can lead to such symptoms as tinnitus, dizziness, pulsations, and sleep disturbance. Those studies by Salt and associates have involved laboratory experiments funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health and conducted mostly on guinea pigs, whose ears are very similar to human ears. Basically, electrodes were inserted into the inner ears to determine which structures respond to specific types of electroacoustic stimulation. Their findings help to explain why sound that is normally inaudible can result in the kinds of negative reactions reported by people who are exposed to wind turbine ILFN. Findings from their research indicate the following:

- (1) The inner hair cells (IHCs) of the inner ear, which are primarily responsible for transmitting signals to the brain that are interpreted as sound, are velocity-sensitive, and thus unresponsive to infrasound. The outer hair cells (OHCs), on the other hand, are displacement-sensitive and respond to infrasonic frequencies at levels well below those that are heard (i.e., interpreted as sound). This suggests that most IWTs produce an unheard stimulation of OHCs;<sup>[56, 125, 126]</sup> specifically, at 5 Hz the OHCs can be stimulated at sound pressures 40 dB below those that stimulate the inner hair cells associated with conscious hearing.<sup>[126]</sup>
- (2) Low frequencies, which are coded in the cochlear apex, require less low-frequency SPL to be amplitude modulated, when compared to higher frequencies, which are coded in the cochlear base. This means that amplitude modulation of audible sounds by wind turbine infrasound may be the basis for complaints of those living near wind turbines, including complaints such as annoyance or feelings of throbbing and rumbling sensations. It also means that infrasound from wind turbines need not be audible to annoy people, since infrasound can amplitude modulate sounds that are within the range of audibility.<sup>[54]</sup>

- (3) There are several ways that infrasound could affect people, even though they cannot hear it:
  - (a) causing amplitude modulation (pulsation) of heard sounds, (b) stimulating subconscious pathways, (c) causing endolymphatic hydrops, and (d) possibly potentiating, or exacerbating, noise-induced hearing loss.<sup>[127]</sup>
- (4) Responses to infrasound reach the brain through pathways that do not involve conscious hearing but instead may produce sensations of fullness, pressure or tinnitus, or absence of sensation. Activation of subconscious pathways by infrasound could disturb sleep.<sup>[128]</sup>
- (5) The presence of other, higher-pitched sounds (between 150-1,500 Hz) can suppress infrasound.<sup>[129, 130, 131]</sup> Because the ear is maximally sensitive to infrasound when higher frequency sounds are absent, this means that WTN is most disturbing to persons inside their homes at night, when background sound levels are low and higher-pitched sounds are attenuated by walls and other physical structures.
- (6) A pathway exists, through the OHCs, for infrasound to reach the brain. There, parts of the brain other than auditory centers become active and the signals are perceived as something other than sound. This pathway to the brain, which also includes the vestibular mechanism of the inner ear, means that it is biologically plausible for infrasound to produce a variety of sensations, including pulsation, annoyance, stress, panic, ear pressure or fullness, unsteadiness, vertigo, nausea, tinnitus, general discomfort, memory loss, and disturbed sleep (with chronic sleep deprivation leading to blood pressure elevation and possibly changes in heart rate).

On the above grounds, Salt dismisses the common perception that *What we can't hear can't hurt us*, and has stated unequivocally that “Wind turbines can be hazardous to human health.”<sup>[132]</sup>

Interestingly, Oohashi et al,<sup>[133]</sup> using non-invasive physiological measurements of brain responses, found evidence that sounds containing *high-frequency* components *above* the audible range, or ultrasound, significantly affect the brain activity of healthy human listeners. It should not be considered implausible, therefore, that infrasonic stimulation can also activate the brain.

Recent research supports the plausibility of such effects. Bauer et al,<sup>[134]</sup> using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), found a significant response down to the 8 Hz, the lowest frequency presented, to be localized within the auditory cortex. Using magnetoencephalography (MEG), significant brain responses could be detected down to a frequency of 20 Hz. The authors hypothesized that a somatosensory excitation of the auditory cortex possibly contributes at these frequencies. In a somewhat related study, He and Krahe<sup>[135]</sup> demonstrated a significant relationship between EEG reactions under different low-frequency noise exposures and

subjective annoyance. Noise sensitivity was also found to be an important factor in most of the observations. The authors of these two studies suggested that EEG, fMRI, and MEG may serve as effective physiological measures to explain negative reactions to low-frequency noise.

Kugler et al<sup>[136]</sup> measured spontaneous otoacoustic emissions (SOAEs) before and after stimulation with perceptually unobtrusive low-frequency sound (30 Hz) and found significant changes to occur; these changes were positively correlated in frequency and level to pre-exposure status and lasted for about 2 min after stimulation. SOAEs are narrow-band acoustic signals that are spontaneously emitted by the inner ear in the absence of acoustic stimulation, and they can be recorded simply and non-invasively in the ear canal with a sensitive microphone. Otoacoustic emissions, first reported by physicist David Kemp,<sup>[137]</sup> are a by-product of active biophysical amplification by OHCs in the cochlea, persisting in relatively stable form for years under normal physiological conditions. The main task of the OHCs is to detect and mechanically amplify sound waves. In acting as a cochlear amplifier, OHCs actively generate mechanical energy, which is fed back into the cochlear travelling wave to maximize the sensitivity and dynamic range of the mammalian ear. In humans, non-invasive recordings of different classes of sound-evoked otoacoustic emissions (EOAEs) allow indirect access to OHC function, but only SOAE measurements can probe the cochlea in its natural state. The presence of OAEs signals a healthy ear, and their absence or changes in their response patterns can signal pathological function. The significance of the work by Kugler et al is that it reveals OHC function to be affected by a brief exposure to very low-frequency sound that is largely imperceptible. It also reveals that measures of perception severely underestimate OHC sensitivity. The authors concluded that direct quantifications of inner ear active amplification, as measured in their study, are well suited for assessing the risk potential of low-frequency sounds. In the present context, the study provides further support for the notion that what we can't hear can potentially affect us.

Motion sickness has been mentioned in this article as being among the variety of symptoms suffered by individuals living near IWTs. Recalling the work of Kennedy et al,<sup>[120]</sup> who found evidence of motion sickness in Navy pilots subjected to acceleration during flight simulation, Schomer et al<sup>[138]</sup> stated that it is plausible that the ear responds similarly to accelerations of a moving vehicle and acoustic pressures at infrasonic frequencies under 1 Hz, in the nauseogenic range. They suggested that the AHEs experienced as a consequence of exposure to IWTs not only bear a striking resemblance to motion sickness, but that the condition may be induced by stimulation of the otolithic organs in the vestibular system of the inner ear. That type of stimulation is purportedly worse when a person is subjected to pressure changes in a closed

cavity, including inside one's home. Further, they describe the type of research needed to verify their hypothesis.

Michaud and colleagues have recently authored a series of papers<sup>[139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145]</sup> describing a cross-sectional epidemiological study conducted under the sponsorship of Health Canada, in which they investigated the prevalence of health effects or health indicators among a sample of Canadians exposed to WTN. The studies employed both self-reported and objectively measured health outcomes. The final sample, drawn from communities in Ontario and Prince Edward Island where a sufficient number of dwellings were located near wind turbine installations, included 1,238 participants (606 males, 632 females) living between 0.25 and 11.2 km from operational turbines. One participant between the ages of 18-79 years was randomly selected from each household. The reported response rate was 78.9% and did not significantly vary across sampling strata or provinces. Modelled A- and C-weighted WTN levels reached 46 dBA and 63 dBC, respectively, and the two levels were found to be highly correlated, which suggested that C-weighted values offered no additional information beyond that offered by A-weighted values. Only minor differences across strata were reported for age, employment, and type and ownership of dwelling. WTN exposure was not found to be related to hair cortisol concentrations, blood pressure, resting heart rate, or any of several measured sleep parameters (i.e., sleep latency, sleep time, rate of awakenings, sleep efficiency). Self-reported results obtained through an in-person questionnaire did not provide support for an association between increasing WTN levels and self-reported sleep disturbance, use of sleep medication, or diagnosed sleep disorders. Similarly, no significant association was found between WTN levels and self-reported migraines, tinnitus, dizziness, diabetes, hypertension, perceived stress or any measure of QoL. However, they observed statistically significant exposure-response relationships between increasing WTN levels and the prevalence of long-term high levels of annoyance toward noise, shadow-flicker, visual impacts, blinking lights, and vibrations.

The authors of the present report, along with a number of professional colleagues with acoustical or medical expertise, have carefully analyzed the reports by Michaud and colleagues and have concluded that the research protocol of the Health Canada study reflects shortcomings that severely undercut the conclusions that were drawn in the various reports. To enumerate the major flaws in the Michaud et al reports:

- (1) They incorrectly concluded that AHEs were not found when sound levels were below 46 dBA by failing to benchmark their "surrogate control group" against the general population. Proper analysis, using a proper control group, would have resulted in high correlations of these symptoms with decreasing distances to, and increasing noise levels from, wind

turbines. In reports of the sound-exposure data, sound levels of 30-35 dBA were significantly associated with increases in the prevalence rates of symptoms. This indicates that the 40 dBA currently used as the permissible threshold in Ontario and other Canadian provinces is not protective of the public's health and welfare.

