

Lesson 21: Background Testing is Your Insurance

Wind farms have a problem with noise.

People sleep peacefully at night in rural environments when a wind farm is not there.

But when a wind farm is built, people can't sleep. They either hear the noise or feel the pulsations.

Wind farms can't stick to the legal limit.

Wind farms have a licence (permit) to emit noise to a certain limit. And even though the limit favours the wind farm, they still can't stick to it.

So, wind companies lie, cheat, and manipulate measurements to falsify reports and these reports are accepted by the authorities without question.

They get away with it because authorities don't require access to the raw data or the calculations behind the reports.

Authorities rely on the word of the wind farm, and sign off on a wind farm's self-written reports.

They send in the Rodeo Clowns

The system is designed to ignore impacted neighbours. Rather than being treated as victims, neighbours are dismissed as pests.

When neighbours complain about the noise or the debilitating sensations, they send in the rodeo clowns to shut them down and squash their complaints.

The EPA and local councils accept what the wind farm tells them without question. They willingly parrot wind farm propaganda. When a complaint is received, they send in the rodeo clowns (officers) to dismiss the complaint and shut down the problem neighbour.

Wind farms have a licence to emit noise up to a certain level, depending on the background level.

The level of noise emissions allowed depends on the initial background levels. The higher the background level the higher the noise a wind farm can emit.

Wind farms manipulate the data to produce reports to show higher background noise levels.

Then, using these false reports, they claim the turbine noise is not the problem because the existing background levels were already high. And the authorities are happy to accept their claims without question.

If you can't sleep at night – What then?

Wind farms cause sleep disturbance.

They know it – and cheat the system to cover it up. What do you do? Do you walk away, and let the wind farm destroy your family and your assets?

Or, do you get clever, take-out noise insurance and get your own data?

Your Data

1. Background Data: Is your Insurance for later.
2. Post-construction Noise Monitoring Data:
 - a) An initial report as leverage - a piece of paper to wave in front of their faces to go for bigger money, if that is your aim.
 - b) Valid, objective noise data evidence to take whoever to court.

Remember,

Raw Data is not a noise report containing figures. Raw Data is the measurements straight from the meters. They lie when they say "Sure, the raw data is in the reports" – they never disclose the raw data.

Background Data is your Insurance.

The definition of “background noise” in the wind industry is the ambient noise in the natural environment before the construction of a wind farm. Once construction starts, ambient/natural noise no longer qualifies as “background noise”.

Neighbours will have no idea about wind farm noise and no idea what they’re up against. But at the first sniff of a wind farm, neighbours must **seriously consider undertaking background testing.**

The wind farm rep will tell the neighbour:

“Nah – don’t worry about the noise, we will comply with the limit” – ***they’re lying.***

“We would like to do some “quality assessment” to ensure the wind farm complies – ***they want to do noise testing on your land.***

The Ambient / Background Rural Environment

Ambient noise levels at night in a rural area are usually between 8 – 20 dB LA90.

In Victoria, wind farms have a licence to emit turbine noise up to 40dB LA90, - **but this all depends on the background levels.**

They use trickery of the calculations to increase the background levels so they can emit higher turbine noise.

They delete low background data to raise the background average.

They claim the increased foliage growth has caused the background levels to increase.

Once the turbines are built, they use paddock loggers to claim the noise measured in the paddock is more representative of the turbines than the noise measured at the house.

Post-Construction Data

If a neighbour has their own data – they hold objective evidence that the authorities don’t have.

Wind farms never hand over the raw noise and wind data straight from the meters. It takes a court subpoena to obtain the raw data and calculations.

The authorities have no means of questioning a wind farm’s falsified reports.

So, if a neighbour presents valid information to the authorities showing the wind farm is polluting the land, the officers are obligated to act.

With raw data, neighbours can do the following:

1. Hold objective evidence to add to their subjective evidence of diaries and complaints.
2. Hold objective evidence to challenge the inept authorities.
3. Hold objective evidence to wave in front of the wind farm’s nose to negotiate a suitable financial payout.
4. Hold the objective evidence to take whoever to court.

Neighbours are at War and their Data is their Weapon.

Invest in noise monitoring – for the protection of your family’s health and your farming assets.

Engage an independent and reputable acoustician who will hand over the data straight from the metres.

Never sign anything – The wind farm gets rid of problem neighbours using neighbour/gift agreements.

Don’t wait until it’s too late.

Once construction starts – it’s too late to do background testing.