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Megan Zumbuhl

Gen / Problems

**From:** Denis Tracy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 10:23 AM  
**To:** Megan Zumbuhl  
**Subject:** FW: For the Public Record for the Public Hearing  
**Attachments:** Whitman County Wind Turbine Letter.docx

**From:** Julie Clarkson <jclark766@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 10:03 AM  
**To:** Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: For the Public Record for the Public Hearing

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Sent from Outlook

**From:** Julie Clarkson <jclark766@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 10:13 PM  
**To:** alan.thomson@whitmancounty.gov <alan.thomson@whitmancounty.gov>; grace.dibiase@whitmancounty.gov <grace.dibiase@whitmancounty.gov>; commissioners@whitmancounty.gov <commissioners@whitmancounty.gov>; denist@whitmancounty.org <denist@whitmancounty.org>  
**Subject:** For the Public Record for the Public Hearing

**From:** Julie Clarkson <jclark766@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 4:55 PM  
**To:** Alan.Thomson@WhitmanCounty.Gov <alan.thomson@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace.DiBiase@WhitmanCounty.gov <grace.dibiase@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter to Planning Commission

May 7, 2025

Dear Whitman County Planning Commission members:

As I listened to the presentation by the Palouse Wind representative and read the "myths about turbines" document on the Planning Commission website, I was almost lulled into thinking the turbines were not as bad as I originally understood. But then I started to research lawsuits regarding wind turbines.

In Iowa, a farmer is suing a manufacturer of wind turbines, alleging that three turbine fires scattered debris over hundreds of acres of land, damaging his crops. In March 2023, one of the turbines caught fire and spread debris across 160 acres of farmland. In May 2024, a second turbine on the property caught fire spreading

N-1

additional debris. In August, 2024 the second turbine caught fire again, causing one of the massive blades to fall to the ground. The landowner states that the county co-operative informed him that they would not accept any grain from the 230 acres of land allegedly contaminated by debris.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2025/04/24/iowa-farmer-sues-over-wind-turbine-debris-after-fires/83239341007/>

The above article includes information on a study that found that fires in wind turbines were occurring 10 times more often than were reported.

A 2022 article from The Oregonian describes an 8-ton blade thrown the length of a football field, oil leaks, and now pieces of turbine equipment falling onto landowners' fields with some regularity at the Bigalow County turbine farms in Oregon, and ratepayers could be stuck covering \$156 million in repair costs.

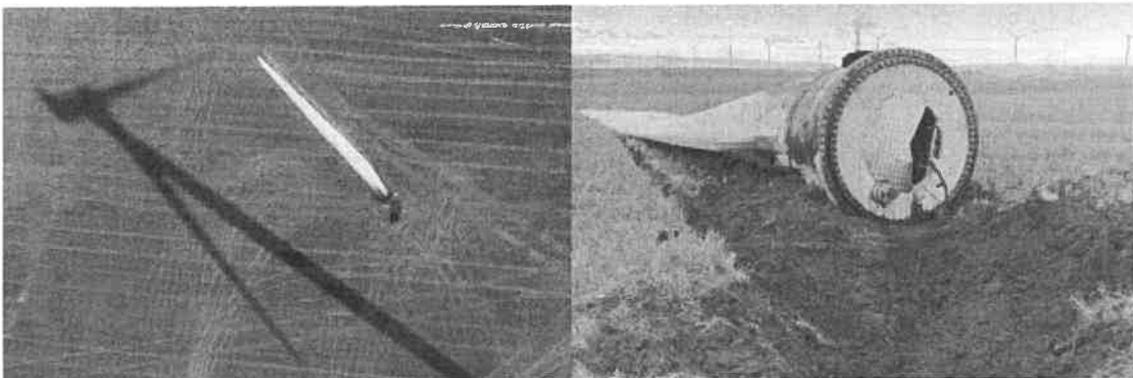
<https://projects.oregonlive.com/wind-farms/>

*"...at 2:11 a.m. Feb. 1, one of the turbine's three spinning blades launched into the night.*

*No one saw it. No one heard it. But it was evidently a violent affair.*

*The skinny blade, as tall as an 11-story building and weighing more than four Toyota Camrys, soared the full length of a football field. It plowed a furrow 4-feet deep in the wheat stubble where it eventually landed.*

*Heavy-duty bolts that once kept the blade fastened to the tower scattered around the turbine base like shrapnel, some spiked deep into the soil..."*



On Feb. 1, turbine #11 at Portland General Electric's Bigalow Canyon wind farm threw an eight-ton blade 100 yards into a nearby field, plowing a deep furrow in the ground where it landed. (Left: Dave Killion, right courtesy Kathryn McCullough)

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Oil leaks from Bigalow Canyon's wind turbines and transformers are environmental and fire hazards. The turbines have been plagued by leaks of oil and lubricants that coat towers and blades and spit on to their gravel pads and surrounding fields. Transformers have ruptured regularly, causing two fires and spilling about 3,000 gallons of mineral oil into surrounding soil that prompted expensive cleanups."*

*"Other leaks likely fall below the threshold for reporting oil spills to the Department of Environmental Quality which requires disclosure only for discharges to the ground over 42 gallons in any 24-hour period."*

\*\*\*\*\*

Maintenance of the turbines seems to follow federal subsidies, and when those dry up, so does the maintenance:

*“But keeping the turbines performing at a high level may require significant investments, and PGE’s filings with regulators don’t reflect that reality.*

*In fact, PGE’s operations and maintenance expenses at Biglow Canyon have steadily declined, despite the aging equipment and acknowledged need for major repairs. PGE spent \$13 million last year, down 40% from 2013, according to figures filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. That’s the lowest total since 2010.*

*And in documents submitted to Oregon regulators, the company said it would spend even less this year: \$10 million.*

*If that seems strange, perhaps it shouldn’t.*

*A 2020 study by researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab found that wind plant performance in the United States declines suddenly after 10 years – far more abruptly than output dropped in Europe or Asia. One theory the authors offered: As plants aged out of the 10-year window for federal production subsidies, they don’t warrant more intensive operations and maintenance activities to maximize production.”*

This article from the Des Moines Register talks about multiple broken blades over the last couple of years in Iowa – specifically Vestas blades:

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2020/10/20/berkshire-hathaway-midamerican-energy-windmill-blades-break-iowa-farms/5991387002/>

*“MidAmerican Energy says it has idled nearly four-dozen electricity-generating wind turbines while workers check them for safety after blades broke off of two similar turbines over the past two months.*

*Those blade failures follow a break earlier this year and one in 2019.*

*On Thursday, MidAmerican said, a technician discovered that a turbine blade had fallen into a harvested field southeast of Paton in Greene County. The technician went to the Beaver Creek wind farm after its monitoring system detected a problem with the turbine, the company said in a statement.*

*MidAmerican said a blade also broke off a turbine and fell into a cornfield in September at its Arbor Hills wind farm in Adair County.*

*MidAmerican experienced earlier problems with blades that broke from turbines in April of this year and October 2019, both at the company’s Orient wind farm, also in Adair County.*

*MidAmerican spokesman Geoff Greenwood said in a statement Tuesday that the company — which has more than 3,000 wind turbines in Iowa — had isolated the issue to blades made by Danish manufacturer Vestas.”*

For an agency that should be unbiased, I note that the Planning Commission website is heavily weighted in attempt to show that there are absolutely no negative impacts from these massive turbines and that health impacts from the turbines are myths and have been de-bunked. Yet there is significant evidence and successful lawsuits demonstrating otherwise. If you are willing to look.

In Fulmouth Massachusetts, two turbines were ordered to be removed after residents proved that the turbine noise and flickering are real and causing health impacts; and their property values plunged 20 percent.

<https://www.capeandislands.org/local-news/2022-09-26/two-falmouth-wind-turbines-sparked-a-lawsuit-now-theyre-being-demolished>

<https://patch.com/massachusetts/falmouth/falmouth-wind-turbines-too-many-so-called-mistakes>

In Texas, 23 landowners **who signed up with the wind developer to host turbines** filed lawsuits against Duke Energy and E.ON Climate & Renewables stating that the companies negligently failed to disclose the true effects the turbines would have, including on their homes, and that the turbines create *“acoustic pressure pulsations that affect peoples’ health.”* The case was settled out of court.

<https://www.aeinews.org/twenty-texas-wind-farm-hosts-sue-over-noise-nuisance/>

*“In what may be an unprecedented move, 23 Texans who host wind turbines on their property have filed suit against two different wind farm developers, claiming that companies “carelessly and negligently failed to adequately disclose the true nature and effects that the wind turbines would have on the community, including the plaintiffs’ homes.”*

*The plaintiffs host hundreds of turbines on projects developed by Duke Energy and E.ON, and as a Duke spokesman noted, they did consent to the placement of the turbines. However, the lawsuit stresses that the companies told residents the turbines “would not be noisy, would not adversely impact neighboring houses and there would not be any potential health risk.”*

*Among the plaintiffs are Willacy County Commissioner Noe Loya, who is said to “no longer enjoy sitting outside because of the loud noise,” with turbine noise inside and outside his home “disturbing the peace and making it difficult to enjoy living there.” Another plaintiff, a local Justice of the Peace, “has difficulty sleeping, cannot have his windows open (and) cannot enjoy the sound of nature, due to loud noise from wind turbines.” The lawsuit also claims that some residents have abandoned their homes. In addition to noise issues, the suit includes visual impact, property value, and health effects claims.”*

In Michigan, another case settled out of court, but this one did allow some disclosure of the alleged negative health effects plaintiffs suffered.

<https://www.michiganapitolconfidential.com/20951>

*“A lawsuit in which residents living near the Lake Winds wind plant south of Ludington claimed the facility was making people sick has been settled out of court. Cary Shindeldecker, one of the plaintiffs in the case, isn’t allowed to discuss details of the settlement, but is still allowed to talk about the alleged negative health effects that can be suffered by those who live near such facilities.*

*“I think everything we’ve done here has helped the community and residents. For too long, supporters of wind energy have been able to silence and discredit those who have to live with the effects of it.*

*“We saw how they silenced Jerry Punch and his group,” Shindeldecker continued. “When his group was working on a study that refuted what wind energy supporters wanted to be reported about the health impacts of wind turbines, they (the wind energy supporters) shut them up.”*

*On April 1, 2013, a group of 17 residents who lived near the Lake Winds wind plant – others joined the group later – filed a lawsuit against Consumers Energy in Mason County Circuit Court. The lawsuit alleged that people were experiencing dizziness, sleeplessness, headaches and other physical symptoms primarily due to noise*

generated by the wind plant's 56 giant wind turbines, which the plaintiffs claimed had been erected too close to homes.

"We filed the lawsuit based on health impact, property value loss and loss of enjoyment and use of our property," Shindeldecker said.

Lake Winds is the first wind plant developed by Consumers Energy. The \$250 million facility was constructed as part of the utility's efforts to meet the state's renewable energy (wind) mandate. The lawsuit brought by Shindeldecker and his co-plaintiffs was only the first one involving the Lake Winds plant. Before the end of 2013, Mason County had declared that the wind plant was not in compliance with its noise ordinance. Consumers Energy took the county to court over that determination. It lost at the Circuit Court, and that case is currently under appeal.

According to Shindeldecker, the residents' lawsuit was resolved during the late summer and autumn of 2014.

"It was just about to go to trial; in fact I was in court waiting to be the first to testify, when we were told a settlement had been reached," Shindeldecker said. "It took about two months to work out the wording; then ours was actually finalized the week of Dec. 17.

"To me, we were helping others by being willing to take a stand," Shindeldecker added. **"One of these days the facts are going to come out. Twenty years from now the health impacts of living with these industrial wind turbines will be common knowledge. It will be like the way it happened with cigarettes. But right now those who know the truth are a minority. The talking points used by AWEA (American Wind Energy Association) haven't changed from what they were saying five years ago. I believe that in our democracy, right will win in the end, but only after a lot of sacrifices have been made."**

Shindeldecker also said that his family's property, which he is selling off in portions, is now going for 78 percent of its appraised value."

This is not just a problem in the United States, and there are numerous studies and lawsuits that document the health impacts of the turbines from around the world when wind turbines are built too close to residential areas. Again, you have to be willing to look for and at the information presented.

The below article from Pub Med **Adverse health effects of industrial wind turbines**

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3653647/>

*"Canadian family physicians can expect to see increasing numbers of rural patients reporting adverse effects from exposure to industrial wind turbines (IWTs). People who live or work in close proximity to IWTs have experienced symptoms that include decreased quality of life, annoyance, stress, sleep disturbance, headache, anxiety, depression, and cognitive dysfunction. Some have also felt anger, grief, or a sense of injustice. Suggested causes of symptoms include a combination of wind turbine noise, infrasound, dirty electricity, ground current, and shadow flicker.<sup>1</sup> Family physicians should be aware that patients reporting adverse effects from IWTs might experience symptoms that are intense and pervasive and might feel further victimized by a lack of caregiver understanding.*

*After considering the evidence and testimony presented by 26 witnesses, a 2011 Ontario environmental review tribunal decision acknowledged IWTs can harm human health:*

***This case has successfully shown that the debate should not be simplified to one about whether wind turbines can cause harm to humans. The evidence presented to the Tribunal demonstrates that they can, if facilities are placed too close to residents. The debate has now evolved to one of degree.<sup>20</sup>***

And this study from the University of North Florida.

### **Properly Interpreting the Epidemiologic Evidence About the Health Effects of Industrial Wind Turbines on Nearby Residents**

Abstract <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0270467611412554>

*There is overwhelming evidence that wind turbines cause serious health problems in nearby residents, usually stress-disorder-type diseases, at a nontrivial rate. The bulk of the evidence takes the form of thousands of adverse event reports. There is also a small amount of systematically gathered data. The adverse event reports provide compelling evidence of the seriousness of the problems and of causation in this case because of their volume, the ease of observing exposure and outcome incidence, and case-crossover data. Proponents of turbines have sought to deny these problems by making a collection of contradictory claims including that the evidence does not “count,” the outcomes are not “real” diseases, the outcomes are the victims’ own fault, and that acoustical models cannot explain why there are health problems so the problems must not exist. These claims appeared to have swayed many nonexpert observers, though they are easily debunked. Moreover, though the failure of models to explain the observed problems does not deny the problems, it does mean that we do not know what, other than kilometers of distance, could sufficiently mitigate the effects. **There has been no policy analysis that justifies imposing these effects on local residents. The attempts to deny the evidence cannot be seen as honest scientific disagreement and represent either gross incompetence or intentional bias.***

### **Health Effects of Wind Turbines: Testimony of Ben Johnson versus MidAmerican Energy (Madison County, Iowa)**

<https://www.masterresource.org/wind-turbine-noise-issues/health-effects-of-wind-turbines-testimony-of-ben-johnson-versus-mid-american-energy-project-in-madison-country-iowa/>

*“The annoyance of sight and the heard pulsating wind turbulence creates indirect adverse health effects. This combined with the direct effects of sleep disturbance may activate the body’s autonomic nervous system to increase sympathetic-mediated responses with endocrinological consequences.”*

*“Increasingly activated, risk factors that promote adverse cardiovascular consequences may then promote/facilitate/enhance cardiovascular disease – most easily named as hypertension, arteriosclerosis, ischemic heart disease and stroke.”*

– Ben Johnson, Testimony before the Madison County Board of Health, Madison Country, Iowa.