- (2) Key health symptoms were reported primarily for non-vulnerable populations, in that younger individuals and individuals who had left their homes were excluded from participation. Those exclusions invalidate the study as a reflection of health conditions in the general population.
- (3) Evidence provided by the World Health Organization<sup>[38]</sup> showing that exposure to noise from vehicles, railways, and aircraft is linked to serious physiological and psychological health effects at sound levels of 40 dBA and higher, and that lower levels are needed to protect the more vulnerable members of the population, was ignored in the Health Canada study. The finding that AHEs did not occur below 46 dBA should have been a warning sign to the researchers that their study design, their analyses, or both, were flawed.

***Statement 4: Setback distances of 1,000-1,500 ft. (approximately 0.3-0.5 km) are sufficiently safe to protect humans from harm, regardless of height or other physical characteristics of the IWTs.***

Many zoning ordinances that regulate IWTs specify the height of the turbine tower from its base to blade tip, plus 10% to 100%, as a setback distance that sufficiently protects residents against a catastrophic event such as a tower failure, a falling blade, or ice throw. Some ordinances specify a distance of twice the base-to-blade tip height, roughly 900 ft., while others arbitrarily specify slightly longer distances such as 1,500 ft. or 0.5 km. Most of the reported health symptoms have been observed at distances much greater than these setback distances. One can deduce, therefore, that *setbacks intended to protect physical health from mechanical or other traumatic failure of a wind turbine component are not adequate to protect general health and well-being.*

While terrain, weather patterns, number and size of turbines, and the turbine array itself can influence the ILFN emitted from IWTs, the two major factors are turbine size and distance from the receiver. Distance is the only practical means of achieving acceptable sound levels, as controlling the noise through the erection of barriers or enclosures near the source or receiver are not feasible or effective. Because infrasound is involved, closing windows, insulating buildings (including residences), and sleeping in basements are not normally helpful in attenuating the noise, and there is less likelihood that the emissions will be masked by wind at ground level.<sup>[60]</sup>

<sup>[46]</sup> Noise levels must be measured by qualified personnel, and the sound level at the residence—or arguably at the property line—is the key element in protecting the health of residents.



To protect human health, a number of researchers have recommended specific distances, while others have recommended limitations on sound levels, irrespective of the distances needed to achieve those levels. Such recommendations are based on observed or reported complaints of AHEs. Though quite specific, the recommendations vary somewhat widely, as shown in Table 2.

The recommendations in Table 2 include boundaries of distance and noise levels of 0.5-2.5 mi. and 30-40 dB, respectively, that are believed by various professionals to protect human health. Although the use of maximum permissible noise levels appears to be the optimal approach for protecting the greatest number of people, the existence of multiple acoustic and environmental factors complicates our ability to recommend a single distance or noise level that protects most residents. Those factors are covered elsewhere in this review.

Table 2. Recommended minimum siting distances and maximum noise levels of industrial wind turbines, based on the protection of human health.

Author (Year)	Reference	Distance/Level
Pierpont (2009)	4	Distance of 1.25 mi, or 2 km
Kamperman & James (2008)	83	
Nissenbaum et al (2012)	97	Minimum distance of 0.87 mi, or 1.4 km, based on experimental conditions studied
Harry (2007)	74	Minimum distance of 1.5 km from nearest turbine
Frey & Hadden (2007)	90	2 km between family dwellings and IWTs of up to 2-MW installed capacity, with greater separation for a wind turbine greater than 2-MW installed capacity
Shepherd & Billington (2011)	103	4 km, to protect against amplitude-modulated turbine noise
Position of the National Institute of Public Health-National Institute of Hygiene on wind farms (2016)	147	A minimum distance of 2 km of wind farms from buildings
Cummings (2011)	39	Distance of ½ mi or greater; noise levels within 5-10 dB of existing background conditions; sound levels below 40 dBA, or even 30-35 dBA, as levels of 40 dBA or higher trigger large numbers of noise complaints
World Health Organization (2009)	38	Outdoor sound levels <40 dBA, with vulnerable populations expected to be most affected

Author (Year)	Reference	Distance/Level
Knopper et al (2014)	148	Sound levels <40 dBA, for non-participating receptors
Horner (2013)	78	Sound levels <30 dB
Harrison (2011)	42	Sound levels limited to 35 dBA at nighttime and 40 dBA during daytime hours; 5-dBA and 4-dBA penalties, respectively, imposed for the periodic or impulsive character of turbine noise and for uncertainty in noise prediction
Thorne (2013)	49	Sound levels <32 dB LAeq outside a residence

***Statement 5: Annoyance is a nuisance, but it is not a health issue.***

In the past few years, the position of the wind industry has changed from a blanket denial of any impact from noise to admitting that IWT noise is annoying to a substantial portion of exposed populations, and that annoyance from ILFN is a well-accepted phenomenon. While Bolin et al<sup>[18]</sup> and Ellenbogen et al<sup>[82]</sup> downplay the relationship between annoyance and WTN, the larger research community has documented that ILFN from wind turbines and other sources leads to annoyance.<sup>[12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 37, 38, 40, 42, 46, 49, 55, 58, 59, 63, 64, 74, 78, 80, 81, 90, 92, 94, 98, 99, 102, 118, 146, 149, 150]</sup>

Several investigators have concluded that annoyance increases in a dose-response relationship as distance from turbines is reduced.<sup>[44, 89, 146]</sup> A number of studies have concluded that noise annoyance appears to be worse when nearby residents have negative attitudes and when visual annoyance or intrusive sound characteristics are also involved.<sup>[e.g., 44, 65, 112, 146, 151]</sup> However, the annoyance from visual stimulation and the annoyance from noise may be entirely independent. The two irritants do not have to be linked. The common factor is that as one moves closer to a wind turbine, it is perceived as both larger *and* louder. One recent study,<sup>[152]</sup> which compared visual, audible noise, and combined visual-auditory representations of wind turbines, found noise sensitivity to correlate with both noise and visual annoyance. That study also demonstrated a reciprocal influence between auditory and visual stimuli, but in essentially a direction opposite that predicted by earlier studies of wind turbine visibility and noise. Interestingly, the study showed that a visual stimulus had a mitigating effect on noise annoyance, while an auditory stimulus had a disturbing effect on visual annoyance. This finding supports the idea that humans perceive the environment holistically and in context of all perceptual information. In suggesting that auditory and visual features are processed in close interaction, it forces us to question the idea that annoyance from WTN arises largely because the turbines are visible. Given our current

state of knowledge, it seems reasonable to accept that people can be annoyed by auditory and visual irritants independently, even though there may be interactions between them.

Annoyance occurs in residents living near wind turbines at lower sound levels than for transportation noise, industrial noise, or other sources.<sup>[38, 42, 43, 58, 64, 93]</sup> Perception and annoyance have been found to be associated with both urbanized and rural terrains.<sup>[149]</sup> Pedersen et al,<sup>[146]</sup> in summarizing survey data on annoyance from wind turbines in the Netherlands and Sweden, found that 25% or more of all respondents were annoyed by levels of 40-45 dBA, while about 18-20% were very annoyed by those levels. A total of 18% found outdoor levels of 35-40 dBA to be rather annoying or very annoying outdoors and 8% found those levels to be rather or very annoying indoors. For outdoor levels of 40-45 dBA, 18% and 16% were rather or very annoyed outdoors and indoors, respectively. Because such surveys tend to emphasize *noise* from wind turbines, results often reflect levels of annoyance that relate more directly to audible sounds, as opposed to infrasound.

While few would argue that noise from wind turbines annoys a substantial percentage of nearby residents, there is disagreement over whether it leads to AHEs. Colby et al<sup>[15]</sup> stated that:

“...there is no evidence for direct physiological effects from either infrasound or low frequency sound at the levels generated from wind turbines, indoors or outside” (p. 3-8).

They reasoned, therefore, that annoyance is not a pathological entity. Their basic contention was that although wind turbines produce infrasound, it is not harmful because people can't hear it. They contended that while some people may be annoyed by the sound from wind turbines — presumably audible sound—annoyance is primarily due to the fluctuating nature of the noise and personal attitudes. In their view, it is a psychological reaction, as opposed to a direct physiological reaction to sound. As noted above, however, several investigations<sup>[44, 89, 146]</sup> have found a dose-response relationship to exist between measured or estimated sound levels and annoyance. IWT noise emissions have been found to be a mediator between exposure and sleep disturbance and psychological distress,<sup>[89]</sup> and to be directly associated with stress.<sup>[e.g., 104]</sup>

The documented health symptoms from exposure to wind turbines are often stress-related and exacerbated by sleep disorders; they appear to be mediated through both direct and indirect pathways, and the result can be serious harm to human health.<sup>[92]</sup> There is an association between WTN, stress, and well-being, and this association is a potential hindrance to psycho-physiological restitution.<sup>[58, 98]</sup> The WHO has described annoyance as a critical health effect, in that in some people it is associated with stress, sleep disturbance, and interference with daily living.<sup>[38]</sup> A range of symptoms, often described as stress responses, have been associated with

WTN in people living in the vicinity of wind projects. As Pierpont<sup>[4]</sup> and others have noted, these symptoms include headache, irritability, difficulty concentrating, fatigue, dizziness, anxiety, and sleep disturbance. Regardless of whether the perceived impacts of noise from wind projects are physiological or psychological in nature, they are considered to cause AHEs through sleep disturbance, reducing the quality of life and serving as a source of annoyance that sometimes leads to stress-related symptoms.<sup>[71]</sup> The potential of environmental noises to induce stress reactions is well known. These reactions are dependent on how the noises are interpreted in the central nervous system; medical effects such as increased blood pressure, for example, are known to result from prolonged noise exposure.<sup>[153]</sup>

Generally, models that explain the relationship between noise and health fall into two broad

categories, based on pathways that are *direct* or *indirect*.

