

August 23, 2016

Beverly Heydinger, Chair
Dan Lipschultz, Commissioner
John Tuma, Commissioner
Nancy Lange, Commissioner
Matt Schuerger, Commissioner

Re: Bent Tree Wind Farm, Large Wind Energy Conversion System Permit; Docket No. WS-08-573

Honorable Commissioners,

It is now 8:52 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Let me relate to you how our previous night has gone. We went to bed late 11:40 since the winds were strong out of the south all day long. We both laid awake off and on; the fan was going for white noise and I wore my ear plugs. At 4:20 I couldn't stand the shrill ringing in both ears any longer so I got up, called the Bent Tree complaint line stating that we shouldn't have to go out on our front steps at 4:30 in the morning again. I put the noise canceling headphones on over the ear plugs and tried returning to bed. Bernie heard me sobbing and asked if I wanted to go away. Commissioners, where would you go at 4:30 in the morning? Check into a motel at 5:00? Go over to a relative's house? Drive to a truck stop or parking lot? In the end game, Bernie retired to the recliner in the living room and I tried to get back to sleep wearing both ear protection devices.

It is well documented that low frequency vibrations are worse at night, especially in the Minnesota white paper issued in May 2009. As both of my doctors stated, constant exposure to changes in ear pressure can do irreparable damage to that sense. I am very afraid that my hearing loss will progress if I am exposed to this infrasound weekly. Already both doctors ordered an MRI due to the fact that the left ear is declining worse than the right one. The tinnitus will be with me forever.

Since the July 29 hearing wherein Wisconsin Power and Light was ordered to do more audible testing and it was decided to await the outcome of the University of Minnesota research, we have filed five complaints. This was in spite of the fact that we were away for a three day mini-trip.

Isn't there someone that can help us? We cannot wait for another five months or longer for a cessation of this torment. And then that is only the audible test once again which determines nothing. It is just "kicking the can" down the road and will evade the real issue. We need low-frequency testing inside homes if there is to be resolution. Please stand up and give us some real response to this torture. Until there is a solution, please shut down the twenty turbines within a mile of our home.

In a letter dated June 23, 2016 from Attorney General Lori Swanson she states "A person's home is their sanctuary, and people should be entitled to the full enjoyment of their home free from problems with their health and well-being".

Sincerely,

Bernie and Cheryl Hagen