**The Board of Health of Madison County, Iowa passed a resolution last week recommending a 1.5-mile setback to protect residences from wind turbine nuisances and harms.**

I’m dismayed by Commissioner Swannack’s March 4 letter where he states that the MINIMAL setbacks in current code are adequate and that we need to acquiesce to big business to avoid lawsuits because more stringent codes won’t stand up in court.

People, counties, and states ARE standing up against big developers who are only in this for the money.

**More than 100 residents Sue Arkwright Project Developers**

<https://www.observertoday.com/news/page-one/2019/09/more-than-100-residents-sue-arkwright-project-developers/>

*"The residents, represented by Melody D. Westfall of Syracuse, are asking for unspecified damages related to loss of property values, compensatory damages for destruction of homes and lifestyle, loss of use and enjoyment of their properties, damages for relocation costs and time spent relocating, mental anguish, destruction of scenic countryside, physical pain and suffering, difficulty sleeping, nuisance, trespass, interference with electronics in their homes such as satellites, telephones and televisions, loss of business profits, special damages for stress, anxiety, worry and inconvenience, and the effects lights and noise from the turbines have on their properties.*

*The Arkwright Summit Wind Farm consists of 47 wind turbines erected in 2018. Westfall writes in her lawsuit that the residents were told the turbines would not be noisy, adversely impact neighboring houses and that there would be no potential health risks. Final and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements finalized in 2008 projected noise levels of 50 decibels, with a 2007 local law setting a 50 decibel limit on sound from wind turbines.*

*Westfall argues that the developers should have done new noise studies, particularly taking into account New York's winter winds and the winds off of Lake Erie; that the turbines should not have been built so close to houses; that noise studies don't account for infra- or low-frequency sounds that are affecting neighboring properties."*

This 2022 article from Robert Bryce documents the increase in county rejections of wind and solar farms across the United States.

<https://robertbryce.com/voters-veto-big-wind-in-ohio-and-michigan-rejections-now-total-375-since-2015/>

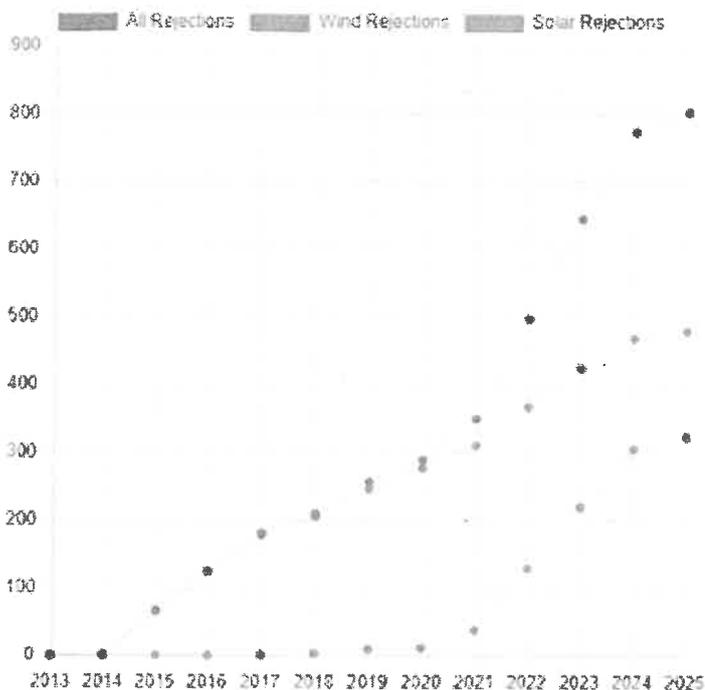
*In Crawford County, Ohio, residents voted by a 3 to 1 margin to reject the proposed 300-megawatt Honey Creek Wind Project which was being promoted by Apex Clean Energy.*

*Also on Tuesday, voters in three Michigan townships "resoundingly rejected ordinances enabling the Montcalm Wind project by Apex Clean Energy, a developer attempting to erect 75 turbines on farmland in Montcalm County northeast of Grand Rapids." That's from [an article written by Garret Ellison of Mlive.com](#). Voters in Maple Valley, Douglass, and Winfield townships rejected ordinances amid what Ellison called "growing animosity toward wind and solar projects among rural residents in Michigan who see them as a potential threat to health and property values."*

*In addition, voters in Belvidere Township rejected an ordinance that would have allowed solar energy projects, and "seven township officials in Montcalm County were recalled over their support" of Apex's proposed wind project. The rejections continue a losing streak for Apex, whose projects have faced staunch opposition in local communities in New York and other states. Apex gained notoriety in New York for [its failure to disclose the presence of known Bald Eagle nests on Galloo Island](#) where it wanted to install multiple wind turbines.*

*Tuesday's rejections in Ohio and Michigan bring the total number of rejections or restrictions of wind energy in the US this year to 51. Since 2015, there have been at least 375 rejections or restrictions and those have occurred in states from Maine to Hawaii."*

Since this article was written, 800 proposal rejections or restrictions have been recorded: 480 wind and 324 solar rejections.



In March, 2024 the Council of State in France annulled all the provisions concerning the three successive versions of the existing noise pollution measurement protocols intended to protect the health of local residents. All projects must undergo a new complete environmental assessment and existing farms built on the now illegal orders should normally no longer be allowed to operate as they stand.

<https://environnementdurable.org/conseil-detat-annulation-historique-des-autorisations-eoliennes-impact-crucial-sur-lavenir-energetique-francais/>

In Knox County Nebraska, a federal judge dismissed portions of a lawsuit filed by a wind company that sued over amended zoning regulations.

#### **Knox County gets favorable ruling in wind farm lawsuit 3/16/25**

<https://www.windaction.org/posts/56268> - A federal judge on Friday handed down a 40-page ruling pertaining to Knox County’s motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a wind company that sued the county over amended zoning regulations adverse to wind energy. U.S. District Judge John Gerrard granted in part and denied in part Knox County’s motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by North Fork Wind LLC last August. In a statement, the county board of supervisors said the judge’s opinion is a “substantial victory for the citizens and taxpayers of Knox County.”

#### **Litigation Breakout: More US Wind Farm Noise Victims Sue Developers for Nuisance**

<https://stopthesethings.com/2019/01/14/litigation-breakout-more-us-wind-farm-noise-victims-sue-developers-for-nuisance/>

I have only included a small number of the lawsuits that I found. People are not incurring the debt it takes to hire lawyers and file lawsuits against these builders because they have nothing better to do. They all feel they have been harmed, including the group in Texas who agreed to hosting the turbines on their property and already receiving significant compensation. These turbines are being built too close to homes. The corporations have deep pockets and lawyers on staff, yet in most cases they are settling out of court. Why do you think that is? They don't want the disclosure, headlines, or court precedent that will result if they lose the case!

I will end with an excerpt from a USAF Institute for National Security Studies book NON-LETHAL WEAPONS – TERMS AND REFERENCES. Our government acknowledges that low frequency “infrasound” waves are detrimental to our health.

[https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=aoZYYz1ZieYC&oi=fnd&pg=PR8&ots=GmuUVpKpCH&sig=qR0CFX\\_1H4QpkH0wDIwjECiMong#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=aoZYYz1ZieYC&oi=fnd&pg=PR8&ots=GmuUVpKpCH&sig=qR0CFX_1H4QpkH0wDIwjECiMong#v=onepage&q&f=false)

**Acoustic, Infrasound.** Very low-frequency sound which can travel long distances and easily penetrate most buildings and vehicles. Transmission of long wavelength sound creates biophysical effects; nausea, loss of bowels, disorientation, vomiting, potential internal organ damage or death may occur. Superior to ultrasound because it is “in band” meaning that it does not lose its properties when it changes mediums such as from air to tissue. By 1972 an infrasound generator had been built in France which generated waves at 7 hertz. When activated, it made the people in the range sick for hours [23,32,546].

Warren Buffett, one of the world’s richest people, as well as the chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, said back in 2014: “We get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That's the only reason to build them.”

This issue and the updates to the current commercial wind energy code are likely the most important responsibilities facing the Whitman County Planning Commission for many, many years. Members are literally making decisions that will impact the health and safety of residents of the county now and for many years in the future. I believe there is significant documentation which establishes that allowing the turbines too close to peoples homes has a real life impact. I hope you are able to take the time to conduct due diligence in your analysis and decision making in updating Whitman County codes.

Julie Clarkson-Gulick

## Megan Zumbuhl

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**From:** Denis Tracy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 10:24 AM  
**To:** Megan Zumbuhl  
**Subject:** FW: county wide revisions

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**From:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 9:43 AM  
**To:** Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston\_kane@hotmail.com>  
**Cc:** Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: county wide revisions

FYI all.

Alan.

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**From:** Eric and Lois Startin <estartin@pionnet.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 7:06 PM  
**To:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Commissioners <commissioners@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** county wide revisions

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I have lived in Whitman County for 55 years. I moved here when I was 10 years old. My husband and I own a small portion of ag land near LaCrosse that surrounds our property . We also, along with our son and daughter in law, own and operate Startin's Repair In LaCrosse.

I'm glad you have reviewed the county wind ordinance and have made updates to it. I think there needs to be increased distance in the "setbacks" from homes, state parks, cities, roadways, schools, churches etc...

Personally, I am not in favor of the windmills being in Whitman County at all. I think we have a beautiful county and windmills are not attractive. As I was driving home from Spokane this spring admiring how gorgeous it was south of Spangle as the sun was setting, I thought...this place is stunning! How blessed we are to live in Eastern Washington and especially Whitman County. .... Then I came to the wind mills along 195 and I thought to myself, why would anyone build those here?

I live along highway 26 which is designated the Palouse Scenic byway. The businesses are not allowed to put signage up along road to attract customer to our business nor to our town town

because it is designated a scenic byway. And yet, windmill towers could be built within view of the scenic byway ? That does not make sense. When a few of the businesses here questioned the reasoning, we were told, the signs would take away from the beautification of the byway. Anytime, you crest a hill between LaCrosse and Colfax, a person can see for miles, to me windmills in the distance will ruin the view.

I hope you will take more time to review the proposed revisions.

Merry Christmas,  
Lois Startin

Startin's Repair Inc  
P O Box 66  
304 S Main St  
LaCrosse WA 99143  
509.549.3543  
***Family owned and operated since 1965***

## Megan Zumbuhl

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**From:** Denis Tracy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 10:24 AM  
**To:** Megan Zumbuhl  
**Subject:** FW: Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

**From:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 9:39 AM  
**To:** Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston\_kane@hotmail.com>  
**Cc:** Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

FYI all.

Alan.

**From:** Bonnie Brumley <binniebon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 7:25 PM  
**To:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Commissioners <commissioners@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

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Our family has farmed in Whitman County for 95 years. I strongly support the following changes to the wind code the planning commission has proposed and ask the commissioners to please adopt these to protect non participating landowners property use, health and wellbeing.

- In order to protect the property rights of the non-participating property owners it is essential that we establish clear setbacks from agricultural property lines and not just occupied residences. Our right to use already existing property becomes inhibited when setbacks differ. Our farmland here is among the most productive ag land in our country and the world. To be diminishing what we farmers can accomplish with our beautiful land would be a travesty for the economy and our local community. Setbacks need to be measured from property lines, instead of from occupied structures to reflect the realities of farming in our steep, variable terrain. Property-line setbacks protect flexibility for future farm infrastructure and ensure that non-participating landowners are not limited in how they can use their land.
- Mandatory fire detection system, fire suppression system, emergency response plan, and financial coverage of damages originating from turbine equipment/operations as our livelihood

of farm families in this corridor needs to be protected. There is no greater threat to our crops, homes, shops and out buildings than fire.

- With the massive size of these turbines relative to those already in place near Thorton, increased setbacks are necessary. A minimum setback of 6X ground to tip of the turbine is essential to protect the health of the 100 families living within 1 mile of the proposed turbine sites.
- A setback of at least 7 miles (9 would be much better and would match federal setbacks) from our beautiful landforms of Kamiak Butte Steptoe Butte and Palouse Falls protecting at least a portion of the view sheds we have all come to love and cherish.
- Adopting clear decommissioning language that requires complete removal of all wind energy facilities—including foundations, conduit, cabling, and buried infrastructure—to a depth of at least 10 feet below ground level.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these proposals and request that you consider the health and safety as well as land use for all the residents of Whitman county.

Bonnie Brumley  
4501 Clear Creek Road  
Palouse, WA

## Megan Zumbuhl

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**From:** Denis Tracy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 10:40 AM  
**To:** Megan Zumbuhl  
**Subject:** FW: Wind code public comment

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**From:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 9:29 AM  
**To:** Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Käne <weston\_kane@hotmail.com>  
**Cc:** Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Wind code public comment

FYI all.

Alan.

---

**From:** Rick Grunewald <[rick.grunewald@gmail.com](mailto:rick.grunewald@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 8:47 PM  
**To:** Alan Thomson <[Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov](mailto:Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Wind code public comment

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Rick Grunewald <[rick.grunewald@gmail.com](mailto:rick.grunewald@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Dec 15, 2025 at 8:44 PM  
**Subject:** Wind code public comment  
**To:** <[alan.thompson@whitmancounty.gov](mailto:alan.thompson@whitmancounty.gov)>  
**Cc:** <[commissioners@whitmancounty.gov](mailto:commissioners@whitmancounty.gov)>

Dear Mr. Thomson,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of the proposed changes to the wind code. I urge you to approve these changes. I feel it is very important to increase the setbacks and to provide exclusion zones around our important landmarks. These changes and the other changes in the proposed code are vital to our county's well-being. My parents, my wife and I, and our children have all enjoyed and valued Kamiak Butte, for example. We have resorted there so many times on special occasions and in all seasons, picnicking, hiking, and camping. We want to preserve this wonderful place for the enjoyment of

future generations. The Palouse is a beautiful gem and we want to protect it. The changes to the wind code helps in that regard.

