

Statement

Statement from a new network in the region of Skåne, South Sweden.

More and more fellow citizens face problems

Wind power is clean and beautiful the wind power industry claims. However, an increasing number of neighbours of big wind turbines do not share that view. These are people forced to draw the curtains or cover the windows because of the shadows from the nearby wind turbines. Others are disturbed by constantly blinking red or white warning lights that light up their living rooms when it is dark.

For some, the rotating wings of the big wind turbines are a constant visual pollution. Some have their sleep seriously disturbed by the noise from these big wind turbines. There are also those who have their lives seriously disrupted by just knowing that their home will be surrounded by big wind turbines even before they are erected.

An increasing number of people are affected by this accelerated expansion of wind power. In the last few days the wind power industry has gone on the offensive, again, claiming that the processing of permits for wind power sites takes too long. We wonder why there is a necessity for such haste. Sweden has sufficient electricity and will continue to have so for the foreseeable future. It is only reasonable that everybody involved should have enough time to look into what is involved in wind power. It is also reasonable that the councils are allowed enough time to examine the effects that the wind power industry's projects will have locally and that enough time is allocated to identify sites with proper consideration for people, animals and the landscape.

Is the wind power industry concerned and fearful that the wind power fairytale will end abruptly when the population realizes that Swedish wind power is not going to decrease the carbon dioxide emissions in Sweden?

An increasing number of people encounter politicians, authorities and exploiters bulldozing right over them with no consideration for the consequent effects on their quality of life. A typical reply to inquiries made to the minister of the environment Andreas Carlgren is as follows:

“..... It is important that the establishment and construction take place with due consideration to legal rights and health- and environmental issues” and “ By planning and adhering strictly to the environmental regulations I am convinced that wind power can work together with other interests such as for example nature protection, outdoor life and tourism”.

Experiences from the first constructions in our opinion show that the existing Swedish laws do not afford sufficient protection against violations of people's rights when a wind power site is built. The replies from the minister show that he is not in tune with the problems.

We are very disturbed that as more and more people are being affected they feel that they cannot trust the authorities' handling of wind power issues. Instead they experience an impervious unwillingness at all levels of authority to deal at all with the highly relevant problems of ordinary people. Many people are concerned that, totally against their will, they are being forced to

become neighbours of big wind turbines.

Considerable public monies are being spent on research on how best to overcome the resistance by ordinary people. A sinister example of this can be found in the report "Experiences from construction of wind power sites – Placement, acceptance and resistance" from the University of Lund. We strongly distance ourselves from the report and its directives as to the manipulation of people to accept wind power against their will. We also distance ourselves from the Energy Authorities committing a further 3.3 million SEK to further research of the same kind.

The risk of harmful effects to the public health by large scale wind power is not taken seriously by our authorities. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has pointed to irritability and sleep difficulties as harmful influences on health. Health Canada considers that irritability, stress and sleep difficulties can have harmful effects on people's general health. As late as 27th January a panel of impartial English experts publicized the results of a study that showed that the swish sound from wind turbines can be very annoying and keep people awake at night which causes psychological problems due to this stressful environment. Sleep disturbances are even mentioned in a Swedish study (Eja Pedersen, 2009) as an area where further study is necessary.

It is well documented in medical literature that sleep disturbances can result in a number of illnesses.

"Sleep is an essential part of a healthy life and is considered a fundamental right in the European convention for human rights" (the European Court of human rights, 2003).

We therefore demand: We therefore demand:

that independent thorough investigations of potential harmful effects on people's health as a result of wind power on a large scale is carried out.

that the risk of harmful effects on people's general health is taken seriously and that the principle of caution is adopted

investigation into the effects of sound from big wind power sites with dBC that involve a lower sound than dBA, carried out by independent experts.

that licences are based on the principle of caution with a distance of minimum 1500 m between the wind power sites and habitation and introduction of a maximum sound level of 35 dBA.

that quiet nature- and open air areas remain wind power free, and that valuable nature areas are protected from disturbances.

On behalf of the network

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