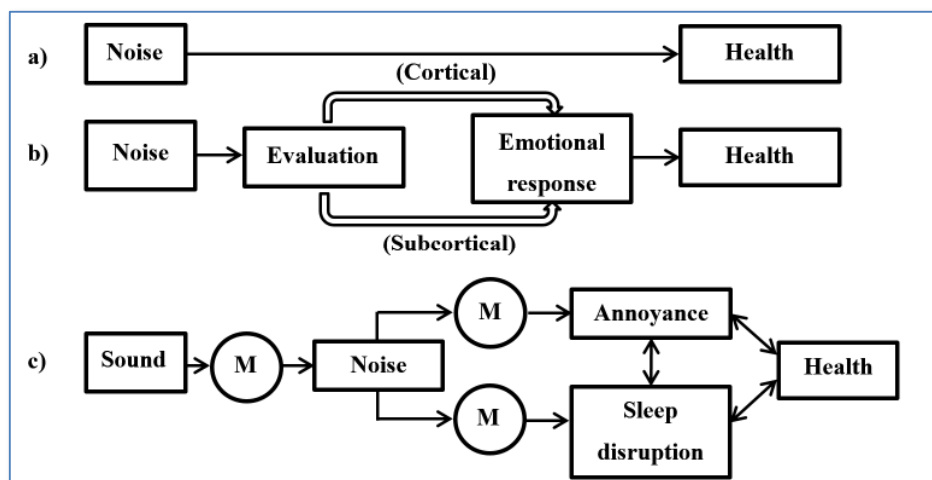


Figure 1, which is a modification of a figure from Shepherd et al,<sup>[50]</sup> depicts three models, one direct and two indirect, that have been described in the contemporary literature. The first (Fig. 1a) represents a direct pathological relationship between

Figure 1. Three models representing the relationship between noise and health: the biomedical model (a) stipulating a direct causal relationship and indirect models (b and c) containing moderators and mediators (Adapted from original source and used with permission of first author, Daniel Shepherd).<sup>[50]</sup>

an environmental parameter (e.g., noise level) and a target organ that affects health. For example, in this model, noise can affect both cognition and sleep, and thus directly impact health. An alternative approach (Fig. 1b) distinguishes between direct health effects and psychosomatic illness. This approach suggests that any physiological illness coinciding with the onset of WTN may be caused by a negative psychological response to the noise, and not the noise *per se*. Any anxiety or anger resulting from the presence of WTN induces stress and strain that, if maintained, can eventually lead to AHEs. Another explanation that involves an indirect pathway from sound to health effects is one that is consistent with the WHO's definition of health.<sup>[38]</sup> That model (Fig. 1c) recognizes the role of environmental moderators, or mediators, in the determination of whether a sound is (unwanted) noise, and, if so, whether or not the noise

negatively impacts health. Mediators include factors such as degree of urbanization, house type, and sound level, and psychological and demographic moderators such as age, gender, education, employment status, attitudes to wind energy, noise sensitivity, and whether the individual receives a monetary return from the turbines. In this model, sleep disruption plays a major role in producing AHEs, with annoyance and sleep disruption being intervening factors between noise and AHEs for some people.

Authors of a recent study,<sup>[154]</sup> which focused on the province of Ontario, acknowledge both the link between annoyance and health and the possibility that wind projects can exacerbate psychosocial health problems through social processes such as intra-community conflict. They list socially mediated health concerns, distribution of financial benefits, lack of meaningful engagement, and failure to treat landscape concerns seriously, as the core stumbling blocks to a community's acceptance of wind energy development.

***Statement 6: Noise cannot account for all of the complaints of people living in the vicinity of wind turbines; there must be another, unknown reason for the complaints.***

Havas & Colling<sup>[91]</sup> have observed that wind turbines generate electromagnetic waves in the form of poor power quality (*dirty electricity*) and ground current, and speculate that these waves can adversely affect those who are electrically hypersensitive. McCallum et al<sup>[155]</sup> performed magnetic field (EMF) measurements in the proximity of 15 Vestas 1.8-MW wind turbines, two substations, various buried and overhead collector and transmission lines, and nearby homes in the vicinity of Goderich, Ontario, during high-wind, low-wind, and shut-off operational stages. They concluded that there is nothing unique to wind farms with respect to EMF emissions, finding that magnetic field levels in the vicinity of wind turbines were lower than those produced by many common household electrical devices and that levels were well within any existing regulatory guidelines with respect to human health.

Although at least a few of the health symptoms mentioned above have been self-reported by individuals who are exposed to electromagnetism, clinical trials to date suggest the link between health complaints and exposure to electromagnetism to be a purely psychological one, or a placebo effect, in that self-described sufferers of electromagnetic hypersensitivity are unable to distinguish between exposure and non-exposure to electromagnetic fields.<sup>[156]</sup> Another review paper<sup>[157]</sup> found no convincing scientific evidence that symptoms are caused by electromagnetic fields. However, one cannot rule out that the design of the experiments upon which the review papers drew their conclusion may have missed some unique characteristic that could account for the anecdotal evidence. (See our earlier statements describing how failure to identify infrasound

pulsations as a causal factor for perception at pressure levels below those needed for audibility have led some to conclude that IWT infrasound causes no harm.) When faced with health complaints from families who live near IWTs, especially when there are repeated instances of symptoms that wax and wane with alternating sequences of exposure and non-exposure, and especially when those families have taken the drastic step of abandoning their homes, it is unreasonable to argue that noise is not the cause of the complaints. Even if other factors such as electromagnetic waves are the root cause of a given complaint, it is still the placement of turbines too close to those residents that is the most likely cause of the problem.

Unfortunately, not as much is known about the effects of electromagnetism as is known about ILFN. At this point in time, therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that more people who live near wind turbines are negatively affected by ILFN than by hypersensitivity to dirty electricity or ground current, as measurable levels of ILFN from wind turbines are highly associated with individual complaints. When Stigwood et al<sup>[57]</sup> studied and analyzed complaints at over 75 wind developments in the U.K., they found that identifying the problems was straightforward, occurrence was common (i.e., some residents reported problems in all developments), all developments generated excess amplitude modulation (AM), and AM was the cause of the vast majority of the complaints. These findings have recently been reinforced by Cooper's work<sup>[25]</sup> in Australia.

***Statement 7: Infrasound from wind turbines is sufficiently correlated to the A-weighted sound emissions to allow an A-weighted model to be used to predict how much infrasound is present in homes.***

This statement is not typically stated explicitly, but it is one that is inherent in the positions commonly taken by wind energy advocates and regulatory bodies through their interpretations and acceptance of research on WTN, which is based largely on A-weighted levels. As noted in many previous papers, including one of our own,<sup>[101]</sup> the continued use of the A-weighting scale in sound level meters is a major basis for misunderstandings that have led to acrimony between advocates and opponents of locating wind turbines in residential areas. The dBA scale was devised as a means to incorporate into measurements of environmental and industrial SPLs the inverse of the minimum audibility curve<sup>[158]</sup> at the 40-phon level. It is typically used, though, to specify the levels of noises that are more intense, where the audibility curve becomes considerably flattened, obviating somewhat the need for A-weighting. Use of the A-weighted scale is mandated or recommended in various national and international standards for measurements that are compared to damage-risk criteria for hearing loss and other health effects resulting from occupational or environmental noise exposure. It drastically reduces sound-level

readings in the lower frequencies, beginning at 1,000 Hz, and reduces sounds at 20 Hz by 50 dB. For WTN, the A-weighting scale is especially inappropriate because of its devaluation of the effects of ILFN. Many authors have commented on its inadequacy. For example, Pederson and Persson Waye<sup>[159]</sup> state:

“There is... support both from experimental and field studies that intrusive sound characteristics not fully described by the equivalent A-weighted sound pressure level contribute to annoyance with wind turbine noise” (p. 4).

A number of researchers have recommended comparing C-weighted measurements to A-weighted measurements when considering the impact of sound from wind turbines.<sup>[10, 12, 37, 61, 67, 75, 76, 83, 101]</sup> According to these sources, the presence of infra- and low-frequency sound is generally indicated when the difference between levels on the two scales differs by 10-20 dB. When such differences are observed, the use of third-octave or linear-scale measurements is typically recommended (for example, see Shepherd et al<sup>[50]</sup>). Other weighting scales have been suggested for wind turbine applications, but at present, linear-scale or narrow-band measurements, used in conjunction with a conventional sound level meter (with low-frequency microphone) and micro barometer, offer the best potential for accurately and completely describing the soundscape in the vicinity of IWTs.