Please include this email in the public record for the upcoming meeting on Wednesday the 17th.

Please expedite the passage of the proposed changes.

Thank you!

Rick Grunewald

1715 NW Lamont St, Pullman, WA 99163

## Megan Zumbuhl

---

**From:** Denis Tracy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 10:42 AM  
**To:** Megan Zumbuhl  
**Subject:** FW: Wind Code Pubilc Comment

**From:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 9:20 AM  
**To:** Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston\_kane@hotmail.com>  
**Cc:** Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Wind Code Pubilc Comment

FYI all.

Alan.

**From:** Nancy Grunewald <nan.grune@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 8:22 AM  
**To:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Wind Code Pubilc Comment

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Dear Mr. Thomson,

Along with my husband, Rick Grunewald, I also urge you and the commissioners to approve the Wind Code changes for Whitman County, to increase setbacks and provide exclusion zones around our important landmarks. If you have read his email to you, it explains why these are vital for our county. I feel it would be a travesty to compromise the natural beauty of the Kamiak Butte area and other lovely places of the Palouse in Whitman County with these giant, white windmills. Changes in this code may prove vital in helping to protect our area. Please pass the proposed changes, I respectfully ask.

Thank you.

Nancy Grunewald  
1715 NW Lamont St., Pullman

## Megan Zumbuhl

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**From:** Denis Tracy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 11:54 AM  
**To:** Megan Zumbuhl  
**Subject:** FW: Wind Code Public Hearing Comment  
**Attachments:** PC CW Letter Windmill Project.docx

**From:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 11:53 AM  
**To:** Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston\_kane@hotmail.com>  
**Cc:** Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

FYI all,

Alan.

**From:** craig walters <pacercorpcw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 11:37 AM  
**To:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

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To Alan Thomson

Please see attached file

Craig Walters

To: Whitman County Planning Commission  
RE: Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

I am an agronomist and soil scientist with a master's degree from WSU. I conducted agricultural research in the Palouse Region for over 30 years. I currently farm near Palouse, close to the proposed wind energy project. I have been farming this land for 19 years and own nearly 400 acres. The Olson family has owned this land for over 100 years. I hold the deed to the original homestead, signed by President Teddy Roosevelt, who would be shocked to see ultra-large turbines across the Palouse ridgelines. As a soil scientist and farmer, I love the land and the uniqueness of the Palouse region. The Palouse has some of the most productive farmland in the country, and it should never be used for industrial energy facilities. I have the following concerns.

1. Damage to the highways is caused simply by hauling all the components to the site. The code should require that any heavy-load traffic occur during the Summer months.
2. The footprint of the access roads servicing the wind energy facility will be much larger than that of the individual turbines. My concern is twofold.
  - a. During operation, the roads will cut through the land, dividing larger fields into smaller agricultural units. This leads to uneven soil erosion and complicates tillage and chemical applications, which reduces efficiency and increases fuel consumption.
  - b. During decommissioning, the code requires roads to be removed. However, it is nearly impossible to restore the land to its original condition. I can cite many railroads that were removed 50 years ago, and crops still grow poorly on those acres. The soil landscape will be altered by changes in boundaries and water flow. The code does not address remediation for these impacts on neighbors or waterways.

The Whitman County code must safeguard agricultural production and practices, especially for neighboring landowners. The commodities we produce in our vital agricultural region are essential for feeding the world amid rapid population growth. The Palouse viewshed must also be preserved for both today's and future generations, as it has been protected by our zoning codes in the past.

Sincerely,

Craig Walters, MS (Soil Science)

## Denis Tracy

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**From:** Alan Thomson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 4:20 PM  
**To:** Bill Meyers; Brian Davies; Chris Melhus; gibney; Dave McKeirman; Dean Kinzer; Julian Matthews; Tami Southern; Weston Kane  
**Cc:** Mark Storey; Denis Tracy; Grace Di Biase  
**Subject:** FW: comments on county wide wind code provisions

FYI.

Alan.

**From:** Olsen, Robert G <bgolsen@wsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 4:05 PM  
**To:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Cc:** Commissioners <commissioners@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** comments on county wide wind code provisions

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Mr. Thomson, (cc commissioners)

I have read the document entitled, "Public Hearing for the County-wide Wind Code Revisions" and have the following comments

1. As background, I am an electrical engineer and have worked with the power system for many years. First, (and I am aware that you are not looking for this specific kind of comment) I do not believe that augmenting the power grid with intermittent wind sources is the appropriate approach to reducing the amount of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels used to generate electricity for the grid. While, the advertised cost of wind energy is small, the need to keep other dispatchable sources available for times when there is no wind will increase the overall cost of electricity to consumers. Natural gas and nuclear power sources are much better options because they are dispatchable.
2. Now let me move to specific comments on the code revisions
  - a. No comments on sections 1, 2 or 4, although I am in essential agreement with the idea of setbacks and exclusion zones.
  - b. Section 3: There are physics based difficulties with operation of long high voltage AC underground cables (see references below). Given this, I think it would be an unnecessary burden on the developer of wind generators to abide by this provision. I would delete it.

References.

    - i. J. T. Leman and R. G. Olsen, "Overhead or Underground Transmission? That is (Still) the Question: Part I, T&D World, March 2022, p. 40;
    - ii. R. G. Olsen and J. T. Leman, "Overhead or Underground Transmission? That is (Still) the Question: Part II, T&D World, April 2022, p. 42;
  - c. Section 5: I think that this is an entirely appropriate requirement since wind generators typically last for 20 years before retirement is necessary. As an example of what can happen if no provisions are made for retirement, consider the following. Many years ago an experimental "egg beater" wind generator was installed next to I-90 near Ellensburg. When Puget Sound Energy developed their "Wild Horse" wind farm near Ellensburg, they wanted to pay for tearing down this unused "egg beater" (this was told

to me by the VP in charge of the project). However, they were not able to even determine who owned it. Hence, it sat there for many years and many considered it an eyesore.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Robert Olsen  
Cell (509) 592-8220

Robert G. Olsen, Professor Emeritus  
EE/ME 33  
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA 99164-2752  
(509) 335-4950  
[bgolsen@wsu.edu](mailto:bgolsen@wsu.edu)

Whitman County Commissioners, Planner, Public Works Director, and Planning Commission members  
From: Carol Black – June 20, 2025

### General Comments and Requests

1. I strongly support extending/renewing the Interim Zoning Control Ordinance and Moratorium for an additional six months. I will not be in town until late July so am unable to attend an in-person Hearing to voice my support. The community, Planning Commission, Commissioners, and Planner need additional time since it is summertime and harvest starts soon. The public and the Planning Commission have not yet had ample opportunity to discuss and share ideas on many critical aspects of the wind ordinance, specifically setbacks, height limits, visual & cultural impacts, health & safety issues, compensation for infractions/interference, and decommissioning.
2. Alan Thomson commented during the June 18 meeting that the Palouse Winds EIS is posted on their website. I am unable to locate it. Please email me a copy.
3. I reiterate (April 28 letter) that many of the documents on the current Planning Commission website are extremely biased and very out of date. Turbine structural technology has evolved greatly over the past 5 years. Older scientific articles do not account for the heights and blade lengths of today's turbines. As I noted in my April 28 correspondence, I take great exception to the three ACP articles listed because the President of Vestas North America is the Chair of the ACP Board (Laura Beane), and the CEO of ACP earns over \$1.2 million in salary to promote wind turbine development. Also, I submitted two articles in my April 28 and May 7 correspondence to the Planner and BOCC that have not been posted to the reference list.
4. It is important to understand scientific literature. Many of the science papers listed on the Planning Division website under *Renewable Energy Information* are decades old (over 25 years!) and rely on even older data. Some papers focus on evaluating a process and were pilot studies; their intent was not to measure direct impacts. A key consideration when reading these articles is to look for the heights of the turbines they refer to or figure out what size turbines were being installed during that period. You may be surprised how short turbines were 10-25 years ago. This is why stipulating (restricting) turbine heights is critical in either the ordinance or project review/CUP.
5. I caution you about "review articles" because the authors are reviewing "older papers" – take the time to review the dates of their sources – how does that relate to the turbines of today? Look hard within the papers for reference to turbine heights – evaluate what was being built during that period. Remember, an upcoming application may be for 680-foot turbines or even taller. *\*\*For example, the 2008 Washington Supreme Court case was predicated on discussions about 380-foot turbines (246 ft Hub, 144 ft Blade), not 700-foot turbines.* The protections needed are not the same.

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6. It is a falsehood to compare Palouse Winds (PW) and any new industrial wind complex. The community impacted by PW did not have access to the knowledge about the concerns for wind energy that are known and documented globally today. Also, the population density in the PW corridor is quite different from the density of rural residences in the publicly-discussed Harvest Hills corridor. As noted, the property values in the PW corridor have increased, but how much more value would they have realized if the turbines were not present, and ask them “would they buy again”? PW had to purchase at least one residence (look at the ownership map). Take the time to interview the few people who live nearby and hear their concerns. There are only a few of them -- it will not take too much of your staff’s time and one is an aerial applicator impacted by the turbines. Do not heed the comments from absentee landowners who do not live in the vicinity. Also, please report during the next meeting how many times the PW Conditional Use Permit has been modified for changes in operation or ownership/liability.
7. An EIS or SEPA focuses on the “environment:” Earth, Air, Water, Plants, Animals, but does not focus on human health. For this reason, the county ordinance must include requirements to protect human health that are not presented and covered in an EIS. Again, I recommend using the “Precautionary Principle” when the data is unknown or unclear.
8. Please ask Dennis Tracy to address “code enforcement” at a future meeting. What happens when noise and flicker limits are exceeded? Can the Sheriff shut down the operation? What are the general civil penalties? What compensations are reasonable for economic injury and inverse condemnation to non-affiliated parties (traffic effects, limits to aerial application, reduced housing prices, impacts on general agricultural practices)? How can compensation be added as a requirement to the code or other regulatory instrument?

## **Comments on Code Language**

### **2. Height Limits**

New Section: After the initial application and before or following any CUP, if a tower must be replaced, it is not to exceed the height/blade length specified in the application or approval

### **4. Noise**

The ordinance needs to address noise issues beyond turbine disturbances, including blasting noise during construction/decommissioning and haul noise.

### **11. Water Resources**

New Section: Detail the location of any water source to be used during construction, operation and decommissioning.

New Section: Estimate the total volume of water needed.

### **12. Historic and Cultural Preservation**

New Section: Document the location of sites within the corridor that are considered national, state, or local preservation areas.

New Section: document the location of sites that have evidence of Indian or historic use.

### **13. Visual Resources and Viewshed Assessments**

New Section: The applicant must present data on the impacted views in the immediate vicinity of each turbine. This must include a human field of vision of each turbine at varying distances from Key Observation Points, and note the field of view of a human (135 degree arc) with turbines located at 0.5 miles, 1 mile, 2 miles, 4 miles, and 7 miles.

New Section. Set flicker limits by distance. Northern longitudes have more severe sun angles. It may be necessary to time limit flicker exposure during certain times of the day or year.

New Section. The applicant must provide a graphic visualization using GIS terrain analysis of each turbine by GPS location, specific elevation of the base, and its height in perspective to the landscape as viewed from the neighboring properties/residences of non-participating landowners and "Key Observation Points" that are well known for photography and Palouse scenic drives.

*\*Note: Harvest Hills' earlier illustration this spring was not founded on properties within the publicly-discussed corridor, nor were the bases of the turbines in the schematic set at the actual elevation where turbines would be installed*

New Section. Discuss the type of light or glare the facility will produce and the distance from which this is seen.

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Whitman County Commissioners, Planner, Public Works Director, and Planning Commission members  
From: Carol Black – September 2, 2025

I ask the Planning Commission and the County Planner, County Public Works Director, and Commissioners to recognize that the data they are reviewing in the “peer-reviewed, scientific literature” is **OLD data** that is *not as relevant as it needs to be to protect non-participating people/properties living in the vicinity of the Ultra-Tall Wind Turbines* being proposed in Whitman County. The county wind ordinance must address current times and heights of the future turbines and recognize that the scientific literature presents a minuscule number of studies related to ultra-tall turbines.

**Action requested:**

A permit applicant must address all data shortfalls related to turbine height and base foundation in their application for the impacts of the turbines for the height they plan to build (noise, flicker, ice throw, viewshed). They may not be allowed to rely on data from much shorter wind turbines. These data requirements must be in the Wind Code so that it addresses the needs of Whitman County citizens.

**Justification:**

The VanNess and Feldman “*Role of and information relied upon by planning commission members*” document to Denis Tracy exemplifies that the data being relied on is **OLD** “scientific” data and literature discussions. Please review the “references” listed for each article you review for the relevance of the study/review date and the quality of the data related to turbine heights as presented. A significant fact is that **most scientific studies and discussions do not define turbine height or size of the foundations in their findings**; turbine hub heights/blade length are critical variables for many safety issues, and foundation size impacts sound and water use/management. This could leave a person to think the negative impacts from a 100-foot, 400-foot and 700-foot turbine would be the same. At the end of this document, I provide a chronology of wind turbine heights in the West to support my concerns for data related to turbine heights. I am not addressing the foundation now, but it must be addressed. Below are comments on the age and quality of the data/sources from three articles included in the VanNess and Feldman document.

**2011 - Knopper and Ollson article in: Environmental Health (14 yrs old) pages 5-15;** scientific review in Environmental Health

VanNess and Feldman present this as a scientific study; however, it is a review article of papers written before Palouse Winds was built (**2012**). In a later publication included in the VanNess and Feldman document, the authors refer to the Knopper and Ollson article as a “discussion, not a study.” Of the 37 articles reviewed:

- 22% were published in 2010-2011,
- 58% in 2005-2009, and
- 19% before 2005.

Understand that the studies were conducted before the publication dates -- the MW produced were less, and the hub heights and the blade lengths were much, much shorter. Thus, the data being referenced is not based on 700-foot Ultra-Tall turbines. If you review studies from the mid 1990’s to early 2000’s, recognize that turbine heights were under 300 feet. Noise and shadow flicker issues are very different with a 700-foot ultra-tall turbine. Even through 2010, turbines were under 450 feet tall. So, the data the county (VanNess/Feldman) may be relying on is based on 250-450 feet tall turbines. Today’s proposed turbines are 50% taller than those installed in 2010. The OLD data is not an acceptable “scientific reference point.”

Even 2011 Knopper and Olson recognized old data as an issue. They concluded on page 13 of the VanNess and Feldman document.

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- “Assessing the effects of wind turbines on human health is an emerging field, as demonstrated by the limited number of peer-reviewed articles published since 2003. Conducting further research into the effects of wind turbines (and environmental change) on human health, emotional and physical, as well as the effect of public consultation with community groups in reducing preconstruction anxiety, is warranted.”
- “We believe that any physiological based effect can be mitigated through the appropriate set back distances.”
- “Therefore, it is up to our elected officials and ministerial staff when establishing an energy source hierarchy to weigh all of the information before them to determine the trade-offs between “mental and social well-being” of these individuals against the larger demand for energy and its source.”

**2015 - Systematic review of the human health effects of wind farms (pages 27-322).** Commissioned by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council.

Again, this 295-page document is a literature review. It references only EIGHT actual scientific studies. They rated the quality of the evidence presented and rightfully pointed out that the quality of the sources used was limited.

- EIGHT articles are actual data-driven scientific studies
- EIGHTY-FIVE articles were a “discussion, not a study,” and
- EIGHTEEN were stated as unsuitable.

I am quite surprised VanNess and Feldman would select an Australian review document such as this to present their judgment. They discovered a lengthy document containing discussions but not many scientific studies.

**Powerpoint – has not relevance to scientific findings**

No credentials were presented for this author, and no references were presented.

**2018 - Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region (pages 357-536)** by the World Health Organization Europe.

There were over 300 articles cited in this review. The dates of the articles referenced are:

- 10% in 2016 -2020
- 48 % in 2010-2015
- 19% in 2005-2009
- 23% before 2005.

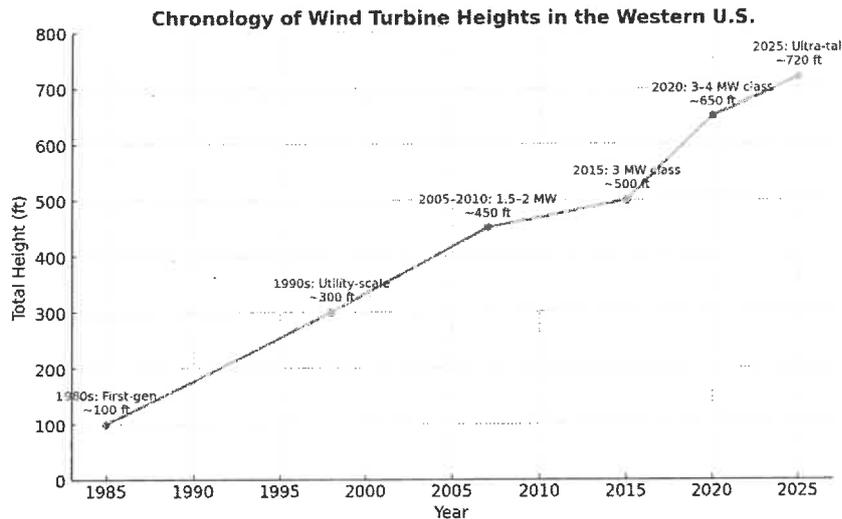
Again, most of the findings related to the smaller wind turbines developed in the early 2000’s with little current data.

**Use the Precautionary Principle:**

For this reason, greater levels of protection are needed today compared to those drafted before 2015. Again, I implore you to consider applying the **Precautionary Principle** when there is NO current data on 700-foot ultra-tall towers to identify safety measures and monetary impacts for non-participants living in a turbine’s proximity.

Our community must discuss protective setback distances for noise, shadow flicker, and other considerations (ice throw, fires, and insurance premiums). The Whitman County Wind Code must be updated with more protective measure and new safety measures added. We cannot rely on OLD data to set protections for our community members.

Following is a simple ChatGPT search for the “chronology” of wind turbine heights in the western U.S. to support the lack of data relevance from past years to today’s turbine heights. Here’s a timeline-style overview that shows how turbine heights have increased over time.



#### Mid-1990s – Early 2000s: Utility-Scale Arrives

- **Hub height:** 150–200 ft (45–60 m) and **Rotor diameter:** 130–200 ft (40–60 m)
- **Total height:** 250–330 ft (75–100 m)
- First large projects in Oregon, Washington, Wyoming.
- Example: Vansycle Ridge (OR, 1998), 1.5 MW turbines at ~200 ft hub.

#### 2005–2010: Modern 1.5–2 MW Class Turbines

- **Hub height:** 230–260 ft (70–80 m) and **Rotor diameter:** 250–300 ft (75–90 m)
- **Total height:** 400–450 ft (120–140 m)
- Widespread buildout in E. Washington (Stateline, Wild Horse, Hopkins Ridge) and Wyoming.
- By 2010, most new projects in the West used turbines in this size class.

#### 2010–2018: Taller, Larger-Rotor Machines

- **Hub height:** 260–300 ft (80–92 m) and **Rotor diameter:** 300–400 ft (90–120 m)
- **Total height:** 450–500 ft (140–150 m)
- Big projects in Oregon, Washington, and California repowerings.
- Example: Tucannon River Wind Farm (WA, 2015) with 3 MW turbines ~500 ft tall.

#### 2018–2022: Next-Gen 3–4 MW Class

- **Hub height:** 300–350 ft (92–107 m) and **Rotor diameter:** 400–450 ft (120–137 m)
- **Total height:** 550–650 ft (168–200 m)
- More projects began using taller towers for better wind capture at low-wind sites.
- Examples: Horse Heaven Hills (WA, proposed up to 670 ft); Boardman, OR repowerings.

#### 2023–2025: Ultra-Tall Turbines

- **Hub height:** 350–400 ft (107–122 m) and **Rotor diameter:** 450–550 ft (137–168 m)
- **Total height:** 650–720 ft (200–220 m)
- Now the standard for new projects in the West, especially in Washington, Oregon, Wyoming.
- Some permitted projects (like Horse Heaven Hills, WA, and Rock Creek, WY) allow turbines approaching **740 ft (225 m)**.

#### ☑ Trend:

- Every ~10–15 years, turbine height in the western U.S. has increased by ~100–200 ft.
- The next step (late 2020s) may see **800–850 ft** turbines if the U.S. follows European trends.

October 6, 2025

Kurt Beckett, Chair

Washington State Energy Facility Site and Evaluation Council - [comments@efsec.wa.gov](mailto:comments@efsec.wa.gov).

From: Carol Black, concerned citizen, [carol.black208@gmail.com](mailto:carol.black208@gmail.com), 208-301-3654

Vestas/Steelhead America has been in contact with you regarding a potential application for an Industrial Wind Energy Facility in Whitman County. I am a homeowner who lives within the proposed corridor (learned about from Vestas' communication with some tribes). I ask that you exercise caution as you move forward with assisting them with a pending application, as they have not been using due diligence in their communications with the impacted public.

I request that when they apply (or even before), you reach out to state agency leads familiar with the proposed corridor to give them a heads-up about potential negative impacts.

**Department of Agriculture** – the proposed corridor is located in the most productive winter wheat acreage in the Palouse – “prime farmland”, where average yields are ninety or more bushels per acre in an annual cropping system. This is extremely productive agricultural land in the country, not just the county. Secondly, aerial applicators are challenged with safely maneuvering the hilly topography; wind turbines will restrict or eliminate their use during critical pest outbreaks. The field edge turnaround for an AT-802 is 1.82 miles (<https://www.agaviation.org/policy/#wind-turbines>).

**Dept of Commerce – Tourism Marketing Authority** – the corridor encompasses an area recognized for beauty by the community and visitors. Photographers from around the world come in the spring to capture the rolling hills and scenic panoramas. Our county has not allowed homes to be built on ridgelines. Within the viewscape of this corridor, there are two county and state parks with incredible views of the Palouse – Kamiak Butte and Steptoe Butte. Kamiak Butte, a National Natural Landmark, is immediately adjacent to the corridor. These two buttes should be assigned an exclusion zone similar to the nine-mile setback in the Lava Ridge Wind Project in southern Idaho, which was approved in January 2023 under the Biden administration. Local professional photographers have calculated \$14.5 million in county revenue from photo-tours, hotels, restaurants, fuel, groceries, etc.

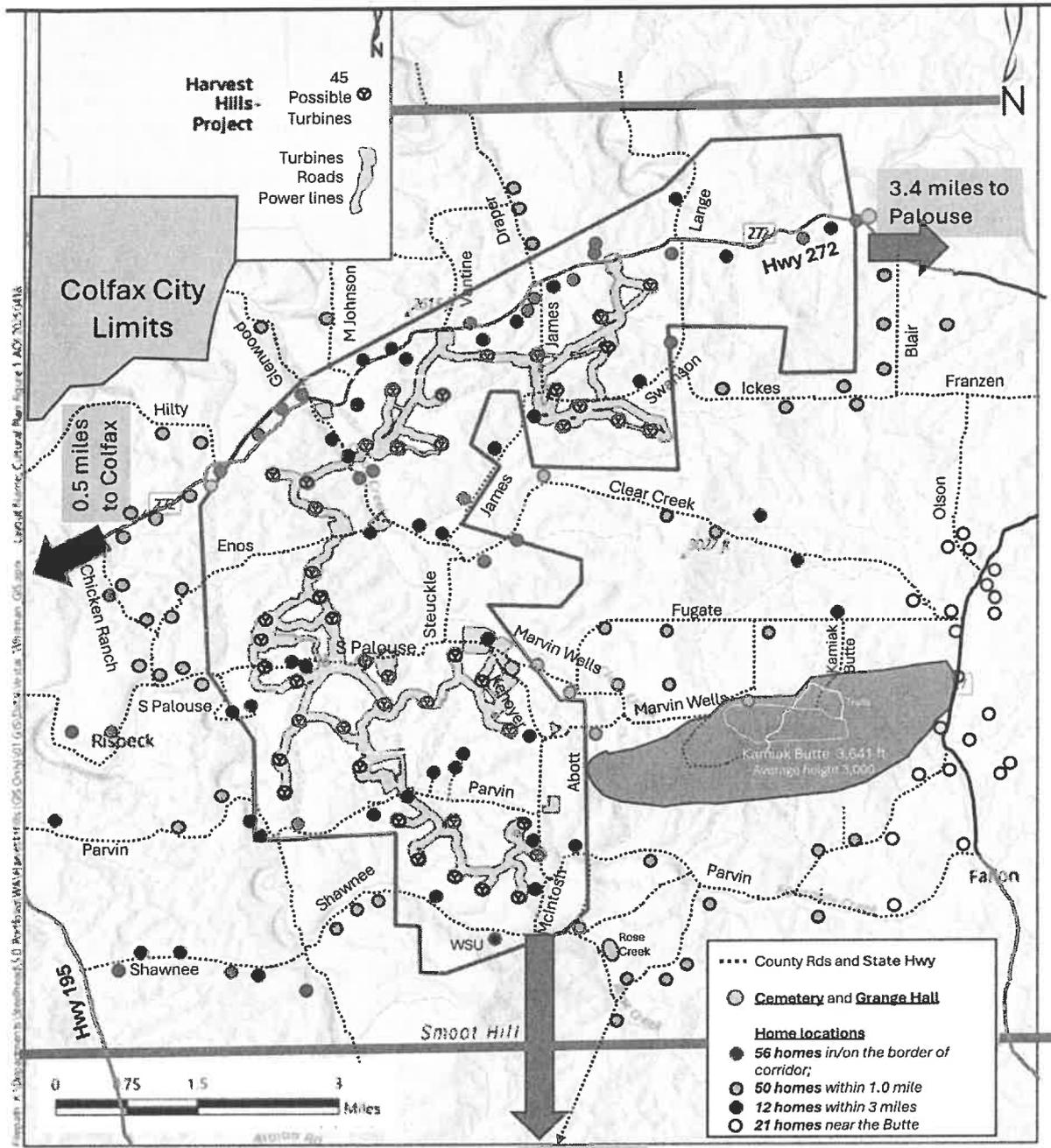
**Dept. of Ecology** – the proposed corridor is in an area served by a sole-source aquifer for which water rights are closed except for domestic wells. Over the past decade, and with the current D3 drought, the aquifer level has been diminishing, putting active domestic wells at risk. There is a need to identify the water source(s) and volumes required throughout the project's life/decommission. Surface water runoff from impermeable surfaces may require larger setbacks for provide for more percolation into the soil profile.

**Dept. of Health** – The proposed corridor includes 53 occupied homes; fewer than five have signed for turbines/road leases or good-neighbor leases (see map below). Health and safety are one major concern with impacts unknown from ultra-tall 699-foot turbines in our unique topography (no data available). Within a mile, there are over 100 residences, of which many are occupied by senior citizens on fixed incomes. Reduced home/property values (Horse Heaven Hills projected a 20-30% reduction) will impact their nest egg for expenses late in life. A third concern is increased fire hazard and the inability to obtain homeowner's insurance.

I created the map below. It is an overlay onto Vestas/Steelhead America's proposed corridor that was shared with tribes (not shared with the nearby impacted community). I added all of the homes and county roads. The original map noted only the state highways and a few permanent waterways. The dark blue outline is the corridor border. The light blue areas are the turbines, roads, and power lines; I added possible turbine locations. The red dots are the 53 homes in the corridor. The purple dots show other houses within a mile. The dark blue dots fall within three miles. Note the average elevation along the Kamiak Butte is 3,000 feet. The light blue

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ridgelines range from 2,500 – 2,900 feet. Thus, the turbines will be seen for miles, even from Pullman! If you have questions about the map or information provided, please reach out to me.



**Figure 1**  
**Project Location**  
**Wind Project Updates and Fieldwork Notification**  
**Harvest Hills Wind**  
**Whitman County, WA**

Version 4. Homes and county roads added by C. Black using All Trails and onX maps  
 Source map: PDF map from Vestas/Steelhead on April 18, 2025, correspondence with four Tribes - not to scale.

Whitman County Commissioners, Planner, Public Works Director, and Planning Commission members

*Please forward to Denis Tracy*

From: Carol Black – October 13, 2025

The Planner and possibly the County Commissioners are giving much credence to the work and presentation by VanNess, Feldman, and Ollson. I have reservations about what these experts have shared. In addition, it is recognized that each of these three has received significant financial compensation from the wind companies for their opinions.