As noted above, Cooper<sup>[25]</sup> has suggested that A-weighted levels, measured inside homes, are not likely to be useful indicators of AHEs. That report concluded that A-weighted levels are not a valid index of protection from AHEs and recommended the further exploration of a newly developed *wind turbine signature* scale, based on the discovery of its capability to quantify the amplitude-modulated peak energy in the infrasonic frequency region. That scale was shown to be directly linked to a variety of adverse bodily sensations when nearby turbines were operating or undergoing transitions in operation.

Although A-weighted sound level measurements have been the *sine qua non* for specifying environmental and occupational noise levels for many decades, we must recognize the inherent inadequacies of applying the A-weighting scale to quantifying noise emitted by IWTs. Bray<sup>[160]</sup> goes even further by noting that people, and not electronic devices, are the ultimate analysts of data that affect their responses to sound, making the point that people's responses should be given the credence they deserve, and not be devalued when physical measurements fail to confirm them.

***Statement 8: Wind Turbine Syndrome has not been accepted as a diagnostic entity by the medical profession, so medical professionals cannot diagnose or treat it.***

Currently, Wind Turbine Syndrome is not included in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) coding system, which is used globally for purposes of establishing categories for diagnosing diseases and other health conditions, and as a basis for reimbursing medical providers for diagnostic and treatment services. Yet, of the 10 symptom sets comprising Pierpont's Wind Turbine Syndrome,<sup>[4]</sup> at least seven are included as a category or subcategory in the newly revised (ICD-10) coding system. The fact that the syndrome itself is not included may be due to its relatively recent discovery, but is more likely due to the fact that the syndrome consists of symptoms that are highly variable from person to person and affect a minority of the exposed population.

Especially in legal proceedings, it is important to distinguish between the terms *differential diagnosis* and *causation assessment*. It is the latter that is most often the subject of such proceedings. Attorneys and expert witnesses often get the terms confused. Differential diagnosis refers to the identification of disorder(s) that may account for a particular complaint or symptom complex. It rarely deals with the external cause of the disorder. Causation assessment, on the other hand, typically requires an evaluation of whether potential causative agents have irritating properties; a determination of the approximate amount of exposure, or dose, of that agent, and the timing between exposure (and non-exposure) and the occurrence of symptoms; and an assessment of whether alternative potential causes of the disorder can be ruled out. These latter steps are not necessarily considered part of the diagnosis.

Notwithstanding the fact that Pierpont herself is a practicing pediatrician, a couple of recent developments would appear to increase the prospect that medical personnel will soon be able to establish Wind Turbine Syndrome, by that or a similar label, as a clinical entity caused by exposure to WTN. Dr. Robert McMurtry, a physician who is a special advisor to the Canadian Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care, and a long-time advocate for more effective public involvement in healthcare policy, recently published a set of highly specific criteria for establishing such a link. McMurtry<sup>[161]</sup> originally proposed a case definition that identifies first-, second-, and third-order criteria, as well as specified circumstances and symptoms that must be established before AHEs can be attributed to wind turbine exposure. According to those criteria, probable AHEs are present when:

- (1) All four of the following first-order criteria are met: (a) The individual resides within 5 km of IWTs, (b) Health status is altered following the start-up of or initial exposure to, and during



the operation of, IWTs (a latent period of up to 6 months may be allowed), (c) Amelioration of symptoms occurs when more than 5 km from the environs of IWTs, and (d) Recurrence of symptoms occurs upon return to the environs of IWTs within 5 km.

- (2) At least three of the following second-order criteria are met (occurring or worsening after the initiation of operation of IWTs): (a) Compromised quality of life, (b) Continuing sleep disruption, difficulty initiating sleep, and/or difficulty with sleep disruption, (c) Annoyance producing increased levels of stress and/or psychological distress, and (d) A preference to leave the residence temporarily or permanently for sleep restoration or well-being.
- (3) At least three specified symptoms occur or worsen following the initiation of IWTs, those symptoms referred to as third-order criteria that fall within the following categories: (a) Otological and vestibular disorders, (b) Cognitive disorders, (c) Cardiovascular disorders, (d) Psychological disorders, (e) Regulatory disorders, or (f) Systemic disorders.

To be confirmed as AHEs from WTN exposure, McMurtry indicated that consideration should be given to other stressors present in the community, that sleep studies be carried out if at all possible, and that a licensed physician be able to rule out alternate explanations for AHEs. These alternate explanations include substantial barometric changes from prevailing winds, a stressful home environment, and psychological and/or mood disorders, all of which can normally be ruled out when symptoms subside or disappear when the individual leaves the vicinity of the wind turbines. Apart from these three factors, he indicates that there are very few, if any, other health conditions that can mimic those caused by exposure to wind turbines and at the same time meet the three orders of criteria outlined in his case definition. More recently, McMurtry and Krogh<sup>[162]</sup> published a revised case definition, in which the third-order criteria—which are commonly present—are not considered essential elements. In both papers, the authors acknowledged that the identification of IWTs as the cause of adverse health symptoms is a complex emerging issue that requires further study to validate the criteria. They proposed key elements that ought to be included in any model used to assess the validity of the case-definition criteria.

McCunney and colleagues<sup>[163]</sup> have challenged those case definitions as having poor specificity, leading to a substantial potential for false-positive assessments and missed diagnoses. A potential fallacy in this challenge is that the authors unnecessarily conflate the concept of case definition for medical practitioners with that of an epidemiologic research plan. The case definitions presented by McMurtry<sup>[161]</sup> and McMurtry and Krogh<sup>[162]</sup> represent guidelines for medical doctors whose individual patients are experiencing new or unusual symptoms. It is erroneous to purport that a physician's mental process can be encapsulated into a set of equations, especially

during the earliest stages of developing a case definition. The criticisms of these early case definitions should not deter physicians from attempting to evaluate and treat patients who report AHEs after living in the vicinity of IWTs. This area may indeed benefit from further study. Our view, however, is that such criteria provide an adequate starting point for guiding medical practitioners.

Dr. Steven Rauch, an otolaryngologist at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and a professor at Harvard Medical School, recently declared that he believes Wind Turbine Syndrome to be a real phenomenon.<sup>[164]</sup> As reported by numerous websites and newspapers, multiple patients have sought treatment from him for AHEs stemming from consistent exposure to IWTs. Rauch compares the syndrome to migraine headaches and believes that people who suffer from migraines are among the most sensitive to the effects of WTN, and he has stated that the wind industry aims to suppress the notion of Wind Turbine Syndrome by blaming the victim.

Given these developments, it is possible that the medical profession may someday embrace Wind Turbine Syndrome—by that or another name—as a clinical entity. This prospect is encouraging, as such acceptance by the profession will facilitate efforts to protect individuals from the harmful health effects of exposure to IWTs. Even though it may be some time before such a diagnostic label is formally acknowledged as an ICD code, it is currently possible for physicians to identify many of the specific symptoms associated with wind turbine exposure and to bill for diagnosing and treating those symptoms, with or without regard for their underlying cause. Paradoxically, it is apparently the case that the most effective treatment for AHEs associated with WTN exposure is non-medical in nature; it is to recommend that patients physically remove themselves from the vicinity of IWTs.

***Statement 9: Peer-reviewed epidemiological literature is the only acceptable basis for proving a causative relationship between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects.***

This issue runs as a thread through virtually all the other issues addressed in this paper, as it relates to the kind of scientific evidence frequently called for, especially in legal settings, to prove that IWTs are the cause of AHEs. While personal physicians of complainants in legal cases are often considered the only expert witnesses qualified to establish *specific causation*, others can testify to *general causation*, which is the methodology by which scientists determine whether or not an agent is responsible for producing a particular disorder. In general, this requires evaluation of the scientific and medical literature to identify documented instances of health-related conditions arising from exposure to specific agents and, when available, the dose-response relationships between agents and their effects. This process is highly similar to that of

*causation assessment*, as explained above, and it does not necessarily require the input of a complainant's personal physician, although such input may be helpful. In legal cases involving WTN, it is critical that expert witnesses in acoustics and health be able to reconcile their positions with the reports and standards of the WHO,<sup>[165]</sup> the International Organization of Standards (ISO),<sup>[166]</sup> and the American National Standards Institute/Acoustical Society of America (ANSI/ASA)<sup>[167]</sup> that have linked low-frequency noise to symptoms of the type involved in complaints. These acoustical documents and research reports are seldom, if ever, included in literature reviews used by the industry to deny potential health risks. If challenged on the validity of the available evidence, acousticians need to be knowledgeable of the relevant acoustical standards and make sure that they are understood by all parties. In reality, the wind industry's almost universal refusal to cooperate with researchers has made it virtually impossible to conduct proper acoustical or epidemiological studies. The industry has been largely unwilling, or claims it is unable, to shut down or modify operations of its turbines for experimental purposes. To date, such a situation has rarely occurred, most notably in the case of the Cape Bridgewater study.<sup>[25]</sup>

The veracity of Statement 9 is strongly challenged by the classic address by Sir Austin Bradford Hill,<sup>[168]</sup> Professor Emeritus of Medical Statistics, University of London, to the newly founded Section of Occupational Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine. In his essay, Hill shared his thinking about association and causal evidence surrounding environmental disease. He posited nine elements that are critical in establishing causation:

- (1) *strength* (strength of observed relationships),
- (2) *consistency* (consistency, or repeatability, of relationships, based on observations by different persons, in different places, under different circumstances, and at different times),
- (3) *specificity* (causation is indicated if the association is limited to specific individuals and to particular sites and types of disease and there are no associations with other factors),
- (4) *temporality* (there is a clear temporal relationship between outcomes and periods of exposure and non-exposure),
- (5) *biological gradient* (a dose-response relationship exists),
- (6) *plausibility* (causation is more likely when certain outcomes are biologically plausible, or possible, a caveat being that plausibility depends on the biologic knowledge of the day; this element is best expressed in the statement: "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth" (p. 10),

- (7) *coherence* (the cause-and-effect interpretation of data should not seriously conflict with generally known facts of the natural history and biology of the disease),
- (8) *experiment* (experimentation or semi-experimental evidence, even if only occasional, can reveal the strongest kind of evidence for causation), and
- (9) *analogy* (the recognition that similar cause-effect relationships have occurred under similar conditions).

Hill states:

“What I do not believe (is) ...that we can usefully lay down some hard-and-fast rules of evidence that must be obeyed before we can accept cause and effect. None of my nine viewpoints can bring indisputable evidence for or against the cause-and-effect hypothesis and none can be required as a *sine qua non*. What they can do, with greater or less strength, is to help us to make up our minds on the fundamental question – is there any other way of explaining the set of facts before us, is there any other answer equally, or more, likely than cause and effect?... No formal tests of significance can answer those questions. Such tests can, and should, remind us of the effects that the play of chance can create, and they will instruct us in the likely magnitude of those effects. Beyond that they contribute nothing to the ‘proof’ of our hypothesis” (p. 299).

Hill makes this final observation in his essay:

“All scientific work is incomplete – whether it be observational or experimental. All scientific work is liable to be upset or modified by advancing knowledge. That does not confer upon us a freedom to ignore the knowledge we already have, or to postpone the action that it appears to demand at a given time” (p. 300).

Extrapolating from Hill’s essay, the totality of our knowledge gained from the available evidence must be considered when examining the link between WTN and AHEs. Fortunately, in addition to experimentation, this evidence includes simple tools that are useful, particularly if we are willing to recognize their collective value. Those tools begin, but do not end, with adverse health reporting.

Dr. Carl Phillips, a specialist in epidemiology and science-based policy making, and a former professor of public health, has stated:<sup>[169]</sup>

“In cases of emerging and unpredictable disease risk, adverse event reports are the cornerstone of public health research. Since it is obviously not possible to study every possible exposure-disease combination using more formalized study methods, just in case an association is stumbled on, collecting reports of disease cases apparently attributable to a particular exposure is the critical first step” (p. 304).

He gives familiar examples of hazards revealed by adverse event reporting, including infectious disease outbreaks and side effects from pharmaceuticals. He points out that:

“Pharmaceutical regulators rely heavily on clearinghouses they create for adverse event reporting about drug side effects (and often become actively concerned and even implement policy interventions based on tens of reports)” (p. 304).

Phillips indicates that the case of wind turbines and health fits the same pattern. He describes adverse event reporting as a special type of case study—sometimes denigrated as anecdotes—that generally reports on the rapid onset of a disease that appears to be related to a particular exposure. He advocates self-reporting of adverse events as a highly useful approach in studying the health effects of wind turbines. In addition, he advocates the use of case-crossover experiments as useful and well-accepted sources of epidemiologic information, stating that they are intuitively recognized by both experts and laypersons seeking to assess whether an exposure is causing specifiable outcomes.

Other forms of evidence, all considered scientific, have been or can be used to determine the impacts of WTN on health. These include case studies, case-series studies, and other pre-experimental, quasi-experimental, true experimental, correlational analysis, and single-subject designs. Single-subject designs, like the case-crossover design used by epidemiologists, can also be applied across multiple individuals to reveal relationships between specific interventions and changes in outcomes in individuals or groups. In both designs, subjects serve as their own controls while crossing over from one treatment to another (A vs. B) during the course of the experimental trial. Both are flexible designs and useful in studying events that are infrequent or sporadic. Numerous individuals living near IWTs have experienced health symptoms that have waxed and waned during repeated cycles of exposure (A) and non-exposure (B), which indicates that the wind industry has unwittingly engaged individuals and families worldwide in a series of quasi-empirical studies for many years, without obtaining informed consent from un-enrolled subjects, typically by downplaying any concerns about potential health impacts. The outcomes from these experiments offer some of the strongest evidence available that there is a causative link between WTN and AHEs in some individuals.

According to the WHO,<sup>[170]</sup> epidemiology is “the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events (including disease), and the application of this study to the control of diseases and other health problems. Although the randomized clinical trial (RCT) is generally considered the *gold standard* of designs for establishing causation, various methods can be used to carry out epidemiological investigations: surveillance and descriptive studies can be used to study distribution; analytical studies are used to study determinants.” Epidemiology uses a

systematic approach to study the differences in disease distribution in subgroups and allows for the study of causal and preventive factors.<sup>[171]</sup> Descriptive epidemiological studies describe the occurrence of outcomes, and analytical studies reveal associative linkages between exposure and outcomes. Descriptive studies include primarily case reports and case-series studies. Analytic designs include experimental studies such as community trials and randomized controlled clinical trials, and observational studies, in which observations can be made retrospectively, concurrently, or prospectively. Observational studies include those in which either grouped (i.e., ecologic) or individual data are collected, the latter normally favored by the scientific community. Those designs involving individual data include cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, and case-crossover studies. Although epidemiological studies rely on statistical analyses of relationships between exposure to specific agents and AHEs in relatively large samples of the population, they are not aimed at revealing the cause of a disease or disorder in specific individuals. A cogent summary of research designs used in *evidence-based medicine* can be found online.<sup>[172]</sup>

Cross-sectional studies survey exposures and disease status at a single point in time in a cross-section of the population. They measure prevalence, not incidence, of a disease process, and have the disadvantage of difficulty in establishing the temporal sequence of exposure and effect. Also, rare and quickly emerging events may be difficult to detect. Their major advantage is that data can be collected at the same time on all participants, which means the study can be completed in a relatively short time. Notably, several cross-sectional investigations of the effects of WTN exposure have been reported.<sup>[44, 97, 98, 99, 104, 149]</sup> These studies serve as major contributions to the scientific literature on the subject.

Cohort studies involve an observational design in which a sample of the population is followed to discover new events.<sup>[75]</sup> They compare individuals with a known risk factor or exposure with others without the risk factor or exposure and aim to determine whether there is a difference in the risk, or incidence, of a disease over time. They tend to be the strongest observational design, especially when the data are collected prospectively, as opposed to retrospectively. Compared to the cross-sectional design, cohort studies tend to require more time, which partially explains the paucity of such studies involving wind turbine exposure.

Case-control designs compare exposures in diseased cases vs. healthy controls from the same general population. Specific disease states must be known prior to initiation, and exposure data must be collected retrospectively. This design can be applied to cases of IWT exposure, despite the fact that it requires the cooperation of affected and unaffected segments of the same population, a circumstance made difficult by attempts on the part of energy companies to

maintain confidentiality and privacy as a means to facilitate wind turbine development in areas involving both participants and non-participants.

In case-crossover studies, which are a special type of case-control design, the *case* and *control* components reside in the same individual. This design is especially useful in investigating triggers of a disease process within an individual. In the behavioral sciences, it is commonly referred to as a *single-subject design*, as already described. The case component signifies the hazard period, which is the time period before the disease or event onset (e.g., exposure to IWTs), and the control component signifies a specified time interval other than the hazard period, namely the non-exposure interval. As already mentioned, wind companies themselves have unwittingly subjected residents to the basic conditions of this design, and results clearly suggest that exposure to WTN leads to a variety of health complaints in some individuals and families. Phillips<sup>[79]</sup> argues that:

“A case-crossover study is one of the most compelling sources of epidemiologic data. It consists of observing whether someone’s outcomes change as their exposure status changes. This is often not possible because the outcomes only happen a single time as a result of long-term exposure (e.g., cancer) or the exposure cannot be changed. But the observed effects of turbine exposure lend themselves perfectly to such studies because the exposure is transient and the effects, while not instantaneous in their manifestation or dissipation, are generally transient over a period of days or weeks at most. Thus, unlike a case of a lifelong exposure or non-transient disease, where we can only make one observation about disease and outcome per person, the effects of turbines allow multiple observations by the same person, including experimental interventions” (p. 305-306).

Turning to experimental designs, the clinical trial is considered the ideal design to test hypotheses of causation. In a clinical trial, the investigator has control of the exposure to an extent similar to a laboratory experiment. The subjects generally are randomly assigned to one of at least two groups, an experimental and a control group. The experimental group receives the treatment (i.e., exposure in the case of wind turbines) and the control group does not; instead, it usually is subjected to a condition that simulates a generic treatment of some type, and the purpose and procedures of the control condition are explained only after the experiment ends.