I refer to my September 2 communication about my concerns about the level of expertise shown by VanNess and Feldman. Their 536-page document (funded by the county) was largely out of date regarding ultra-tall turbines and the Palouse topography. I have attached my September 2 communication for your referral; it exemplifies my grave concerns about relying on OLD data, which is based on much, much shorter turbines. Very few studies are conducted in the field for extended periods. Most peer-reviewed references in their papers are outdated, based on models rather than long-term field studies, and consist of reviews of other works or other reviews. A typical conclusion is that “the scientific community needs more real-time data.”

My second area of concern is the credibility of Dr. Ollson. He presented himself as a scientist, but he has only published five peer-reviewed articles. His resume would not get him into a candidate pool at WSU for an entry-level scientist. He is a consultant, not a research scientist. The majority of his non-scientific articles are wind industry fact sheets, presentation reviews, and perceptions. His presentation on September 9 had several inaccuracies that he stated as current, valid data. Regarding setbacks, below are his examples for non-participant homes. He did not recognize that times are changing, and codes are being continually updated throughout the country. He was fairly emphatic that his data was current and accurate.

New York – Ollson reported 2x tip height; I found 17 jurisdictions with greater setbacks: one each at 15x and 7x, 15 at 5/6x, and nine at 2.5/3.1x.

North Dakota – Ollson reported 3x tip height; I found 12 counties with greater setbacks, including several at one mile or more.

Wisconsin – Ollson reported a 3.1x tip height; I found three counties with greater setbacks and one county requiring a one-mile setback.

Illinois – Ollson reported 2.1x tip height; I found three counties with greater and one county with a 6x tip height.

Michigan – Ollson reported 2.1x tip height; I found one county at 5x and another at 3,960 ft.

To accommodate changing turbine heights into the future, a sliding scale for setbacks would be a good strategy. Let Whitman County be a leader in code language. **Proposed Code Language: The wind energy structure shall be a minimum of 1000 feet in distance for every 100 feet of maximum vertical height to the tip of the rotor of the wind energy system to the nearest occupied structure, unless sufficient and satisfactory mitigation has been provided to the affected landowner and is agreed upon.** Thus, the wind company can negotiate with all people, whether they have a lease or not. Whitman County could set a similar strategy for substations, roadways, and waterways.

Lastly, Harvest Hills has presented a proposed corridor map to EFSEC (spring 2025). On record in the County, 15 participating landowners make up the corridor. The corridor includes 53 homes and another 50 within one mile. Only three leaseholders live in the area. How can the County write code to protect the rights of 15 people and inflict harm on 100 others? Most leaseholders are absentee or live out of the corridor area. The code should address the acceptance level in the designated area. I have not found this anywhere in the country, but I feel it is imperative. Using the corridor map from the Vestas/Steelhead Americas with tribes, I added the county roads and individual homes (red, purple, blue dots) and my guess at turbine locations (circle/x). If you want to know why our passions are high, this map gives a pretty good illustration.

N-11

October 6, 2025

Kurt Beckett, Chair

Washington State Energy Facility Site and Evaluation Council - [comments@efsec.wa.gov](mailto:comments@efsec.wa.gov).

From: Carol Black, concerned citizen, [carol.black208@gmail.com](mailto:carol.black208@gmail.com), 208-301-3654

Vestas/Steelhead America has been in contact with you regarding a potential application for an Industrial Wind Energy Facility in Whitman County. I am a homeowner who lives within the proposed corridor (learned about from Vestas' communication with some tribes). I ask that you exercise caution as you move forward with assisting them with a pending application, as they have not been using due diligence in their communications with the impacted public.

I request that when they apply (or even before), you reach out to state agency leads familiar with the proposed corridor to give them a heads-up about potential negative impacts.

**Department of Agriculture** – the proposed corridor is located in the most productive winter wheat acreage in the Palouse – “prime farmland”, where average yields are ninety or more bushels per acre in an annual cropping system. This is extremely productive agricultural land in the country, not just the county. Secondly, aerial applicators are challenged with safely maneuvering the hilly topography; wind turbines will restrict or eliminate their use during critical pest outbreaks. The field edge turnaround for an AT-802 is 1.82 miles (<https://www.agaviation.org/policy/#wind-turbines>).

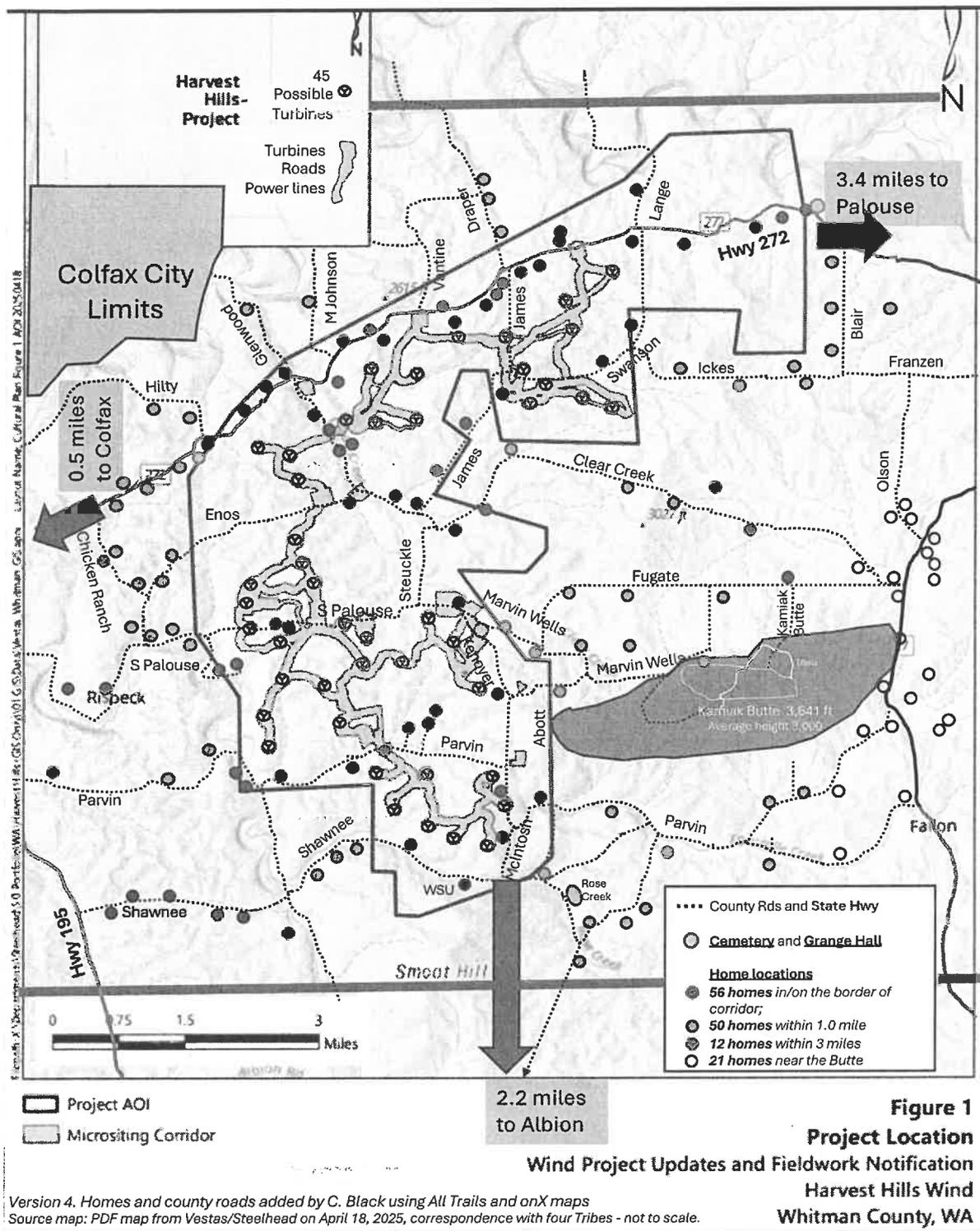
**Dept of Commerce – Tourism Marketing Authority** – the corridor encompasses an area recognized for beauty by the community and visitors. Photographers from around the world come in the spring to capture the rolling hills and scenic panoramas. Our county has not allowed homes to be built on ridgelines. Within the viewscape of this corridor, there are two county and state parks with incredible views of the Palouse – Kamiak Butte and Steptoe Butte. Kamiak Butte, a National Natural Landmark, is immediately adjacent to the corridor. These two buttes should be assigned an exclusion zone similar to the nine-mile setback in the Lava Ridge Wind Project in southern Idaho, which was approved in January 2023 under the Biden administration. Local professional photographers have calculated \$14.5 million in county revenue from photo-tours, hotels, restaurants, fuel, groceries, etc.

**Dept. of Ecology** – the proposed corridor is in an area served by a sole-source aquifer for which water rights are closed except for domestic wells. Over the past decade, and with the current D3 drought, the aquifer level has been diminishing, putting active domestic wells at risk. There is a need to identify the water source(s) and volumes required throughout the project's life/decommission. Surface water runoff from impermeable surfaces may require larger setbacks for provide for more percolation into the soil profile.

**Dept. of Health** – The proposed corridor includes 53 occupied homes; fewer than five have signed for turbines/road leases or good-neighbor leases (see map below). Health and safety are one major concern with impacts unknown from ultra-tall 699-foot turbines in our unique topography (no data available). Within a mile, there are over 100 residences, of which many are occupied by senior citizens on fixed incomes. Reduced home/property values (Horse Heaven Hills projected a 20-30% reduction) will impact their nest egg for expenses late in life. A third concern is increased fire hazard and the inability to obtain homeowner's insurance.

I created the map below. It is an overlay onto Vestas/Steelhead America's proposed corridor that was shared with tribes (not shared with the nearby impacted community). I added all of the homes and county roads. The original map noted only the state highways and a few permanent waterways. The dark blue outline is the corridor border. The light blue areas are the turbines, roads, and power lines; I added possible turbine locations. The red dots are the 53 homes in the corridor. The purple dots show other houses within a mile. The dark blue dots fall within three miles. Note the average elevation along the Kamiak Butte is 3,000 feet. The light blue

ridgelines range from 2,500 – 2,900 feet. Thus, the turbines will be seen for miles, even from Pullman! If you have questions about the map or information provided, please reach out to me.



Whitman County Commissioners, Planner, Public Works Director, Denis Tracy, and Planning Commission members

From: Carol Black – October 21, 2025

**Personal Property – Impacts on Neighbors and the Need for Adequate Setbacks**

The existing County setbacks will lead to lower property values. The decrease in real estate values is due to viewshed, noise, flicker, and other nuisances, which are worsened by several nearby turbines. The rural community affected is used to a peaceful, quiet lifestyle with little to no road noise. People pay premium prices for the few homes in rural areas. If property values fall, the project applicant or county must legally compensate the affected landowner for the difference, as determined by a licensed appraiser.

My June 4 communication stated the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the US Constitution prohibits the government’s taking of private property without just compensation. This includes the extent to which the act interferes with the reasonable expectations of the property owner.

The current County code does not address **decreases in property values or other financial impacts** related to using one’s own residential or agricultural property. Alan Thompson, County Planner, noted, the property line setback is primarily for safety reasons, such as preventing injury if a turbine falls. Setbacks need to protect more than health and safety.

Harvest Hills shared a map of a proposed Corridor for 45 turbines in the spring of 2025. Using their map, I added approximate locations of homes near or within the corridor and county roads (Page 4). There are 111 homes within a one-mile radius of the proposed Harvest Hills Corridor (Page 4 map is missing five additional homes). In comparison, there are three homes within one mile of the Palouse Wind project, excluding the one home sold to the project. More than 25 of the 111 homes are owned by senior citizens (over 65), who will rely on their property investment to help finance their final years when they require care; this population should be classified as “overburdened”. With the density of homes in the Colfax-Palouse-Albion-Kamiak Butte area, would you characterize it as “low-density rural”? Since the Palouse Wind project was built, no new homes have been built nearby, but homes have been built in the proposed Kamiak corridor. Note: 15 family entities leased land to Harvest Hills; however, there are 111 families who live in homes within one mile of the corridor.

Washington regulations guide EFSEC (RCW 80.50.010), and the regulations state: It is the intent to seek courses of action that will balance the increasing demands for energy facility location and operation in conjunction with the broad interests of the public. Such action will be based on these premises: One stipulated premise is “to **preserve and protect the quality of the environment; to enhance the public’s opportunity to enjoy the aesthetic and recreational benefits of the air, water, and land resources**; to promote air cleanliness; to pursue beneficial changes in the environment; and **to promote environmental justice for overburdened communities.**” Whitman County, likewise, must balance the broad interests of the public and not cause harm to neighbors.

Harvest Hills Wind Project has publicly stated that real estate values are not affected and cites only academic studies, not those performed by real estate appraisers. To challenge their claim, I provide two testimonies from wind projects and three recent peer-reviewed publications. Property value depreciation should warrant a minimum of a one-mile setback from property lines, and perhaps further for ultra-tall turbines.

**#1 - Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S**

During the adjudication with EFSEC, property appraisal experts testified that real estate prices may decrease by 20 to 30 percent, and properties near the turbines might never sell.

N-12

## #2 - Real Estate Consulting Report for Niyol Wind Farm in Logan County, CO (June 2020)

by Kurt C. Kielisch, Forensic Appraisal Group. Real Estate Appraiser with 36 years of experience in the appraisal field, completed over 8,100 valuations totaling \$13.1+ billion.

Wind industry and government-supported studies found little to no evidence of an impact. However, independent studies found a significant impact using a variety of valuation methods, from paired sales analysis to multiple regression analysis.