A fully developed clinical trial of residents who live near wind turbines has never been conducted, and the reasons are fairly clear if we consider the circumstances surrounding such a trial. In a rigorous trial done to establish the link between AHEs and WTN, the investigator would randomly assign hundreds of people selected from the general population—including adults and children, elderly adults, and chronically ill adults—to either an experimental or a control group. Randomization would control for pre-experimental biases toward or against wind

energy, as well as for other factors that could confound the outcome. The experimental group would be required to spend a significant period (day and night for weeks or months) in homes located between approximately 1,000 ft. and several miles from the nearest wind turbine. The control group would be required to take up residence several miles or more away from the nearest wind turbine, where they would presumably be free from any effects due to extraneous noise or infrasound. Homeowners who leave their homes, as well as research participants occupying those homes, would have to adjust to new residences and modify their work and school activities, eating patterns, and overall lifestyles. Participants in both groups and at least some of the homeowners who vacate their homes for the experiment would have to be reimbursed for their participation, as well as for the costs incurred as a result of their participation, and the research staff would also have to be paid. To maintain some control across sites, the average age and health status within each group should be equivalent, and data would have to be gathered regarding such factors as turbine size, wind speed and other weather conditions, length of time the turbines were operating, terrain, the exact distance of each participating family from the nearest turbines, and actual noise levels present outside and inside the homes. Scientifically rigorous methods for measuring low-frequency noise and infrasound would have to be agreed upon and used. Although self-report via a survey technique could be part of the experimental design, medical examinations and physiological measurements, including sleep studies, should also be incorporated into the research protocol.

While possible, it is not practical to expect such a study design, in its ideal form, to be implemented. Aside from the difficulty of recruiting and enrolling enough families in enough geographic areas to form statistically strong samples, legitimate ethical questions should be raised regarding the exposure of individuals, especially children and other vulnerable individuals, to potentially hazardous conditions. One might conjecture, however, that consent to participate in such a study could be gained from fully informed adults because the effects of WTN are widely believed to be reversible when a period of non-exposure follows a period of exposure.

***Statement 10: The nocebo effect, a manifestation of psychological expectations, explains why people complain of adverse health effects when living near wind turbines.***

This statement is the core position of some of the most outspoken critics of the view that IWTs cause AHEs. Any discussion of this statement should begin with an acknowledgment that human behavior and beliefs are highly variable and are often driven by psychological and emotional influences, and not just by observations, logic, intellectual knowledge, or cognitive thought processes. It is not surprising, therefore, that some have adopted the view that negative reactions



to wind turbines are based primarily or solely on psychological expectations. Our analysis of the limited literature on the topic leads us to state unequivocally that it is lacking in scientific rigor. Even if the results were as described, the existing studies and observations do not support a conclusion that psychological forces are the only or even primary explanation for most of the negative reactions toward IWTs. Here, we will critically review four papers, all supporting a psychological explanation for the negative reactions.

Chapman et al<sup>[173]</sup> tested four hypotheses relevant to psychogenic explanations of the variable timing and distribution of health and noise complaints about wind farms in Australia. They obtained records from the wind companies of complaints about noise or degraded health from residents living near 51 wind projects operating between 1993 and 2013 and corroborated those records with complaints documented by three government public agencies, news media records, and court affidavits. Complaints were expressed as proportions of estimated populations residing within 5 km of a wind project. The authors concluded that historical and geographical variations in complaints were consistent with psychogenic hypotheses expressing health problems as “communicated diseases,” with nocebo effects likely to play an important role in the etiology of complaints.

Nocebo effects are commonly described as being the opposite of placebo effects. While the *placebo effect* usually refers to a positive reaction to an inert substance—the placebo—the *nocebo effect* refers to a negative reaction to an inert substance—the nocebo. Both effects are psychogenic, but known to exert powerful influences on human physiology, behavior, and attitudes. Essentially, Chapman and his supporters believe that psychogenic reasons are the basis for health complaints about wind turbines, which they believe to be harmless.

Our major criticism of the work of Chapman et al is that wind companies typically engage in practices that discourage local residents to complain. These companies require participating residents to sign contracts before turbines are constructed and before the residents can receive compensation for leasing their land, and they often request non-participating residents to sign contracts prior to initiating a project. Those contracts, which are binding, often include gag clauses that effectively limit resident complaints. The contracts have often stipulated not only that residents refrain from voicing negative views of the wind project, but also that they support the development of future projects. Such conditions create an atmosphere in which it is highly unlikely that the records of wind companies, governments, courts, or the media will sufficiently reflect all of the complaints that residents have and would voice under less-restrictive circumstances. We argue that the only way to gather accurate data on such complaints is through a survey of either an adequate sample of residents living near multiple wind projects or all such

residents, where residents are free of restrictions by the wind companies. Such data would allow a valid determination of the proportion of residents who experience adverse effects. Whether that proportion is large or small, we could all act on the basis of factual evidence, as opposed to incomplete observations.

Another shortcoming of the study by Chapman et al,<sup>[173]</sup> which is less well documented but a factor observed in legal cases in which the present authors have been involved, is that residents near IWT projects tend to be delayed in their responses to AHEs. Many of them believe their health problems to be linked to other causes before suspecting that the turbines are the cause. Some or most of these individuals were supporters of wind projects prior to experiencing such problems, as Phipps et al<sup>[75]</sup> noted in New Zealand. The delay factor would mean that the types of records used by Chapman et al would not likely reflect the reactions of many affected residents.

Crichton and colleagues conducted two laboratory investigations, each of which has bolstered the argument that negative reactions to audible and inaudible WTN can be explained by psychological expectations. Crichton et al<sup>[174]</sup> conducted what they described as a sham-controlled double-blind provocation study, in which participants were exposed to 10 min of infrasound and 10 min of sham infrasound. Fifty-four participants were randomized to high- or low-expectancy groups and presented with audio-visual information, using material from the Internet that was designed to invoke either high or low expectations that exposure to infrasound causes specified symptoms. High-expectancy participants reported significant increases, from pre-exposure baseline assessment, in the number and intensity of symptoms experienced during exposure to both infrasound and sham infrasound. There were no symptomatic changes in the low-expectancy group. Healthy volunteers, when given information about the expected physiological effect of infrasound, reported symptoms that aligned with that information, during exposure to both infrasound and sham infrasound. According to the authors, results suggest that psychological expectations are sufficient to explain the link between wind turbine exposure and health complaints.

Punch<sup>[175]</sup> has criticized that study as methodologically weak, on the following grounds:

- (1) Subjects were never exposed to infrasound that adequately represented that to which residents near wind turbine projects are subjected. It is extremely unlikely that the employed studio woofer was capable of producing a 5-Hz stimulus; the authors did not describe or show a graph of the output spectrum. Even if a true infrasound stimulus was produced by their equipment, 40 dB (presumably SPL) was not sufficient to represent the level of

infrasound commonly produced by IWTs. Even if a sufficient stimulus had been produced to represent wind turbine infrasound, a 10-min exposure would have been meaningless in representing the duration of exposure that is likely necessary to produce any substantial health symptoms.

- (2) In effect, subjects were exposed to two sham conditions. If they had been exposed to infrasound that adequately mimicked infrasound from IWTs (preferably actual IWT infrasound), subjects in both the high- and low-expectancy groups would have had a physical stimulus (in the infrasound condition) that could have overridden, or at least moderated, their psychological reactions.
- (3) The design limited the study's external validity, the ability to generalize the results to other populations and situations. Most of the individuals who have reported AHEs from WTN, some of whom have abandoned their homes, are not people who were adequately warned of potential health effects prior to their exposures. In fact, most of them were likely told by the wind company to expect no harmful effects. Again, many individuals who report AHEs were advocates of wind energy prior to being exposed. Because the major premise underlying the study is that people complain of WTN based primarily on expectancies that align with prior information, the study is based on a false premise. Also, the recruitment of university students does not represent the type of subjects who are apt to complain about WTN. This population is probably the least vulnerable to the effects of WTN in that few, if any, were very young, very old, likely to have chronic health conditions, or disabled. Also, they are more likely to exhibit a response bias because they are less likely than prospective residents of a wind project to believe that they might be harmed by participating in an experiment. Furthermore, the extensive use of pretesting introduced reactive or interactive effects that could have affected post-test behaviors and ratings. Finally, the use of a laboratory setting and short exposure times, as opposed to a real-life setting in which wind turbine blades are turning at night and the subjects are inside a home, introduced situational effects that limit the ability to generalize the data. The authors admit this shortcoming in their statement:

“... exposure to infrasound in a listening room purpose (sic) built for sound experiments may not be directly comparable to exposure to infrasound from a wind farm” (p. 4).
- (4) This was an experiment whose outcomes could have been predicted, given the conditions employed. Aside from the fact that the outcome had virtually nothing to do with the real-world conditions of exposure to infrasound from wind turbines, none of the factors that influence how expectations can affect perceptions through top-down, or cognitive-based, processing, as opposed to bottom-up, or stimulus-based, processing, were controlled or even

discussed. (Interested readers should refer to Williams<sup>[176]</sup> for examples of the effects of top-down processing and for a discussion of how such experiments might be improved.)