- Properties within the wind farm footprint= -35% impact on property value
- Properties 1-mile outside of the wind farm footprint = -22% impact on property value
- Agricultural Properties within the wind farm footprint= -8.5% impact on property value
- The Landsink (Ontario, CA) study found a loss range of -8.85% to -50%, with a loss average of -39% for residential homes within 664 ft to 2,531 ft of a wind farm.
- The Appraisal Group One Wisconsin Study found a typical loss of 1-10 acre residential lots within 6-mile of wind turbines to be -19% to -40%.
- The Clarkson University, upstate New York, study of both residential and agricultural properties found a loss ranging from -15.6% to -31% within 1-3 miles of a wind farm.
- The Forensic Appraisal Coral Springs (WY) study of large residential lots (35 acres), which would be abutting a proposed wind farm, suffered a value impact of -25% to -44%.
- The McCann study (IL) of residential properties found an average impact of -25% within 2-miles of a wind farm.
- The Forensic Appraisal Big Sky (IL) study found a loss range of -12% to -25% of residences within 0.31mi to 1.72mi of a wind turbine, with an average impact of -19% at an average distance of 0.65 miles to a wind turbine.
- The Twin Grove II Wind Farm (McLean County, IL) study of a 198MW wind farm comprised of 120 turbines being 397ft in height over an 11,000 acres area. A paired sales analysis of residential property within the influence of the wind farm found the improved property is negatively impacted by the presence of wind turbines. The impact measured ranged from -46.6% to -7.7%, with the higher impact closest to the wind turbines and the impact diminishing as the distance is increased. The distances measured ranged 1,483ft to 5,481ft away from a residence. The Twin Grove II Wind Farm also found an overall impact of -6.63% to -8.5% for vacant agricultural properties within the wind farm zone.

The Niyol proposal has turbines being **495ft to 505ft in height**. This is at least 25% greater in height and breadth than the study turbines. Therefore, it would be logical and reasonable to conclude that this **size difference would cause the predictive impacts to be conservative**. With that in consideration, it would be reasonable to conclude the following impacts:

### **Properties Within the Wind Farm Footprint**

The graph indicates that a -28% loss in value would be found from a distance of 1,500ft from a wind turbine. However, as we noted, those studies used smaller wind turbines. It is estimated that the proposed turbines are at least 25% greater in size. Though a direct correlation of size and impact has not been established, it would be reasonable to estimate the impact would increase by a factor of 1.25. Hence, we conclude the impact to be -35%.

### **Properties 1-Mile outside of the Wind Farm Footprint**

The graph suggests that the impact would be less the further the distance from a wind turbine. The analysis indicates that at 2-mile distance from a turbine the impact would be -18%. Considering that the turbines were smaller in the studies it would be reasonable to increase this impact by a factor of 1.25 to conclude a -22% impact.

### **Agricultural Properties**

Agricultural properties within the footprint, but not participating in the wind lease, will be have a -8.5% impact on property value.

**#3 – Commercial wind turbines and residential home values:** New evidence from the universe for land-based wind projects in the United States. Brunner, E.J., et al. 2024. Energy Policy Vol. 185

- Homes within one mile decline in value by approximately 11% after the announcement of a wind project; those one to two miles have a smaller impact
- Based primarily on projects in urban counties.
- European studies show values fall 5-10% for homes located within 2 km.

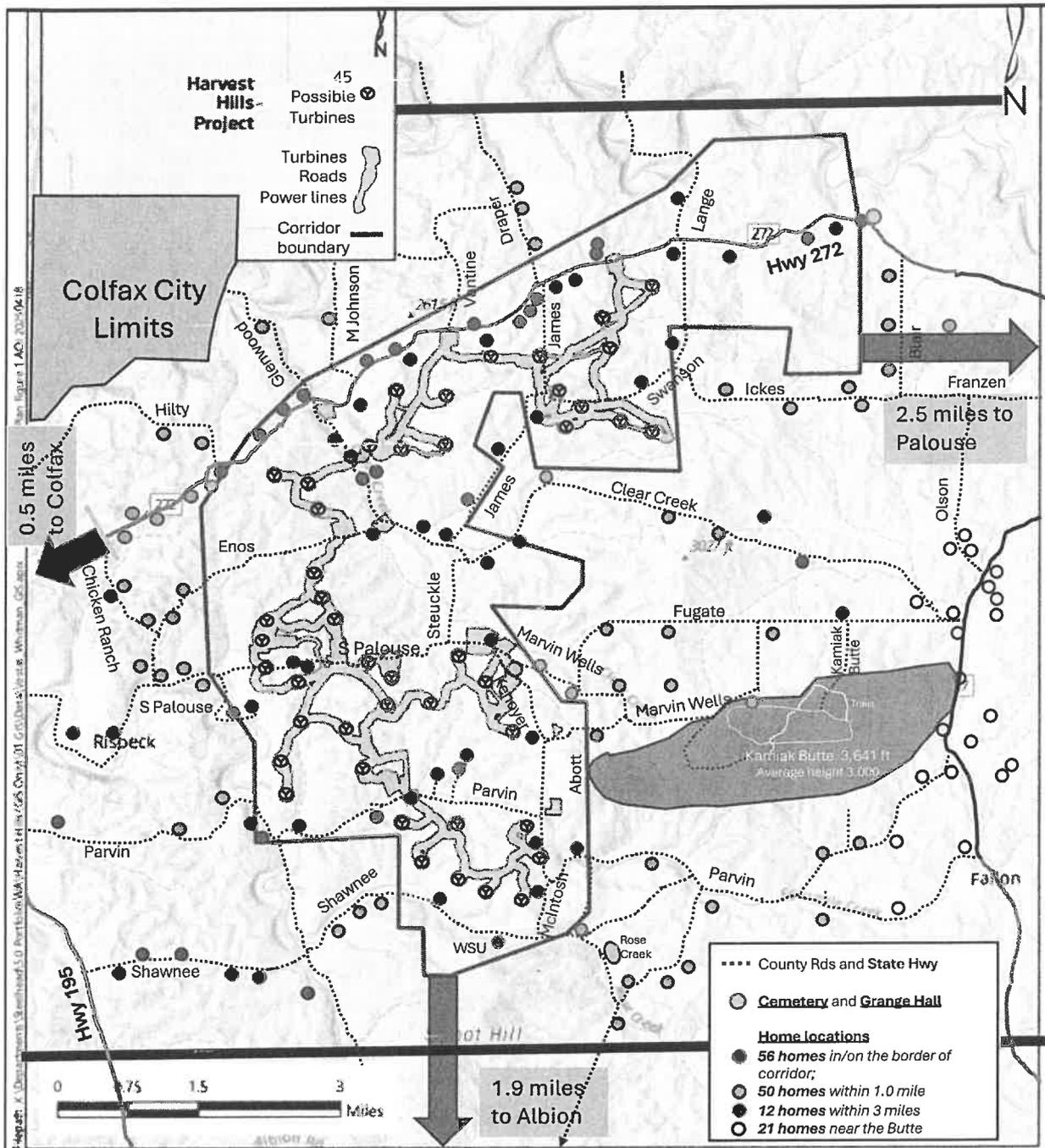
**#4 – Wind turbines, solar farms, and house prices.** Droes, M.J. and H. Koster. 2021. Wind Policy Volume 155

- Turbine height is a significant factor; turbines 50-150m have an effect of -3.4%, whereas the effect is -8.3% for turbines over 150m in height (but the sample size is very small for taller turbines).
- Findings imply turbines have higher effects on house prices and the effect reaches just beyond 2 km, up to 2250m, but not beyond 2.5 km. Moreover, we show that low turbines (<50m) have a small impact on house prices that is confined to about 1 km

**#5 - The visual effect of wind turbines on property values is small and diminishing in space and time.** Gou. W, et.al. PNAS Vol 121 No 13, 2024

- Abstract: Robust evidence of a 1% drop in home values within a wind turbine's viewshed. The effect is larger for homes closer to more wind turbines, but is no longer detectable by the end of the 10-year period covered by the data."
- Conclusion: On average across the whole sample, house prices decrease by up to 8% after the construction within the viewshed and the close-range neighborhood of the property.
- The visible effects of wind turbines negatively impact home values in an economically and statistically significant way when located in close proximity (< 5 miles/8 km).
- The average effect falls to 1% reduction for houses within 10 km of visible wind turbines
- *Carol Black notes on this paper, which is widely quoted by the wind industry*
  - One of the visual illustrations was based on a turbine with a hub height under 100 feet.
  - Norris Wilson, B.A., AACI, P.App. Wrote an Opinion on this study
    - The findings are a sleight of hand since based solely on "visual effect."
    - The sample size is 250,000 homes within 1.5 km and 8.5 million within 10 km, which does not truly focus on the homes close to the turbines; the further distances dilute the findings.
    - The study also did not address noise/infrasound concerns.

Carol Black map Page 4.



Project AOI  
Micrositing Corridor

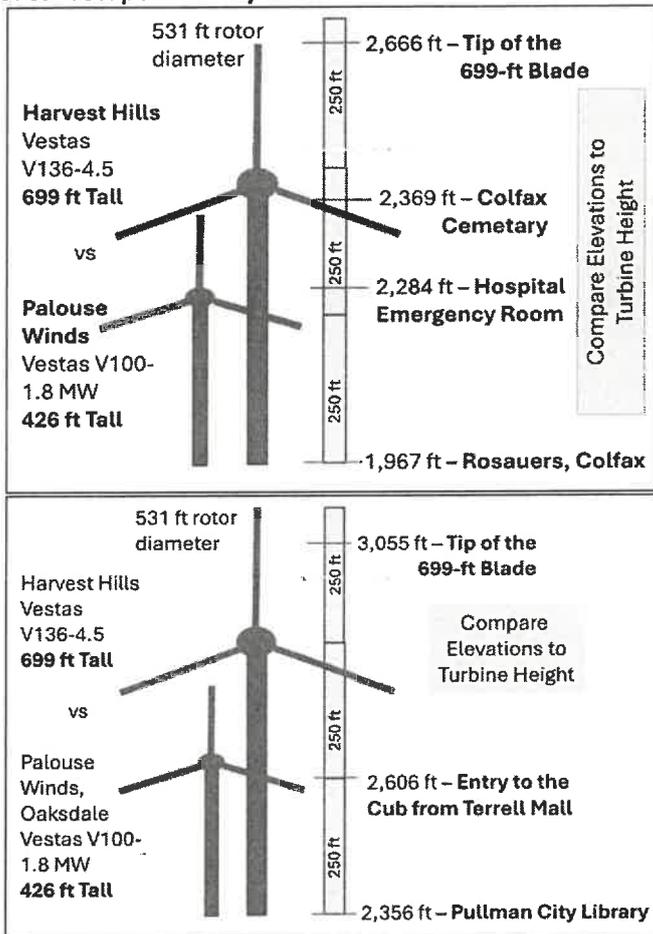
**Figure 1**  
**Project Location**  
**Wind Project Updates and Fieldwork Notification**  
**Harvest Hills Wind**  
**Whitman County, WA**

Version 5. Homes and county roads added by C. Black using All Trails and onX maps  
Source map: PDF map from Vestas/Steelhead on April 18, 2025, correspondence with four Tribes - not to scale.

**Sections:**

- Rural Landscape Visibility Zone 1
- Codes from Around the Country 1
- Other Setback Findings 2
- Audible Noise 2
- Infrasound and Vibrations 3
- Property Value Decline 9

**Rural Landscape Visibility Zone**



**Codes from Around the Country that meet or exceed the draft revised language for 6x tip height.** Open Energy Data Initiative (OEDI). U.S. Wind Siting Regulation and Zoning Ordinances (2025)

<https://data.openei.org/submissions/8519>

- 4 or 5 miles – Wheeler, NE, Sully, SD and Tooele, UT;
- 3 miles – Dawson, NE, Jefferson Davis, LA;
- 1.5-2 miles - Baker, OR, Burke, ND, Cedar, NE, Center, PA, Stark, ND, Umatilla, OR, Vermillion, IN, Walworth, SD;

- 1 mile - Brown, NE, Carteret, NC, Elko, NV, Gage, NE, Goshen, WY, Jefferson, NE, Kennebec, ME, Kosciusko, IN, Madison, ID, Mason, KT, Penobscot, ME, Sioux, NE, Trempealeau, WI, Waldo, ME, Washoe, NV, Wells, ND
- 10x 13x, 15x (3) - Addison, VT, Erie, NY, Marathon, WI, Waldo, ME
- 6x 6.5x 7x (7) - Chautauqua, NY, Franklin, NY, Monona, IA, Montgomery, IA, Niagara, NY, Warren, IL, Whitley, IN

#### Other Setback Findings

- Indiana – 6.5x in Kosciuski, Whitley, and Montgomery
- Ohio - Between April 2022 and March 2023, at least 11 counties in Ohio adopted binding resolutions to prohibit large renewable energy projects in all of their unincorporated territories or very large swathes of those territories
- Nebraska - March 2023, Buffalo County, Nebraska, adopted an exceptionally restrictive wind ordinance, which requires that turbines be set back 3 miles from the nearest property lines and 5 miles from any village or city. At the time of publication, at least 8 other Nebraska counties also require that wind turbines be set back by at least 1 mile from either property lines or dwellings, including Wheeler (5 miles from dwellings), Thomas (3 miles from property lines), Hamilton (2 miles from property lines), Dakota (2 miles from dwellings), Brown (1 mile from property lines), Gage (1 mile from property lines), Otoe (1 mile from property lines), and Jefferson (1 mile from dwellings). Meanwhile, Stanton County has effectively banned commercial wind projects altogether.

#### Audible Noise

1. WAC 173-60-040 and in your new definition section, note that non-participating homes are classified as “Residential Areas” (WAC 173-60-030 #2.a) for compliance with WAC 173-060-040 #2.a, #2.b, #2.c).
2. WA Dept. of Ecology - Noise and Vibration Resource Report September 2024.  
<https://www.whitmancounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10575/Dave-Gibney-Agenda-Plan-2025-06-20-PDF>
  - a. Executive Summary - Through compliance with laws, permits, and with implementation of actions that could avoid and reduce impacts, most construction, operation, and decommissioning activities would likely result in less than significant impacts on noise and vibration. Potentially significant adverse impacts related to noise would occur if:
    - i. Construction or decommissioning activities occur within 2,500 feet of noise-sensitive receptors in a quiet rural area
    - ii. During operations, wind turbines for small to medium facilities are closer than 1,000 feet from a noise-sensitive land use or closer than 3,000 feet from a noise-sensitive land use in a quiet rural area, or turbines for large facilities are sited closer than 2,400 feet from a noise-sensitive land use or closer than 5,000 feet from a noise-sensitive receptor in a quiet rural area
    - iii. During operations, substations for small to medium facilities are closer than 110 feet from a noise-sensitive land use or closer than 350 feet from a noise-sensitive land use in quiet rural areas, or substations for large facilities are closer than 650 feet from a noise-sensitive receptor or 2,000 feet from a noise-sensitive receptor in quiet rural areas

- iv. A facility with a battery energy storage system of certain design and consolidate configuration is closer than 1.5 miles from noise-sensitive land uses
  - b. Additionally, in recognition that existing ambient noise levels are commonly quiet in rural areas where siting of energy facilities would likely occur, an increase of 5 dBA over ambient would correspond to a readily perceptible increase in noise for permanent operations (FHWA 2017). In quiet rural areas, an increase of 5 dBA over ambient noise could potentially result when turbines generate a noise level of 40 dBA at a receptor. Based on two-dimensional geometric spreading equations, this increase is estimated to have potential to occur within approximately 5,000 feet from the turbines. Consequently, siting of wind turbines closer than 5,000 feet from a noise-sensitive land use in a quiet rural area would have a potentially significant adverse impact.
2. A couple of Michigan counties' wind codes require the applicant to measure Ambient Noise levels prior to construction. "Shall not exceed ambient sound plus 3-5 dBA or dBC." Rural ambient noise is usually around 35 dBA; an increase of 5 dBA would warrant a limitation to be set at 40 dBA in the wind code for rural areas.
  - a. Carol Black Note. Since we are not addressing a rural noise standard in the Noise section of the code, it is rolled into the Setback section. A noise standard would require pre-construction noise measurement for all sensitive receptors and then limit noise to 5 dBA above that level.
  - a. **Energy Policy.** February 2024 Understanding subjective and situational factors of wind turbine noise annoyance. Muller, F.J.Y, et. Al.
    - i. Using the single-item annoyance measure, 17.2% of participants reported not being at all annoyed by the sounds. 16.1% were slightly annoyed, 19.4% somewhat annoyed, 21.5% moderately annoyed, and 25.8% very annoyed; note: distance was not provided
    - ii. three WTs with a power of 2.78 MW and total height of 199 m each (GE 2.75-120)
    - iii. Michaud et al. (2016c) found that highly annoyed residents were more likely to have triple pane windows, and more likely to close their bedroom windows due to WT noise than less annoyed residents, corroborating that noise was relevant in situations associated with sleep.
  - b. Sound modeling by the company does not address non-laboratory settings

## Infrasound and Vibrations

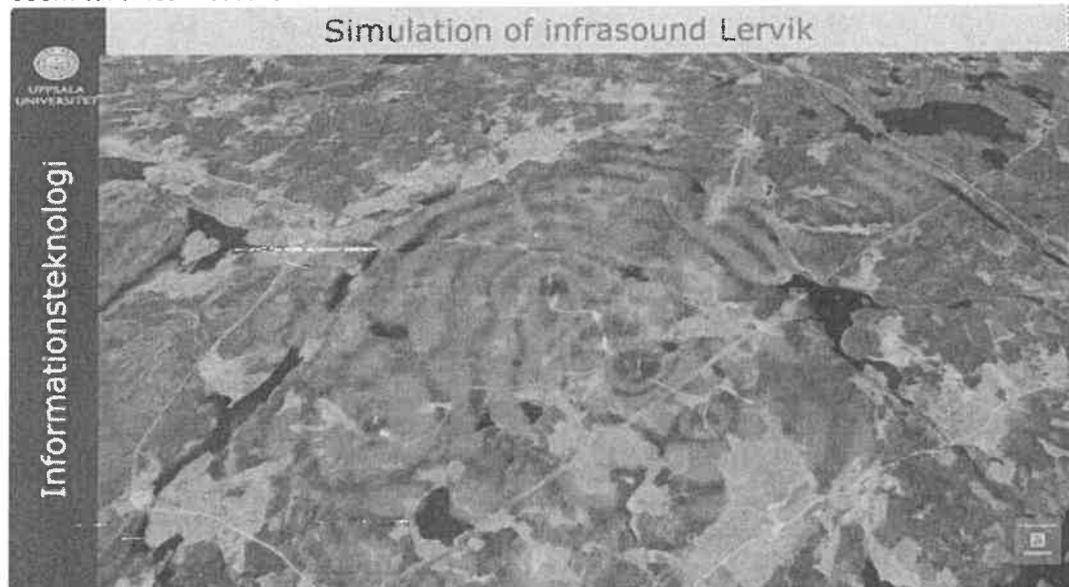
**Separating Myth from Fact on Wind Turbine Noise.** 2025. Ken Mattson – Uppsala University, Copenhagen

Computer Scientist. Conference Presentation. **Transcript PDF**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpHDJPcqCQY> – an amazing presentation at a conference

- Generational Sound versus Propagational Sound
- 105 dBA is not a constant and can vary during the day, often exceeded
- Vestas uses a simplified model to show sound movement and degradation
- Discusses how much sound is generated, and how is it propagated (shock wave)
- Every time the blade passes the tower, it creates a pressure pulse in a rhythmic pattern
- Infrasound infiltrates walls

- Increased by higher winds
- 600m turbines measured over time. Animation.



**Separating Myth from Fact on Wind Turbine Noise – Prof. Ken Mattsson, Copenhagen 2025**

**Infrasound Affects the Brain.** Presentation (in Danish). 2025 Conference. Dr. Hakan Enborn, MD, PhD, Copenhagen, Specialist and Otoneurologist. **Transcript PDF**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emtKaQ5O1N8> – slides are in English
- Everyone can be affected by wind turbines' pulsating infrasound; some people are more sensitive: annoyance, sleep disturbance, anxiety, depression, risk to develop migraines
- The risk for annoyance or symptoms depends on: personal degree of sensitivity, sound level (distance from turbine), and exposure time.
- Characterizes who is more sensitive
- Too much of a trigger or too much stress can start an Aura, which is = kind of fireworks of nerve activity somewhere in the brain, resulting in migraine disease.
- It is estimated that 1 in 3 people are sensitive to infrasound, especially in quiet rural areas where background noise is lower than big cities.

**Responses of the ear to low frequency sounds, infrasound and wind turbines.** Salt, A.N. and T.E. Hullar. 2010. Hear Res. 268: 12-21

- Raises the possibility that exposure to the infrasound component of wind turbine noise could influence the physiology of the ear.

**Infrasound caused by industrial wind turbines 2019. Friends Against Wind.**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywWNx3OJyuo>
- Planet E Science Program, Birgit Hermes
- Explains infrasound
- Bigger, more efficient turbines create more infrasound

- Every time the blade passes the tower, large air volumes are compressed and sheared, referred to as blade pass harmonics. They emerge from the background noise with a distinctly higher acoustic pressure level, in other words, more energy.
- Modeling shows that a 5 MW turbine would possibly generate detectable infrasound signal even from a distance of 20 km. Data summary is flattened which makes the peaks disappear, making it appear similar to background noise.
- Wind turbines also generate structure-borne sound.
- Measured vibrations and infrasound measured in nearby home. – Gov't measurements would have calculated resulting in flattened out peaks.
- Professor Alec Salt, Washington University. Inner ear hairs react with electrical responses that stimulate other pathways – at a frequency of 5 Hz. Bias and money discount his findings.
- Prof. Ximena Kuhn - Infrasound affects the brain, which deals with managing stress, but the reason is unclear. Theory is that you cannot ignore the subliminal sound, like you can normal sound.
- Prototype infrasound weapons were developed, but they did not affect all people equally, so they were abandoned.
- Professor Christian, Mainz University Medical Center, laboratory experiment measuring acute effects on heart muscle. It has an effect on heart muscle strength.
- Infrasound is particularly dangerous because it is not audible to the human ear. The government is responsible for protecting its citizens from harmful environmental influences.

**A fundamental basis for all living creatures, mechanotransduction, is significantly endangered by periodic exposure to impulsive infrasound and vibration from technical emitters - in particular cardiovascular and embryological functions.** Bellut-Staack, U. SCIREA Journal of Clinical Medicine. Vol. 10.

- Mechanotransduction is the common basis for all organisms for converting physical forces into biochemical and biological information. Ongoing PIEZO channel research confirms PIEZO-I and II channels in numerous other tissues including outside the endothelium. The prerequisite for a inflammatory transformation of the endothelium is chronic oxidative and oscillatory stress, as vital regulatory processes depend on an uninterrupted laminar flow in the capillary system and the integrity of the endothelium. Vascular health, in turn, is closely linked to demand-driven NO bioavailability and its homeostasis.
- The latest findings on a growing environmental factor show clear signs of an incompatibility between chronic and impulsive low frequencies and a fundamental information pathway of all organisms. The potentially serious consequences of an interaction, e.g., loss of endothelial integrity, increased blood pressure, and tissue remodeling of the heart, reduced fertility, strandings and death of whales, decline in animal species and insects, and reduction in plant biomass, have a common basis, which is discussed in this article: mechanotransduction. A force that is not demand-oriented can lead to irregular information.
- There is an urgent need to reassess the far-reaching effects and consequences of infrasound and vibrations from technical installations such as biogas plants, heat pumps and in particular, large (250 m+) industrial wind turbines (IWT). 'If you want to discover the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequencies and vibrations' (quote from Tesla). Mechanotransduction is a common basis for all life and must be preserved.

**Infrasound and Low Frequency Noise Guidelines: Antiquated and Irrelevant for Protecting Populations.**

Alves-Pereira, M., et.al, 26<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Sound & Vibration (Peer-reviewed Paper), Montreal Conference. 2019.

- A re-evaluation of legislation regarding population exposure to ILFN has been urgently needed for decades (1). The Canadian regulations currently in place are similar to other regulations worldwide and are equally inadequate if the goal is to protect human health against chronic ILFN exposures. Symptomatic complaints that are currently being ignored or misdiagnosed will predictably lead to a burden on future healthcare costs. Although the proliferation of IWT is bringing the agent of disease (16) to the forefront, biases regarding how human health is impacted by airborne pressure waves (audible or not and regardless of the source) continue to impede proper scientific investigation (17), and consequently, proper protection of human populations and their offspring.

**Effects of low-frequency noise from wind turbines on heart rate variability in healthy individuals.**

Chung-Hsiang Chiu, et.al., Nature – Scientific Report 2021 11:17817

- In view of the adverse health impacts of LFN exposure, there should be regulations on the requisite distances of wind turbines from residential communities for health protection. Study was conducted at 500 meters.
- For residences, for houses near wind turbines to be equipped with airtight windows for sound insulation, and for residents living in close proximity to wind turbines to have their windows closed most of the time to reduce LFN transmission

**Epidemiological study on long-term health effects of low-frequency noise produced by wind power stations in Japan.** Ishitake, T., et.al., 2019. Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Acoustics.

- The reported prevalence rate of sleep disorders was significantly higher in residents living at a distance of  $\leq 1,500$  m from the nearest wind turbine compared to that for residents living at a distance  $\geq 2,000$  m.
- The attitudes of residents towards wind power facilities and their sensitivity to noise strongly influenced their responses regarding the prevalence of sleep disorders.

**Negative Effect of High-Level Infrasound on Human Myocardial Contractility: In-Vitro Controlled Experiment.** April 2021. Chaban, Ryan., et.al. Noise and Health 23(109):57-66

- Conclusions: Exposure to high levels of infrasound (more than 100 dBz) interferes with cardiac muscle contractile ability, as early as one hour after exposure. There are numerous additional studies which support this conclusion. These results should be taken into account when considering environmental regulations.

**Wind Turbines Make Waves: Why Some Residents Near Wind Turbines Become Ill.** Havas. M. and D. Colling. 2011. Bulletin of Science Technology & Society.

- A subset of the population living near wind turbines is experiencing symptoms of ill health issues. A combination of noise, infrasound, dirty electricity, ground current, and shadow flicker likely causes these symptoms. These frequencies can be highly variable spatially and temporally and are affected by distance, terrain, wind speed and direction, the shape, size, and type of dwelling, the type of power converters used, the state of the electrical distribution line, and even the type of plumbing in homes. Furthermore, not everyone has the same sensitivity to sound and electromagnetic radiation, nor do they have the same symptoms. The following

symptoms seem to be quite common: sleeplessness, fatigue, pain, dizziness, nausea, mood disorders, cognitive difficulties, skin irritations, and tinnitus. To help alleviate symptoms in areas where wind turbines have been erected, remediation is necessary to reduce or eliminate both sound waves and electromagnetic waves. Further research is needed to better understand the relative importance of the various factors contributing to poor health. This information will enable a healthy coexistence between wind turbines and the people living nearby.

**New observations on cardiac morphological changes induced by low-frequency noise and infrasound in rats.** Pereira Alves, A.M, L. Kahlbau. 2019. Thesis.

- Noise is an important environmental and occupational risk factor, and human exposure to this stressor can cause systemic damage. The specific contribution of noise characteristics—such as intensity, frequency content, mean and peak decibel levels, pattern, or duration of exposure—that may lead to such damage has not been established. Previous studies suggest that high-intensity noise across a broad spectrum of wavelengths, from industrial noise (IN) to low-frequency noise (LFN) and infrasound (IFS), can act as a physical stressor. The main morphological change caused by this type of noise is a systemic abnormal proliferation of connective tissue affecting various organs and tissues, including gastric mucosa, lung parenchyma, tracheal epithelium, adrenal cortex, parotid gland, lymphatic and arterial vessels, and the heart
- Conclusions: Exposure to IN increases the perivascular tissue of rat small coronary arteries, with significant development of periarterial fibrosis. Chronic exposure also causes thickening of the small coronary vessel wall. High-pressure level IFS exposure induces coronary perivascular fibrosis in rats, and the existence of an underlying inflammatory mechanism should be considered. Infrasound exposure affects the atria of rat hearts, leading to an increase in interstitial fibrosis and a decrease in Cx43. The effects of exposure to LFN and IFS seem to be independent of their pattern, but chronic exposure can elicit additional structural changes not observed in the acute setting. We propose that both sound frequency and pressure level are key factors in explaining the toxicological effects induced by noise and should be considered in future research.

**Environmental Noise Pollution: Has Public Health Become too Utilitarian?** Evans. Alun. 2017. Open Journal of Social Sciences. 5. 80-109.

- The effect of the entire range of noise produced is interference with sleep and sleep deprivation. Sleep, far from being a luxury, is vitally important to health, and insufficient sleep, in the long term, is associated with a spectrum of diseases, particularly cardiovascular.
- The physiological benefits of sleep are reviewed, as is the range of diseases to which the sleep-deprived are predisposed. Governments, anxious to meet Green targets and often receiving most of their health advice from the wind industry, must commission independent studies so that the Health and Human Rights of their rural citizens are not infringed. Public Health, in particular, must remember its roots in Utilitarianism, which condoned some collateral damage provided that the greatest happiness of the greatest number was ensured.
- The level of collateral damage caused by wind farms should be totally unacceptable to Public Health, which must, like good government, fully exercise the Precautionary Principle. The types of studies that should be considered are discussed. Indeed, the father of Utilitarian philosophy, Jeremy Bentham, urged that government policy should be fully evaluated.