In a second laboratory study by Crichton and colleagues,<sup>[177]</sup> similar in design to the first, the authors investigated whether positive expectations can produce a reduction in symptoms and improvements in reported health. Sixty participants were randomized to either positive or negative expectations and subsequently exposed to audible wind turbine sound and infrasound. According to the authors,

“Participants were ... exposed to infrasound (9Hz, 50.4dB) and audible wind farm sound (43dB), which had been recorded 1 km from a wind farm, during two 7-minute listening sessions. Both groups were made aware they were listening to the sound of a wind farm, and were being exposed to sound containing both audible and sub audible components and that the sound was at the same level during both sessions” (p. 2).

Prior to exposure, negative-expectation participants watched a DVD incorporating TV footage about health effects said to be caused by infrasound produced by wind turbines. In contrast, positive-expectation participants viewed a DVD that:

“...framed wind turbine sound as containing infrasound, sub audible sound created by natural phenomena such as ocean waves and the wind, which had been reported to have positive effects and therapeutic benefits on health” (p. 2).

The authors described the results as indicating that during exposure to audible wind turbine sound and infrasound, symptoms and mood were strongly influenced by subject expectations. Negative-expectation participants experienced a significant increase in symptoms and a significant deterioration in mood, while positive-expectation participants reported a significant decrease in symptoms and a significant improvement in mood. The authors concluded that if expectations about infrasound are framed in more neutral or benign ways, then it is likely that reports of symptoms or negative effects could be nullified.

That second investigation by Crichton and colleagues has some of the same methodological weaknesses as the first, particularly with respect to the use of what was described as experimental infrasound. Again, recordings of WTN were used, and no description of the recording instrumentation was provided, leading us to assume that the instrumentation may have been incapable of accurately reproducing infrasound, and thus its true effects. All participants were informed of the purpose of the study, which was:

“...to investigate the effect of sound below the threshold of human hearing (infrasound) on the experience of physical sensations and mood” (p. 2).

Preferably, the purpose should have been divulged only after the data were gathered because the description of sounds as those that humans cannot hear would presumably have established a mind-set, or bias, in both groups that the sound would have little impact. That preconception could have confounded any reactions to the different DVD messages. Another criticism of the study is that wind companies frame their turbines in the best possible light, so positive expectations have already been established in the minds of most wind-project participants and non-participants. Despite neutral or positive framing that has sometimes included assurance that the turbine sounds would be no louder than that of a refrigerator (see, for example, Chen & Narins<sup>[178]</sup>), the consequences of living near IWTs are catastrophic for some residents.

Tonin et al<sup>[179]</sup> repeated the experimental work of Crichton and her colleagues by using specially modified headphones to produce infrasound, as opposed to the loudspeaker system used in the previous studies, and exposed participants to 23 min of infrasound, as opposed to the 10-min exposures in the Crichton studies. Similar results were reported, suggesting that the simulated infrasound had no statistically significant effect on the symptoms reported by volunteers, while the prior expectations the volunteers had about the effect of infrasound had a statistically significant influence on the symptoms reported, thereby supporting the nocebo effect hypothesis. Some of the same criticisms of the Crichton et al study<sup>[174]</sup> levelled by Punch<sup>[175]</sup> also apply to the Tonin et al study, as participants were not being stimulated by sufficient durations or peak levels of infrasound exposure to which residents living near IWTs are exposed, and participants were effectively exposed to two sham conditions, denying them any opportunity to experience realistic infrasonic stimuli that could have overridden or moderated their psychological reactions based on expectancy.

In a related study, Taylor et al<sup>[180]</sup> assessed the effect of negatively oriented personality (NOP) traits (Neuroticism, Negative Affectivity and Frustration Intolerance) on the relationship between both actual and perceived noise on “medically unexplained non-specific symptoms (NSS)” (p. 338), presumably their euphemism for Pierpont’s Wind Turbine Syndrome.<sup>[4]</sup> Households within 500 m of 8 0.6-kW micro turbine installations and within 1 km of 4 5-kW small wind turbines in two U.K. cities were surveyed, and 138 questionnaires were completed and returned for analysis. Turbine noise level for each household was also calculated. There was no evidence for an effect of calculated noise on NSS. A statistically significant relationship was found between perceived noise and NSS for individuals high in NOP traits.

That study is similar in concept to those performed by Crichton and colleagues,<sup>[174, 177]</sup> with virtually the same conclusion—that the link between wind turbines and AHEs has a psychological origin. The study can be criticized on several grounds:

(1) Only smaller wind turbines were investigated; there is virtually no literature demonstrating that such turbines produce noise levels of any consequence to humans. The fact that no relationship was found between “calculated actual noise” from the turbines and participants’ attitudes toward wind turbines was thus predictable because the noise levels were either too low to affect attitudes differentially or were completely inaudible.

(2) The authors state:

“Actual noise turbine level for each household was also calculated” (p. 338).

Calculated levels (from noise maps) are not necessarily actual levels, so this procedure was, at a minimum, mischaracterized.

(3) It should not be surprising to find that individuals with negatively oriented personalities respond negatively to WTN, as they would likely respond negatively to almost any stimulus. However, the findings, as acknowledged by the authors, resulted from reports of participants’ retrospective perceptions of noise from turbines and symptoms at the same point in time, possibly resulting in common-method variance and retrospective bias. Also, although the authors reported a statistically significant relationship between NSS and negatively oriented personality, the reported variance explained by those relationships was quite low. That finding suggests that a meaningful (i.e., clinical) significance was not established, in which case one might reasonably question whether symptom reporting in the study was actually linked to negative personality type.

(4) Among other possible confounders, individual differences are likely to have complicated the authors’ analyses (see Williams<sup>[176]</sup> for an explanation).

To conclude this section, we believe that while psychological expectations conceivably can influence perceptions of the effects of WTN on health status, no scientific studies have yet convincingly shown that psychological forces are the major driver of such perceptions. Based on the bulk of literature covered in this review, those drivers are the physical stimuli themselves and the internal physiological reactions they induce.

***Statement 11: Only relatively few people, if any, are adversely impacted by wind turbine noise, and the majority have no complaints.***

As indicated earlier, most of the studies that have documented specified percentages of the population adversely affected by WTN have been those focusing on annoyance, as opposed to health. While the exact percentage of people whose health is affected by WTN has not been accurately determined, countless reports worldwide suggest that the acoustic energy emitted by

IWTs is harmful to the health of substantial numbers of people. As already noted, Phipps et al<sup>[75]</sup> found that 45% of households living as far away as 4 km from a wind project and 20% of households living up to 8 km away reported hearing turbine noise. Those figures take into account only the audible noise, of course, and not the inaudible infrasound, and they do not account for any documented adverse impacts.

Estimates of the percentage of people adversely affected by WTN should not be based solely on questionnaire surveys of populations known to be experiencing health problems, due to selection bias. Such surveys can be helpful in arriving at rough estimates of AHEs, however, but only if those surveys also report estimates of the total population from which the affected sample is drawn. The main value of surveys that include only affected individuals (e.g., Harry<sup>[74]</sup>; Pierpont<sup>[4]</sup>; The Acoustic Group<sup>[25]</sup>) is that they strongly suggest that substantial numbers of people living near wind turbines suffer health symptoms. For example, Harry<sup>[74]</sup> reported that 81% of her 42 survey respondents had health complaints, 76% had visited a doctor regarding those complaints, and 73% reported a reduced quality of life. In a somewhat more representative survey of residents living within 15 km of a wind turbine project—most of whom lived within 3 km—Phipps<sup>[76]</sup> found that 42 of 614 households who responded to a questionnaire (6.8%) reported occasional sleep disturbance, another 21 (3.4%) reported frequent sleep disturbance, and an additional 5 (0.8%) reported sleep disturbance most of the time due to WTN. Eleven percent of households, therefore, reported suffering at least occasional sleep disruption due to the wind turbines. Fifteen percent of respondents to that survey reported that they had suffered at least occasional reductions in their quality of life since the turbines became operational.

Despite the lack of definitive scientific evidence, we cannot ignore the numerous accounts of such effects reported worldwide on the Internet, in legal proceedings, and in news accounts. Krogh et al<sup>[96]</sup> have reviewed studies that document such incidents, many of which have involved the abandonment of homes. In a 2010 report commissioned by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the engineering firm of Howe Gastmeier Chapnik Limited,<sup>[112]</sup> despite its general conclusion that Ontario IWTs do not pose a risk to human health, stated:

“The audible sound from wind turbines, at the levels experienced at typical receptor distances in Ontario, is nonetheless expected to result in a non-trivial percentage of persons being highly annoyed .... research has shown that annoyance associated with sound from wind turbines can be expected to contribute to stress related health impacts in some persons” (p. 39).

In conclusion, we should recall that Phillips<sup>[169]</sup> advocates self-reporting of adverse events as a critical element in the study of the health effects of wind turbines. As stated earlier, he has noted

the importance of case-crossover experiments as useful and well-accepted sources of epidemiologic information. Numerous households around the world have been subjected to this type of quasi-experiment by the wind industry. It is unfortunate that an accurate count of these incidents has never been tallied formally and scientifically. Although that task must be left to future research, we should regard complaints of AHEs from individuals living near wind turbine installations seriously, when they occur, and the wind industry must act responsibly by siting its turbines at distances from residents that protect health and quality of life.

It is widely accepted that the industry has warned that tighter siting restrictions will destroy its prospects for growth. Such growth, however, should not continue in areas where there are probable and potential risks to human health. There are regions of the U.S. and other countries where turbines can operate safely, presumably without such risks. Some examples of those sites are illustrated in Figure 2.