**Effects of industrial wind turbine noise on sleep and health.** Nissenbaum, M.A, et.al, 2012. Noise & Health.

- Participants living within 1.4 km of an IWT had worse sleep, were sleepier during the day, and had worse SF36 Mental Component Scores compared to those living further than 1.4 km away. Significant dose-response relationships between PSQI, ESS, SF36 Mental Component Score, and log-distance to the nearest IWT were identified after controlling for gender, age, and household clustering. The adverse event reports of sleep disturbance and ill health by those living close to IWTs are supported.

**Industrial wind turbines and adverse health effects.** Jeffery, R.D., et.al, 2014. Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine.

- If placed too close to residents, IWTs can negatively affect the physical, mental, and social well-being of people. There is sufficient evidence to support the conclusion that noise from audible IWTs is a potential cause of health effects. Inaudible low-frequency noise and infrasound from IWTs cannot be ruled out as plausible causes of health effects.

**WindVOiCe Infographic.** The Relationship of Increased Mood Alterations and Industrial Wind Turbines: Implications and Social Justice. Gillis, L. and C. Krogh. Wind Vigilance for Ontario Communities

- Wind Vigilance for Ontario Communities (WindVOiCe) is a community based self-reporting health survey based on the principles of Health Canada's Canada Vigilance Program designed to monitor suspected drug reactions. This survey is ongoing.
- WindVOiCe respondents report altered quality of life. Sleep disturbance is the most common health complaint. Other symptoms include but are not limited to inner ear problems, cardiac concerns, and headaches.

## Impacts on Animals

**Why Does Egg Mortality Increase Near a New Wind Industry?** Thorell, H. and M. Vemdal. 2024. Svensk Veterinartidning. No. 5. Vol. 5

- This article summarizes the studies already conducted in relevant research areas but primarily aims to highlight the importance of more controlled studies as soon as possible before the risks materialize and both wild and domestic poultry's egg mortality becomes catastrophically high
- A significant change within the wind power industry is the marked increase in the size of wind turbines (both height and rotor diameter) since 2018. Despite this increase, guidelines for audible noise from wind turbines have not been updated accordingly. Moreover, there are still no limits for low-frequency noise and infrasound, which is a serious deficiency. This is despite a thorough modeling study conducted in 2014.
- Interestingly, there is no clear guidance on the vibrations that large-scale wind power can generate. This is despite it being well-documented that vibrations can affect cells at the chromosomal level. This raises questions about whether wind farms can have a similar impact on wildlife and humans nearby.
- The Schwere family in Ljungbyholm maintains a hobby flock with five different breeds. The normal hatch rate from 2009 to 2020 has been at least 95% successful hatches after 21 days of incubation. In 2021, a new wind power industry with 12 turbines of 4.5 MW each began operating about 1000 meters from the farm center. During the years 2021-2023, the hens stopped incubating after 16 days, leaving all the eggs dead. Even the few hens that went into the

forest returned alone instead of returning with chicks as in previous years. The family's adult son lives 3 kilometers from the new wind industry and also keeps free-range chickens, mostly of the Blomme breed. From 2009 to 2023, the hatching success rate has been at least 90%. In 2022, the son moved three of these hens and a rooster to his parents' chicken yard, 950 meters from the nearest wind turbine. These hens also stopped incubating after 16 days, leaving dead eggs.

## Property Value Decline

1. **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.** 2024. The visual effect of wind turbines on property values is small and diminishing in space and time. Guo, W. et al.
  - a. Estimates a reduction in nearby property value of 11% for residences located **within one mile**; and in Carol Black's professional opinion of reviewing scientific literature, these findings are based on turbine heights under 500 feet tall, which were more common at the time of data collection.
  - b. Economically and statistically significant value reductions in close proximity (< 5 miles)
  - c. Also, their sample size was small for those at one mile, and significantly more data came from further distances.
  - d. *Opinion Piece* - Recent study proves property value loss results from proximity of industrial wind turbines. Norris Wilson, B.A., AACI, P.App.
    - i. Caution has been advised against focusing on data from farther distances. The rebutter noted by using their data, the losses would be about 25% of property value on average.
2. **Energy Policy.** February 2024 Volume 185. Commercial wind turbines and residential home values: New evidence from the universe of land-based wind projects in the United States. Eric J. Brunner, Ben Hoen, Joe Rand , David Schwegman
  - i. Note: results are from projects in urban counties greater than 250,000; more home sales
  - ii. We find that homes located within one mile of a commercial wind turbine experience on average approximately an 11% decline in value following the announcement of a new commercial wind energy project, relative to counterfactual homes located 3 to 5 miles away. This impact is dynamic —it is largely driven by declines in sale prices following the announcement and during the construction of a wind project.
  - iii. The value of homes within one mile declines in value after the announcement of the wind project
  - iv. Homes within 1-2 miles experience smaller impacts
  - v. Those greater than 2 miles are unaffected
  - vi. Distance to Nearest Turbine for the Average House in the United States, 2005-2020. The average distance in 2005 was 148.6 miles (standard deviation of 367.4 miles). By 2020, the average distance was 37.1 miles (standard deviation of 25.65 miles).
- b. **Land Economics.** 2012 Tuttle, CM. Values in the wind: a hedonic analysis of wind power facilities
  - i. Data from 11,331 property transactions over nine years in northern New York State were used to explore the effects of new wind facilities on property values. We use a fixed-effects framework to control for omitted variables and endogeneity biases. We find that nearby wind facilities significantly reduce property values in two of the three

counties studied. These results indicate that existing compensation to local homeowners/communities may not be sufficient to prevent a loss of property values.

- c. **Energy Policy.** 2014. The impact of on-shore and off-shore wind turbine farms on property prices. Jensen, C.U., et. al. Denmark. estimate that homes where residents can see a turbine decline in value by 3%, and these homes decline by an additional 2% if residents can hear the turbines when compared to those properties outside of visible or auditory range.
  - i. Did not purchase the publication
- d. **Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S** - During the adjudication with EFSEC, property appraisal experts testified that *real estate prices may decrease by 20 to 30 percent, and properties near the turbines might never sell.*
- e. **Real Estate Consulting Report for Niyol Wind Farm in Logan County, CO (June 2020)** by Kurt C. Kielisch, Forensic Appraisal Group. Real Estate Appraiser with 36 years of experience in the appraisal field, completed over 8,100 valuations totaling \$13.1+ billion. Wind industry and government-supported studies found little to no evidence of an impact. However, independent studies found a significant impact using a variety of valuation methods, from paired sales analysis to multiple regression analysis.
  - i. Properties within the wind farm footprint= -35% impact on property value
  - ii. Properties 1-mile outside of the wind farm footprint = -22% impact on property value
  - iii. Agricultural Properties within the wind farm footprint= -8.5% impact on property value
  - iv. The Landsink (Ontario, CA) study found a loss range of -8.85% to -50%, with a loss average of -39% for residential homes within 664 ft to 2,531 ft of a wind farm.
  - v. The Appraisal Group One Wisconsin Study found a typical loss of 1-10 acre residential lots within 0.6-mile of wind turbines to be -19% to -40%.
  - vi. The Clarkson University, upstate New York, study of both residential and agricultural properties found a loss ranging from -15.6% to -31% within 1-3 miles of a wind farm.
  - vii. The Forensic Appraisal Coral Springs (WY) study of large residential lots (35 acres), which would be abutting a proposed wind farm, suffered a value impact of -25% to -44%.
  - viii. The McCann study (IL) of residential properties found an average impact of -25% within 2-miles of a wind farm.
  - ix. The Forensic Appraisal Big Sky (IL) study found a loss range of -12% to -25% of residences within 0.31mi to 1.72mi of a wind turbine, with an average impact of -19% at an average distance of 0.65 miles to a wind turbine.
  - x. The Twin Grove II Wind Farm (McLean County, IL) study of a 198MW wind farm comprised of 120 turbines being 397ft in height over an 11,000 acres area. A paired sales analysis of residential property within the influence of the wind farm found the improved property is negatively impacted by the presence of wind turbines. The impact measured ranged from -46.6% to -7.7%, with the higher impact closest to the wind turbines and the impact diminishing as the distance is increased. The distances measured ranged 1,483ft to 5,481ft away from a residence. The Twin Grove II Wind Farm also found an overall impact of -6.63% to -8.5% for vacant agricultural properties within the wind farm zone.
  - xi. The Niyol proposal has turbines being **495ft to 505ft in height**. This is at least 25% greater in height and breadth than the study turbines. Therefore, it would be logical and reasonable to conclude that this **size difference would cause the predictive impacts to**

- be conservative.** With that in consideration, it would be reasonable to conclude the following impacts:
- xii. **Properties Within the Wind Farm Footprint** - The graph indicates that a -28% loss in value would be found from a distance of 1,500ft from a wind turbine. However, as we noted, those studies used smaller wind turbines. It is estimated that the proposed turbines are at least 25% greater in size. Though a direct correlation of size and impact has not been established, it would be reasonable to estimate the impact would increase by a factor of 1.25. Hence, we conclude the impact to be -35%.
  - xiii. **Properties 1-Mile outside of the Wind Farm Footprint** - The graph suggests that the impact would be less the further the distance from a wind turbine. The analysis indicates that at 2-mile distance from a turbine the impact would be -18%. Considering that the turbines were smaller in the studies it would be reasonable to increase this impact by a factor of 1.25 to conclude a -22% impact.
  - xiv. **Agricultural Properties** - Agricultural properties within the footprint, but not participating in the wind lease, will have a -8.5% impact on property value.
- f. **Commercial wind turbines and residential home values:** New evidence from the universe for land-based wind projects in the United States. Brunner, E.J., et al. 2024. Energy Policy Vol. 185
- i. Homes within one mile decline in value by approximately 11% after the announcement of a wind project; those one to two miles have a smaller impact
  - ii. Based primarily on projects in urban counties.
  - iii. European studies show values fall 5-10% for homes located within 2 km.
- g. **Wind turbines, solar farms, and house prices.** Droes, M.J. and H. Koster. 2021. Wind Policy Volume 155
- i. Turbine height is a significant factor; turbines 50-150m have an effect of -3.4%, whereas the effect is -8.3% for turbines over 150m in height (but the sample size is very small for taller turbines).
  - ii. Findings imply turbines have higher effects on house prices and the effect reaches just beyond 2 km, up to 2250m, but not beyond 2.5 km. Moreover, we show that low turbines (<50m) have a small impact on house prices that is confined to about 1 km
- h. **“Regulatory Takings”** involve the court’s balancing of government actions and their effects on the property’s economic value or the extent to which the act interferes with the reasonable expectations of the property owner. Inverse condemnation arises when the government’s actions negatively impact property rights or value without proper compensation. This occurs when government activities or regulations reduce a property’s market value. Diminished property value as a result of government action is a critical aspect of inverse condemnation claims, including reduced property values.
- i. Renewable energy companies have the ability to gain waivers from neighboring property owners. Community buy-in is necessary.

com

Denis Tracy

**From:** Alan Thomson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:12 AM  
**To:** Denis Tracy; gibney  
**Cc:** Mark Storey; Grace Di Biase; Bill Meyers; Brian Davies; Chris Melhus; Dave McKeirnan; Dean Kinzer; Julian Matthews; Tami Southern; Weston Kane  
**Subject:** FW: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

More for the record.

Alan.

**From:** noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:06 AM  
**To:** Public Works - Contact Us <PW@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>; Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

This sender is trusted.

### Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

First Name	Donna
Last Name	Koziol
Email Address	<a href="mailto:donnakoziol60@gmail.com">donnakoziol60@gmail.com</a>
Subject	Planning Inquiry
Other	Support for renewable energy
Who would you like to contact?	Grace Di Biase, Alan Thomson

**Message**

I urge you not to adopt the proposed ban on wind energy. Now more than ever, we need to meet the rapidly rising demand for energy that is making life less affordable for families. Wind energy in our community can be part of the solution.

Saying no to wind energy turns away hundreds of good paying construction jobs and the economic activity energy projects bring to local businesses. It forecloses research and partnership opportunities for students and faculty. A ban takes away local control and collaboration over renewable energy

N-14

development.

I urge you not to adopt the proposed ban on clean, renewable wind energy projects in our community.

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(Section Break)

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opposed

**Denis Tracy**

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**From:** Alan Thomson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 10:12 AM  
**To:** Denis Tracy; gibney  
**Cc:** Mark Storey; Grace Di Biase; Bill Meyers; Brian Davies; Chris Melhus; Dave McKeirnan; Dean Kinzer; Julian Matthews; Tami Southern; Weston Kane  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed commercial wind ordinance

More for the record.

Alan.

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**From:** Kent Keller <ckkeller20f@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:33 AM  
**To:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed commercial wind ordinance

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Director Thomson:

I have lived for 34 years along Hwy 272 just west of Swanson Rd., which is within the proposed Harvest Hills project area. I understand that wind energy, while not a perfect source, is an important contributor to our renewable energy resource needs. To meet these needs, we have to be willing to make reasonable tradeoffs.

The proposed Whitman County draft commercial wind ordinance (Chapter 19.61, November 19<sup>th</sup> 2025) defines exclusion zones (e.g. 7 miles from parks, 2 miles from rural districts) greater than necessary and would render the whole Harvest Hills project unworkable.

I urge you and the Commissioners to reconsider these exclusion requirements.

Thank you,

Kent Keller  
10501 SR 272, Palouse

N-15

neutral

**Denis Tracy**

---

**From:** Alan Thomson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 10:16 AM  
**To:** Denis Tracy; gibney  
**Cc:** Mark Storey; Grace Di Biase; Bill Meyers; Brian Davies; Chris Melhus; Dave McKeirnan; Dean Kinzer; Julian Matthews; Tami Southern; Weston Kane  
**Subject:** FW: Wind farms in Whitman County

More for the record.

Alan.

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**From:** RichnJudy MeuthnAlldredge <richnjudy82@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 10:14 AM  
**To:** Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Wind farms in Whitman County

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization. [Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)

Dear Mr. Thomson:  
I would like to go on record as a supporter of renewable energy in Whitman County including the use of Wind Turbines to produce electricity

Thank you,  
J. Richard Alldredge

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