***Statement 12: There is no evidence in the literature to support a causative link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects.***

The above review has been aimed specifically at addressing this point, which is often cited as factual by wind industry advocates in the literature and in legal proceedings. Namely, there is an abundant literature, much of it peer-reviewed and authored by highly reputable researchers, indicating that audible and inaudible noise emitted by IWTs adversely impacts the health and well-being of substantial numbers of people who are regularly exposed to wind turbines. It is clear that the literature reviews and papers claiming no AHEs fail to include important studies, international standards, guidance from the WHO, and research conducted on wind turbine noise and other sources of infra- and low-frequency sound. Whether this is through oversight or calculation, only reports that cite scientifically credible references should be considered legitimate sources of information. Our review has shown that it is unacceptable simply to state that the literature contains little or no evidence of a causal link between WTN and AHEs. At a minimum, those effects have been shown to be regularly correlated to living in proximity to IWTs, and there is sufficient evidence that those effects are highly associated with objective measurements of audible noise and infrasound.

Although sleep disturbance and its associated impacts on health and quality of life appear to be the most salient consequences of IWT noise, varying health effects that are unrelated to sleep have also been widely and consistently reported by different investigators. While not everyone who is exposed to IWTs suffers AHEs, it is incumbent on governmental officials and the wind industry to take seriously the health implications of their decisions to locate wind turbines near



residential and other populations, especially vulnerable populations, that are or likely to be negatively affected.



Figure 2. Photographic images of sites illustrating onshore landscapes where industrial wind turbines expose humans to minimal health risks due to large setback distances. Note that homes are not seen in the photos. (Source: [https://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?p=wind+turbine+images+california&fr=tightropetb&imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.freefoto.com%2Fimages%2F39%2F01%2F39\\_01\\_1---Wind-Turbine-Generators--Palm-Springs--California\\_web.jpg#id=36&iurl=http%3A%2F%2Fmedia-cdn.tripadvisor.com%2Fmedia%2Fphotos%2F01%2F70%2Ff9%2Ffb%2Ftehachepi-area-california.jpg&action=close](https://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?p=wind+turbine+images+california&fr=tightropetb&imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.freefoto.com%2Fimages%2F39%2F01%2F39_01_1---Wind-Turbine-Generators--Palm-Springs--California_web.jpg#id=36&iurl=http%3A%2F%2Fmedia-cdn.tripadvisor.com%2Fmedia%2Fphotos%2F01%2F70%2Ff9%2Ffb%2Ftehachepi-area-california.jpg&action=close)).

## Conclusion

We have discussed in this paper various elements of acoustics, sound perception, sound measurement, and psychological reactions, and the role these factors play in support of the view that a general-causative link exists between human health and ILFN emitted by IWTs. The available evidence warrants the following conclusions:

- (1) Large wind turbines generate infrasound, which is not normally experienced as sound by most human listeners. Some people, however, experience it in the form of pathological

symptoms such as headache, dizziness, nausea, or motion sickness, which appear to be caused by the excitation of resonances inside closed structures and the human body itself.

- (2) WTN has unique acoustic characteristics when compared to other environmental noises. These characteristics include low-amplitude, amplitude-modulated, intermittent occurrences of tones that mirror the peak energy of the blade-pass frequency and the first several harmonics. The coupling mechanisms in the inner ear prevent internally generated sound, but not externally generated sound, from being perceived, which means that perception of wind turbine infrasound is far more disturbing than infrasound generated within the human body.
- (3) There is voluminous evidence, ranging from anecdotal accounts from around the world to peer-reviewed scientific research, that audible and inaudible low-frequency noise and infrasound from IWTs lead to complaints ranging from annoyance to AHEs in a substantial percentage of the population. Although sleep disturbance is the most common problem cited, a variety of other health problems has been reported by numerous reputable sources. Recent research is largely consistent with Pierpont's original description of Wind Turbine Syndrome. Research on humans and lower animals has shown that it is biologically plausible that inner ear mechanisms, in conjunction with the brain, can process acoustic energy in ways that result in pathological perceptions that are not interpreted as sound. Both balance and hearing mechanisms appear to be involved in evoking these perceptions. The findings that infrasonic stimuli can amplitude modulate higher frequencies in the audible region, and that infrasound may be more perceptible when higher frequencies are absent, are especially compelling in suggesting that what we can't hear can hurt us.
- (4) To prevent AHEs, scientists have recommended that distances separating turbines and residences be 0.5-2.5 mi., and 1.25 mi. (2 km) or more has been commonly recommended. Clearly, the short siting distances used by the industry for physical safety do not protect against AHEs. Alternatively, researchers have recommended sound levels typically ranging from 30-40 dBA for safeguarding health, which is consistent with the recommendation of nighttime noise levels by the WHO.
- (5) Annoyance is a health issue for many people living near IWTs, which is consistent with both the WHO's definition of health and contemporary models of the relationships among annoyance, stress, and health.
- (6) The scientific evidence regarding factors other than amplitude-modulated ILFN as an explanation for most of the health complaints near IWTs, including electromagnetic fields (dirty electricity), is weak; the preponderance of research suggests that ILFN is the most viable explanation for such complaints.

- (7) The A-weighted decibel scale, which effectively excludes infrasound and substantial amounts of low-frequency noise, is inadequate to predict the level of outdoor or indoor infrasound, to reveal correlations to infrasound, or to show a definitive relationship with AHEs. Achievement of these goals requires the development of new measurement methods.
- (8) Even though Wind Turbine Syndrome is not currently included in the ICD coding system, that system includes most of the acknowledged symptoms of the syndrome. Medical professionals, therefore, have the necessary tools to evaluate and treat it, and that process has already begun on a limited scale.
- (9) While some epidemiologically solid research has been done in the area of IWTs and AHEs, evidence from other sources cannot be ignored. Hill noted the nature of such sources in 1965, and Phillips, in 2011, described the importance of other kinds of evidence, including adverse event reports, in establishing a causative relationship. One of the strongest types of evidence is the case-crossover experimental design, which the wind industry has unwittingly imposed for years on multiple families, many of whom have abandoned their homes to escape IWT noise exposure.
- (10) While psychological expectations and the power of suggestion conceivably can influence perceptions of the effects of WTN on health status, no scientifically valid studies have yet convincingly shown that psychological forces are the major driver of such perceptions.
- (11) Accurate estimates of the percentage of people who are affected by IWTs exist only for annoyance, not AHEs. Multiple reports, however, emphasize the relationships that exist between annoyance, stress, health, and quality of life, and indicate that a non-trivial percentage of people who live near IWTs experience AHEs. Those reports are consistent with thousands of reports worldwide. Although it seems reasonable to conclude that noise from IWTs does not cause AHEs in the majority of exposed populations, and that accurate estimates of AHEs are yet to be established, it is also clear that considerable numbers of people are affected and that they deserve to be heard and protected from adverse health impacts.
- (12) The available literature, which includes research reported by scientists and other reputable professionals in peer-reviewed journals, government documents, print and web-based media, and in scientific and professional papers presented at society meetings, is sufficient to establish a general causal link between a variety of commonly observed AHEs and noise emitted by IWTs.

Based on all the evidence presented, our fundamental view is that the controversy surrounding AHEs should not be polarized into two groups consisting of either *pro-wind* or *anti-wind*

factions, but rather one in which there is room for a third, *pro-health*, perspective. Essentially, the pro-wind view is that IWTs should be installed wherever feasible, that definitive scientific research is lacking to indicate that turbines cause AHEs, and that if you can't hear it, you can't feel it. The anti-wind view is that IWTs should not be installed anywhere because wind is not an economically viable source of renewable energy, that all government subsidies and development efforts should end, and that what we can't hear can hurt us. A pro-health view is that there is enough anecdotal and scientific evidence to indicate that ILFN from IWTs causes annoyance, sleep disturbance, stress, and a variety of other AHEs to warrant siting the turbines at distances sufficient to avoid such harmful effects, which, without proper siting, occur in a substantial percentage of the population. That view holds that what we can't hear can hurt some of us, and that the precautionary principle must be followed in siting IWTs if such health risks are to be avoided. Industrial-scale wind turbines should not be located near people's homes, educational and recreational facilities, and workplaces. It is our belief that the bulk of the available evidence justifies a pro-health perspective. It is unacceptable to consider people living near wind turbines as collateral damage while this debate continues.

Further scientific investigations of the dose-response relationship between IWT noise and specific health effects in exposed individuals are sorely needed. However, people should be protected by conservative siting guidelines that recognize the concerns raised in this review. Hopefully, such research can and will be planned and executed by independent researchers with the full cooperation of the wind industry. The major objective of such research should be to reveal directions for the industry in balancing the energy needs of society with the need to protect public health.

***Statement of conflict of interest:*** The authors declare no conflicts of interest. Mr. James is on the Board of Directors for the Society for Wind Vigilance, an international federation of physicians, acousticians, engineers, and other professionals who share scientific research on the topic of health and wind turbines.

**Address for correspondence:**

Jerry L. Punch

Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

1026 Red Cedar Road

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA

E-mail: [jpunch@msu.edu](mailto:jpunch@msu.edu)

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